

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 passionately believes in democratizing information. She is as fascinated with the history of scientific thought and the evolution of quantum physics as she is with the trends in 21st century art. Most of all, she loves to parse big planetary and social systems to understand their secrets.

She is a storyteller. She has trekked and snorkeled with scientists in dozens of countries and seas around the world, asking questions and bearing witness. She can translate complex science into elegant literary non-fiction. She turned her literary non-fiction book **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 for the past decade.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Independent journalist, author, playwright

2004 –

Mitchell writes across genres: literary non-fiction science books for the popular audience, magazine features and newspaper articles, essays, radio documentaries and theatrical plays. She is a freelancer for the *New York Times* science section, a contributing editor at *Canadian Geographic Magazine* and features editor at *Broadview 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 brought the paper international awards for science writing and served six years as Calgary bureau chief.

The Financial Post

1987-1990

Reporter, feature writer

Mitchell covered the intricacies of the Campeau and Reichmann real estate empires and wrote about the financial sector.

PROFESSIONAL HONOURS AND AWARDS (SELECT)

Sir Sandford Fleming Medal for excellence in science communication Royal Canadian Institute for Science	2025
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 <i>Quirks & Quarks</i> 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 for story in <i>The United Church Observer</i>	2014
Lannan Foundation writer's residency, Marfa, Texas	2013
Honorary Doctor of Sacred Letters, Trinity College, U 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	2010
Atkinson Foundation Fellowship in Public Policy, \$100,000 prize for a year's research in brain science and education	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
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 Templeton College, Oxford University, Hilary term **2002**
- Bachelor of Applied Arts in Journalism, Toronto Metropolitan University
(formerly Ryerson), 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 -**