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## **SIX EMERGING PLAYWRIGHTS DEBUT NEW WORKS DIRECTED & PERFORMED BY BAY AREA PROFESSIONALS**

**DECEMBER 21 AT BERKELEY REPERTORY THEATRE**

*Six 10-Minute Plays on the Topic: "CHTHONIC"*

In collaboration with San Francisco Center for Psychoanalysis

BERKELEY, (December 11, 2009) – And off they go! At 9am Friday morning, 36 playwrights were given the topic "*CHTHONIC*" (*of or relating to the underworld*). The writers now have until Tuesday, Dec. 15 at 2pm to write and submit their respective scripts for the third **Monday Night PlayGround** event of the 2009/10 season, happening at **8pm, Monday, December 21** in residence at **Berkeley Repertory Theatre**. This month also marks the launch of PlayGround's first collaboration with the **San Francisco Center for Psychoanalysis**, producer of the popular "Theatre on the Couch" and "Opera on the Couch" series at A.C.T. and the San Francisco Opera, respectively. Participating directors this month include Mark Jackson, Susi Damilano, Virginia Reed, Barbara Oliver, Delia MacDougall and PlayGround Artistic Director Jim Kleinmann.

PlayGround audiences have several new ways to participate this season, including voting on a favorite Monday Night play, with the top play each month receiving the new "People's Choice" Award and moving to the finals for Festival selection. The People's Choice Award for October went to Tom Swift for his play, *The New Season* and the award for November went to Alex Moggridge for *The Audition*. PlayGround also continues to offer pre-performance discussions at 7:10pm, featuring playwrights and other special guests related to that month's topic. The December panel will include Dr. Linda Lagemann, psychoanalyst from the San Francisco Center for Psychoanalysis.

**PlayGround**, the Bay Area's incubator for the next generation of playwrights, announced in October the thirty-six writers selected for the 2009/10 Writers Pool.

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The 2009/10 Writers Pool is comprised of: Sharif Abu-Hamdeh, Crish Barth, Tim Bauer, Cass Brayton, Erin Bregman, Robyn Brooks, Ron Campbell, Adam Chanzit, Sharon Eberhardt, Garret Jon Groenveld, Daniel Heath, Mandy Hodge Rizvi, Susan Jackson, Martha Jane Kaufman, Sang Kim, Brady Lea, Morgan Ludlow, Katie May, Alex Moggridge, Marisela Orta, Erin Panttaja, Michael Phillis, Evelyn Pine, Kenn Rabin, Carolina Rojas Moretti, Dan Rubin, Diane Sampson, Ken Slattery, Martha Soukup, Tom Swift, Nick Turner, Maya Tussing, Malachy Walsh, Jeffrey Wincek, Sunny Wong, Ignacio Zulueta.

**FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:**

**WHAT:** Occurring monthly, October-March, the popular Monday Night PlayGround series presents short works from new and emerging playwrights each month in residence at Berkeley Repertory Theatre, featuring the best of the Bay Area's professional actors and directors in short rehearsed staged readings. The given topic for the December 21 PlayGround event is "CHTHONIC".

**WHERE:** Berkeley Repertory Theatre  
2025 Addison St  
Berkeley, CA

**WHEN:** **Monday, December 21, 2009 at 8pm**

Additional Season Dates:

January 18, 2010

February 15, 2010 – Collaboration with Mathematical Sciences Research Institute

March 15, 2010

**TICKETS:** \$15, available online or at the door. Pay-What-You-Can at the door beginning one hour before the performance, subject to availability. Introductory subscriptions are just \$45 (40% off general admission). For more information about the Monday Night PlayGround series, call **(415) 704-3177** or visit **www.PlayGround-sf.org**.

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