

Alanna Mitchell

LLD (Honoris causa), DSL (Honoris causa)

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JOURNALIST, AUTHOR, PLAYWRIGHT

Alanna Mitchell is an award-winning Canadian journalist and author who writes about the intersection of science and society. Her book **Sea Sick: The Global Ocean in Crisis**, is an international best-seller that won the prestigious U.S.-based Grantham Prize for excellence in environmental journalism. She is:

- recognized as one of North America's most respected environmental and science journalists who has done field research with scientists on every continent
- praised for her ability to translate complex science into elegant literary non-fiction, including turning **Sea Sick** into an acclaimed one-woman play (with The Theatre Centre's Franco Boni and Ravi Jain) that she has performed across Canada and internationally.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Independent journalist, author, playwright

2004 –

Focusing on writing non-fiction science books for the popular audience, Mitchell also writes freelance magazine and newspaper articles. She is a freelancer for the New York Times science section and is contributing editor at Canadian Geographic magazine. In 2014, she launched her one-woman play based on **Sea Sick** at The Theatre Centre in Toronto and tours it internationally.

The Globe and Mail, Canada's National Newspaper

1990-2004

Reporter, feature writer, national correspondent

Specializing in earth sciences, social trends, demographics and international environmental reporting, Mitchell spent six years as Calgary bureau chief and brought the paper international acclaim for science writing.

The Financial Post

1987-1990

Reporter, feature writer

Expert in real estate reporting and the financial sector, Mitchell covered the intricacies of the Campeau and Reichmann empires.

PROFESSIONAL HONOURS AND AWARDS

Louie Kamookak Medal, Royal Canadian Geographic Society	2022
Gold Award, best profile, Society for Advancing Business Editing and Writing <i>Report on Business Magazine</i>	2020
Infallible Awards winner, Edinburgh Fringe Festival for Sea Sick	2019
Lane Anderson Prize for Best Canadian Science Book for Malignant Metaphor: Confronting Cancer Myths, A Memoir	2016
Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society	2015
New York Festival International Radio Silver Award in Environment and Ecology documentary category for CBC's Quirks & Quarks program	2015
Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts Dora Award nomination for Outstanding New Play in the Independent category for Sea Sick, the play	2014
National Magazine Award for best feature in the science, technology and environment category	2014
Lannan Foundation writer's residency, Marfa, Texas	2013
Honorary Doctor of Sacred Letters, Trinity College, University of Toronto	2012
Honorary Doctor of Laws, U of Regina	2011
Grantham Prize for Excellence in Environmental Reporting awarded for Sea Sick: The Global Ocean in Crisis , the first Canadian and the first book to win the US\$75,000 competition	2010
Atkinson Foundation Fellowship in Public Policy, \$100,000 prize for a year's research in brain science and education, published in The Toronto Star in late 2009 as 8-day series "Brainstorm"	2008
Dancing at the Dead Sea named one of Canada's five best non-fiction books by <i>Quill & Quire</i> , publishing trade magazine	2004
Gave 23 rd annual James M. Minifie Memorial lecture in Journalism, U of Regina	2003
Named best environmental reporter in North America and Oceania, Reuters Foundation/IUCN	2001
Named best environmental reporter in the world and in North America and Oceania, Reuters Foundation/IUCN	2000

EDUCATION

Visiting scholar, Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, Green College, Oxford University, Hilary term	2002
Bachelor of Applied Arts in Journalism, Ryerson University, Toronto, Ontario	1987
Bachelor of Arts (cum laude) in Latin literature and English literature, Trinity College, University of Toronto	1982

BOOKS

The Spinning Magnet: The Force That Created the World and Could Destroy It. Dutton, 2018

Malignant Metaphor: Confronting Cancer Myths, A Memoir. ECW Press, 2015

Franklin's Lost Ship: The Historic Discovery of HMS Erebus (with John Geiger) HarperCollins Canada + The Royal Canadian Geographical Society, 2015

Invisible Plastic: What happens when your garbage ends up in the ocean. The Toronto Star, StarDispatches eBook, 2013

"A Human Hand on the Switch of Life," **Carbon 12: Art et changement climatique.** Somogy éditions d'art, Paris, 2012

Sea Sick: The Global Ocean in Crisis. Canada: McClelland & Stewart; U.S.: U of Chicago Press; U.K.: Oneworld; Australia: Murdoch, Pier 9, 2008-2009

Dancing at the Dead Sea: Tracking the World's Environmental Hotspots. Canada: Key Porter Books; U.S.: U of Chicago Press; U.K.: Transworld, 2004-2005.

PLAYS

Sea Sick, the play. Directed by Franco Boni with Ravi Jain, produced by The Theatre Centre, Toronto 2014 -

Cocktails, the play. In development 2020 -