



THEATRE/ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PLAYGROUND CELEBRATES BAY AREA PLAYWRIGHTS
AT 14TH BEST OF PLAYGROUND FESTIVAL
MAY 6-30, 2010
AT THE THICK HOUSE IN SAN FRANCISCO

**BENEFIT & AWARDS NIGHT ON APRIL 5 WITH PETER SINN NACHTRIEB
& DEADLINE FOR THE 2ND YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS CONTEST**

SAN FRANCISCO, (March 29, 2010) - **PlayGround**, San Francisco's incubator for the next generation of playwrights, caps off its 2009-10 season with the **Best of PlayGround 14: A Festival of New Writers & New Plays**. The festival presents six 10-minute plays and one 10-minute musical selected from the 36 works developed as part of the season's Monday Night PlayGround staged reading series at Berkeley Repertory Theatre. Monday Night PlayGround has engaged and inspired a growing and enthusiastic audience with new plays *and now musicals* inspired by a single topic each month, including "Futurism Revisited", "Chthonic", and, as part of a unique annual collaboration with Berkeley's Mathematical Sciences Research Institute, "To Knot or Not to Knot". Tickets are available through the Box Office at 415-992-6677 or online at www.PlayGround-sf.org.

The six plays and one musical to be presented at this year's festival are:

A Futurist Supersaga in Six Acts by **Tim Bauer**, directed by Jon Tracy

7 Nightmares by **Erin Bregman**, directed by M. Graham Smith

The Audition by **Alex Moggridge**, directed by Tracy Ward

Back to Earth by **Evelyn Jean Pine**, music by J. Raoul Brody, directed by Barbara Oliver

Undone by **Diane Sampson**, directed by Jim Kleinmann

The New Season by **Tom Swift**, directed by Lee Sankowich

The Safety of Pools by **Malachy Walsh**, directed by Molly Noble

The 2010 Festival also features staged readings of six new full-length plays commissioned by PlayGround from writers **Trevor Allen, Tim Bauer, Erin Bregman, Daniel Heath, Brady Lea** and **Ken Slattery**.

Event: Best of PlayGround 14: *A Festival of New Writers & New Plays*

Date: Thursdays - Sundays, May 6 - 30 (*Friday, May 7th, press night*)

Time: Thurs. - Sat., 8pm; Sun., 7pm

Location: Thick House, 1695 18th Street, San Francisco

Tickets: **Best of PlayGround:** \$20-\$40 (general), discounts available for students, PlayGround subscribers and members, and groups of 10 or more. *Thursdays, May 6, 13, 20, and 27 are Pay-What-You-Can performances; Pay-What-You-Can tickets go on sale one hour before the performance, first-come first-served, subject to availability.*

Staged Readings: \$10 suggested donation at the door

For tickets call (415) 992-6677 or on-line at www.PlayGround-sf.org

Information: Jim Kleinmann, Artistic Director; 415.704.3177;
jim@PlayGround-sf.org; www.PlayGround-sf.org

Performance Schedule

- **Best of PlayGround 14** - All seven short plays are presented at each performance, **Thursdays through Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 7pm** (Sunday evenings, May 16, 23, and 30, are followed by post-show discussion with festival playwrights)

- **Staged Readings:**

Monday, May 10, 7pm: *Truffaldino Says No* by **Ken Slattery**, directed by M. Graham Smith

Sunday, May 16, 2pm: *Seven Days* by **Daniel Heath**, directed by Lee Sankowich

Monday, May 17, 7pm: *Nightmare Play* by **Erin Bregman**, directed by Mina Morita

Sunday, May 23, 2pm: *The Sum of All Parts* by **Brady Lea**, directed by Jessica Heidt

Monday, May 24, 7pm: *The Secret Rulers of the World Go to Camp* by **Tim Bauer**, directed by Barbara Oliver

Sunday, May 30, 2pm: *Golden Gate Fair* by **Trevor Allen**, directed by Mark Rucker

PLAYGROUND BENEFIT & AWARDS NIGHT

PlayGround will celebrate this year's Festival playwrights at the annual **PlayGround Benefit & Awards Night** on **Monday, April 5th** at **A.C.T.**, with special guests **Peter Sinn Nachtrieb** and **Mark Rucker**. The event features a talk with Nachtrieb and Rucker, a silent auction, reception and dinner with the special guests and award winners. For more information on the PlayGround Benefit, visit <http://PlayGround-sf.org/benefit.shtml>

YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS PROJECT: SPOTLIGHT ON NEXT GENERATION

PlayGround spotlights the next generation of talent with the Young Playwrights Project. In March, PlayGround launched the project, and announced a contest to write a new 10-minute play inspired by the topic "Origin Story." The competition is open to Bay Area high school students, who have until April 5th to submit a script. The best four plays will be selected to be read as special "curtain raisers" May 20-23 of the Best of PlayGround Festival.

