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

NOVEMBER 16 AT BERKELEY REPERTORY THEATRE

Six 10-Minute Plays on the Topic: "THE HAIRY APE"

In collaboration with Eugene O'Neill Foundation & Tao House

BERKELEY, (November 13, 2009) – PlayGround announced this morning the six writers and their short scripts selected for the next round of **Monday Night PlayGround**, taking place at **8pm, Monday, November 16** in residence at **Berkeley Repertory Theatre**. This month marks the launch of PlayGround's first collaboration with the **Eugene O'Neill Foundation** and **Tao House**, O'Neill's Danville home from 1937 to 1944 where he wrote some of his most significant plays. On November 1, the PlayGround writers pool visited Tao House and had the opportunity to become immersed in the world of O'Neill in preparation for the topic announcement later that day. That topic, O'Neill's **THE HAIRY APE**, led to the creation of nearly thirty original short plays, of which six have been selected for presentation this coming Monday. The selected playwrights, plays and directors are:

Trolls by **Cass Brayton**, directed by Matthew Graham Smith
The Audition by **Alex Moggridge**, by Eric Fraisher Hayes
The Cow by **Evelyn Jean Pine**, directed by Mark Routhier
Very Smart Dog by **Dan Rubin**, directed by Molly Aaronson-Gelb
Mugging by **Nick Turner**, directed by Jim Kleinmann
The Safety of Pools by **Malachy Walsh**, directed by Molly Noble

New this season, PlayGround audiences have several new ways to participate – from entering a contest to nominate one of this year's topics (*October 19 audiences only*) to 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*. PlayGround will also continue to offer pre-performance discussions at 7:10pm,

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featuring playwrights and other special guests related to that month's topic. The November panel will include O'Neill scholars Dan Cawthon and Eileen Hermann-Miller.

PlayGround, the Bay Area's incubator for the next generation of playwrights, recently completed selection of 36 writers from out of nearly 100 Bay Area applicants who submitted material for consideration. The resulting Writers Pool is the source for each month's script submissions.

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 November 16 PlayGround event is "THE HAIRY APE".

WHERE: Berkeley Repertory Theatre
2025 Addison St
Berkeley, CA

WHEN: **Monday, November 16, 2009 at 8pm**

Additional Season Dates:

December 21, 2009 – Collaboration with the San Francisco Center for Psychoanalysis
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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