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PLAYGROUND ANNOUNCES SECOND ROUND OF NEW PLAY PRODUCTION FUND

\$20,000 TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO BAY AREA THEATRES IN 2011

Supporting local production of Bay Area playwrights

BERKELEY, (August 2, 2010) – PlayGround announced today the second round of the **New Play Production Fund**. Designed to encourage full production of Bay Area playwrights' work, the Fund will distribute \$20,000 in 2011. Guidelines and applications are available online at <http://playground-sf.org/productionfund> and the deadline for applications is December 1, 2010.

Since 1994, PlayGround has been a leading incubator for some of the Bay Area's most promising new playwrights, developing nearly 550 original short plays by 160 Bay Area emerging playwrights. In the past eight years, PlayGround *itself* has emerged, as one of the leading commissioners of new full-length works by Bay Area writers. Twenty-eight full length plays have been developed to date and six new works are being commissioned this season by PlayGround's most distinguished alumni.

In support of these playwrights and to further encourage the production of new works by Bay Area playwrights in Bay Area theatres, PlayGround established the New Play Production Fund last December. The New Play Production Fund annually distributes two awards in support of professional production of full-length works commissioned and developed by PlayGround that have not yet received their world premiere.

Several plays developed with direct PlayGround support have gone on to have successful productions at theatres throughout the Bay Area and around the country, including the current off-Broadway hit, Aaron Loeb's *Abraham Lincoln's Big Gay Dance Party*, which won "Outstanding Performance" at the 2009 New York International Fringe Festival, following its 2008 SF Playhouse premiere. Loeb, a two-time winner of the Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award for "Best Original Script" (both for

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PlayGround commissions), commented: “PlayGround’s commissioning program has been a huge part of my own growth and I see the New Play Production Fund as another critical way in which PlayGround can help bring local theatres and playwrights together.” Other PlayGround commissioned works that have premiered in the Bay Area in just the past five years include: Geetha Reddy’s *Safe House* at SF Playhouse (in a PlayGround co-production); Garret Jon Groenveld’s *Missives* at Theatre Rhinoceros (which also received its New York debut in a PlayGround co-production in 2008 at 59E59 Theaters); Trevor Allen’s *Tenders in the Fog* at San Jose Stage; Aaron Loeb’s *First Person Shooter* at SF Playhouse (in a PlayGround co-production); and Martha Soukup’s *Manumission* at Exit Theatre. The first recipients of the New Play Production Fund, San Jose Stage Company will premiere Trevor Allen’s *Lolita Roadtrip* and Just Theater will premiere Erin Bregman’s *Nightmare Play* in April 2011, and a yet-to-be-named PlayGround commission will premiere in the 2010-11 Sandbox season at SF Playhouse. In addition, PlayGround writers and commissioned works have been featured in some of the Bay Area’s top new play programs, including the Playwrights Foundation’s Bay Area Playwrights Festival and Aurora Theatre Company’s Global Age Project.

In 2011, PlayGround will distribute one \$15,000 award and one \$5,000 award. The latest deadline of the New Play Production Fund is December 1, 2010. Selected theatres and productions will be announced by December 15. Production must take place between August 1, 2011 and July 31, 2012. For complete **guidelines** and **applications**, visit <http://playground-sf.org/productionfund>. For more information, contact PlayGround Artistic Director Jim Kleinmann at jim@playground-sf.org or (415) 704-3177.

For more information, visit <http://playground-sf.org>. For more information on the commissioned works of PlayGround, visit <http://playground-sf.org/commissioning.shtml>.

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