ABOUT PLAYGROUND:

PlayGround is the Bay Area's leading playwright incubator. The mission of PlayGround is to support the development of significant new local voices for the theatre. More than just a play development program, PlayGround focuses on the creation of a true theatre community by nurturing the collaborative process between early-career playwrights, and established professional actors and directors. With a particular focus on the ten-minute form and increasingly on new full-length plays through the company's Commissioning Initiative and New Play Production Fund, PlayGround creates a microcosm of the greater theatre scene, allowing for experimentation and risk-taking as well as the honing of style and technique. More information at www.PlayGround-sf.org.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHTS:

Tim Bauer has been a two-time PlayGround Emerging Playwright Award winner, a PlayGround Fellow, and a finalist for the 2007 and 2008 Humana Festival's Heideman Award. His full-length plays include *Zombie Town: A Documentary Play* (by Sleepwalkers Theatre at Exit Stage Left), *Gyrobball* (Magic Theatre commission), *Exit Wounds* (Lark Playwright's Week finalist; PlayLabs semifinalist) and *Beyond Words* (Aurora Theatre Global Age Project finalist). He lives in San Francisco with his wife, author Mariella Krause.

Erin Bregman is the recipient of the 2009 June Ann Baker Prize, a Dilling Yang Fellowship in Dramatic Arts, and is a 2009-10 resident playwright at the Playwrights Foundation. She was also a finalist for the Princess Grace Award, and the Jerome Fellowship. Erin has had work produced or developed with Just Theatre, The Lark, the Playwrights Foundation, furyFactory, UCSB New Plays Festival, and PlayGround, and has received commissions from the Magic Theatre/Sloan Foundation, Just Theater, and PlayGround (2009).

Alex Moggridge is delighted to be returning to PlayGround, having spent the last seven years away from the Bay Area. His play *The Squirrel* was produced in N.Y.'s Summer Play Festival in 2006. The previous year, his play *Manatee* was seen in the N.Y. International Fringe Festival. Alex's short play *Pishpurt* was produced at the PlayGround Festival in 2000. Also an actor, Alex has been seen locally at ACT, Aurora Theatre, San Jose Rep, SF Playhouse and many others. Alex was born in England, but grew up in the Bay Area before spending time in London, N.Y. and, once again, San Francisco.

Evelyn Jean Pine is a three-time Emerging Playwright Award Winner. PlayGround commissioned two of her full-length plays: *Terror, Astonishment, Love* (2008), about the invention of movies, and *The Secrets of the World*, about 1492. She is currently writing a full-length play about robots, women and the Greek god Hephaestus for the No Nude Men's Olympian Play Festival in July 2010. A member of the Dramatists Guild, she is teaching creative writing and performance studies at San Francisco State University. She lives in San Francisco with her husband, Doug Peckler and her 12-year old son, Gabe.

Diane Sampson is the recipient of the 2010 June Anne Baker Prize and is in her sixth year in the PlayGround Writers Pool. She earned an M.A. in Creative Writing from San Francisco State, worked in arts administration, raised two sons, then (finally!) settled down to write. She has written two musicals (music, lyrics, co-author of books), *Oh, Progeny!* (two Bay Area productions, and inclusion in New York's York Theatre Company's Development Reading Series) and *Writes and Re-writes*. Her full-length play, *Charlotte Takes the Plunge*, received a Developmental Reading at the SF Playwrights Center. Her short plays have been produced in various California venues and elsewhere.

Tom Swift is a three-time PlayGround Emerging Playwrights award winner and the recipient of the 2006 PlayGround Fellowship. In real life he serves as Captain of the Financial Avengers, an investment management firm that he founded with his sidekick, The Oracle. Most recently he served as Associate Producer for the New York Fringe Festival Production of Aaron Loeb's smash hit, *Abraham Lincoln's Big Gay Dance Party*, which was originally commissioned (and co-produced) by PlayGround. He has finally decided that when he grows up, he wants to be a producer. On that front, he is developing a number of top secret projects.

Malachy Walsh is excited and honored to rejoin PlayGround and the Bay Area theatre community after some time away (*Iowa* was a PlayGround select in 2001). He's a recipient of the Excellence in Playwriting Award from the NY International Fringe Festival, the Patricia O'Neal Emerging Writer Award at NY's National Arts Club, and The John Golden Playwright Prize. His most recent play about debt, *Beyond the Owing*, was produced at the Red Eye Theatre in Minneapolis. He lives Lafayette with his wife and son.

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