



MEDIA CONTACT: CAROLINE ANDERSON  
415.704.3177  
CAROLINE@PLAYGROUND-SF.ORG

## **PLAYGROUND ANNOUNCES 2010-2011 SEASON**

**2010-11 MONDAY NIGHT PLAYGROUND SERIES**

**NEW WRITERS POOL SELECTED**

**THREE CO-PRODUCTIONS WITH BAY AREA THEATERS**

**15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BEST OF PLAYGROUND FESTIVAL**

**SIX NEW FULL-LENGTH COMMISSIONS**

**PLAYWRITING INTENSIVES**

SAN FRANCISCO, (October 1, 2010) – **PlayGround**, the incubator for the next generation of Bay Area playwrights, has announced its schedule for the 2010-2011 season. Kicking off its 17<sup>th</sup> Season, Monday Night PlayGround begins October 18<sup>th</sup> and will continue through March 2011, with the year’s award winners announced in April. The 15<sup>th</sup> annual Best of PlayGround Festival will run May 5-29, 2011 in San Francisco. For subscriptions, or for more information, the public can call (415) 992-6677, or go online at [www.PlayGround-sf.org](http://www.PlayGround-sf.org).

The monthly **Monday Night PlayGround** series will continue its growing success at Berkeley Repertory Theatre on third Mondays, from October through March (Note: January’s performance will take place on the fourth Monday, January 24). Two Fridays before the designated Monday, a topic is announced to PlayGround’s selected pool of local playwrights, who then have until 2pm the following Tuesday to submit a short script (some of last season’s topics included “Futurism Revisited,” “*The Hairy Ape*,” based on the play by Eugene O’Neill, and “Chthonic”). A panel of judges selects six winners, whose entries are cast by the following weekend and then rehearsed with the area’s best professional actors and directors in a whirlwind 90 minutes each before being performed as stage readings.

After the Monday Night Series concludes, a panel will revisit and re-evaluate the 36 scripts produced throughout the season and, at the **PlayGround Benefit & Awards Night** on

April 4, 2011, seven scripts will be chosen for the 2011 Emerging Playwright Awards. Also announced at the benefit will be the winners of the annual June Anne Baker prize, which honors a distinguished female playwright, and the winner of this season's PlayGround Fellowship. Emerging Playwright Award winners will receive an honorarium, publication in the annual compilation, and a fully staged version of their scripts as part of *The Best of PlayGround Festival* in May, celebrating its 15<sup>th</sup> year in 2011 and once again being held at Thick House in San Francisco.

This year's pool of playwrights for the 2010-2011 has just been chosen. Out of 117 Bay Area applicants who submitted material for consideration — the largest number of applicants yet — a pool of 36 playwrights was selected. Among the 36 are new members Emily Esner, Melissa Fall, Lucia Jacobs, Rod McFadden, Philana Omorotionmwan, Nick Pappas, Mercedes Segesvary, Cleavon Smith, Jonathan Spector, and Arisa White. Returning writers are Crish Barth, Tim Bauer, Cass Brayton, Erin Bregman, Robyn Brooks, Christopher Chen, Renée Cole Clyde, Garret Jon Groenveld, Leah Halper, Daniel Heath, Sang Kim, Brady Lea, Jonathan Luskin, Katie May, Alex Moggridge, Evelyn Jean Pine, Mandy Hodge Rizvi, Maria Rokas, Diane Sampson, Ken Slattery, Martha Soukup, Tom Swift, Nick Turner, Malachy Walsh, and Ignacio Zulueta.

Three PlayGround alumni are going to have their work produced on Bay Area stages this year in co-productions supported by PlayGround's New Play Production Fund. First up is Daniel Heath's *Seven Days*, co-produced with SF Playhouse and playing at SF Playhouse's Second Stage from October 13 to November 6. Originally commissioned and developed by PlayGround (and inspired by the 2009 Best of PlayGround Festival short, *Wednesday*), *Seven Days* follows three relationships, spanning three generations, over a single week, as love is lost, found, and diagrammed on the wall. Next up is *Lolita Roadtrip* by Trevor Allen, playing at the San Jose Stage Company in April 2011. And finally, *Nightmare Play* by Erin Bregman will play at Just Theater at Berkeley City Club in June 2011.

Six new commissions have been announced for this year. They include *Naked* by Diane Sampson (2010 June Anne Baker Prize Winner), *5 Women on a Playground* by Malachy Walsh (2010 PlayGround Fellowship winner), *Stiff Competition* by Cass Brayton (2010 PlayGround Fellowship winner), *Book Club! The Musical* by Geetha Reddy, *John Jacob O'Reilly Smitherton's Bid to Save the World* by Erin Bregman (adapted from the 2009 festival short), and

*A Marriage* by Tom Swift (adapted from the 2010 festival short, *The New Season*, and 2005 festival short, *The Beginning*).

PlayGround will continue offering its series of playwriting **Intensives** for emerging professionals, monthly playwriting lectures and master classes led by distinguished PlayGround alumni and leaders in Bay Area theatre. Highlights of this year's faculty include internationally-renown playwright Philip Kan Gotanda, PlayGround alumnus Aaron Loeb (whose play *Abraham Lincoln's Big Gay Dance Party* recently debuted off-Broadway), and SF Playhouse's Artistic Director Bill English. Writers may sign up for individual or multiple classes, as each is intended as a stand-alone program. Classes take place the first Monday night of each month, October through March, from 7-9 pm at A.C.T. Studios.

PlayGround is happy to welcome three new staff members: Laura Brueckner, as Literary Manager and Resident Dramaturg; Andrea Kneeland, as Development Director; and Caroline Anderson, as Marketing Manager.

#### **FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:**

**WHAT:** **PlayGround**, the Bay Area's incubator for the next generation of playwrights, has announced its 2010-2011 season. Occurring monthly, October-March, the popular Monday Night PlayGround series presents short works from new and emerging playwrights each month at Berkeley Repertory Theatre, featuring the best of the Bay Area's professional actors and directors in short rehearsed staged readings. The culmination of the year's hard work, **The Best of PlayGround Festival** will occur for four weeks in May, 2011 at Thick House in San Francisco. Now in its 17th season, **PlayGround** is dedicated to supporting the development of new local voices for the theatre.

#### **WHERE/WHEN:**

##### **Monday Night PlayGround**

Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison Street, Berkeley

October 18, 2010

November 15, 2010

December 20, 2010

January 24, 2011

February 21, 2011

March 21, 2011

##### **PlayGround Intensives**

A.C.T. Studios, 30 Grant Avenue, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, San Francisco

October 4, 2010

November 1, 2010

December 6, 2010

January 3, 2011  
February 7, 2011  
March 7, 2011

***Seven Days by Daniel Heath***

SF Playhouse Second Stage, 533 Sutter Avenue, San Francisco  
October 13, 2010-November 6, 2010

***Lolita Roadtrip by Trevor Allen***

San Jose Stage Company, 490 S. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, San Jose  
April 2011

***Nightmare Play by Erin Bregman***

Just Theater at Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Avenue, Berkeley  
June 2011

**PlayGround Benefit & Awards Night**

American Conservatory Theater, 415 Geary Street, San Francisco  
April 4, 2011

**15<sup>th</sup> annual Best of PlayGround Festival**

Thick House, 1695 18th Street, San Francisco  
May 5-29, 2011

**TICKETS:** 6-event Introductory Subscriptions to the Monday Night PlayGround series are just \$45.00 (a 50% savings off general admission) and are available by calling **(415) 992-6677** or visiting [www.PlayGround-sf.org](http://www.PlayGround-sf.org).

Single tickets for each Monday Night PlayGround are \$15 and can be purchased online or at the door. A limited number of Pay-What-You-Can tickets will be sold at the door beginning one hour before the performance, subject to availability.

PlayGround Intensives are \$35 per person, per workshop (\$15 for the introductory October 4 class); space is limited. Participants can sign up online in advance, or at the door at least fifteen minutes before the scheduled class, subject to availability.

Ticket information for the PlayGround Benefit & Awards Night and The Best of PlayGround festival will be announced at a later date.

For more information, the public can call **(415) 992-6677** or visit [www.PlayGround-sf.org](http://www.PlayGround-sf.org).