

## **The 2018-19 Ruth Easton New Play Series launches the new year with new musical *Jeune Terre***

MINNEAPOLIS (December 17, 2018) — With a sea change in environmental protections and a desire for more natural resource production, there are countless examples of threats to our delicate ecosystems. One of the most vulnerable places is the Gulf Coast where the waters are rising around Jeune Terre, Louisiana. The land is slipping away. This inventive new musical play explores what it means to live on the edge of invisibility in a time of atmospheric change. ***Jeune Terre*, written by Core Writer Gab Reisman and composed by Avi Amon**, is the second play in the Playwrights' Center's 2018-19 Ruth Easton New Play Series, as part of our public season. Core Writers receive 20 hours of workshop time to develop a new play and give theater fans a chance to see free public readings of the plays in progress. Readings of *Jeune Terre* will take place **Monday, January 14 and Tuesday, January 15 at 7 p.m.** at the Playwrights' Center, 2301 E. Franklin Avenue in Minneapolis. Reservations are recommended and can be made at [pwcenter.org](http://pwcenter.org).

The workshop and readings will be directed by Jeremy B. Cohen, with dramaturgy by Elissa Adams. The cast includes: Christian Bardin\*, Gary Briggie, Becca Hart, Dan Hopman, Joe Isenberg\*, and Wendy Lehr\* (\*Member of Actors' Equity Association).

"I'm constantly curious about how place informs personhood and the responsibility we have to where we're from," says playwright **Reisman**. "*Jeune Terre* looks at a conversation that people have a lot in Louisiana: Who gets to say what happens to where we live? Who gets to say they're from here?"

**Jeremy B. Cohen**, producing artistic director at the Playwrights' Center and director of *Jeune Terre*, says "I've long been a fan of Gab's work and this deeply complex and monumental new piece felt a perfect fit for our season, and for this moment in U.S. history. Moving from humor to tragedy to song, Gab's love and passion for telling stories of Louisiana is never more present than in this love song to our eroding country."

**Gab Reisman** is a New York and New Orleans based playwright and producer. Her work has been developed, produced, or commissioned by Clubbed Thumb, Page 73, Barnard College, Great Plains Theatre Conference, Sundance Theatre Lab, Ingram New Works Lab, ZACH Theatre, The Orchard Project, The NOLA Project, EST/Sloan Project and various other projects. She was an NNPN Playwright in Residence at Southern Rep and a MacDowell Colony alum. Gab has taught playwriting and theatre making in places like Vanderbilt, UT Austin, and New Orleans's public schools. Her plays have received a Rosa Parks Award from The Kennedy Center, the Holland New Voices Award, and

appeared on the inaugural Kilroys List. She is a Core Writer at the Playwrights Center and a New Georges affiliated artist. MFA: UT Austin

The Ruth Easton New Play Series provides selected Core Writers with 20 hours of workshop time to develop a new play with collaborators of their choice: top local and national actors, directors, designers, and dramaturgs. Each play has two public readings, allowing the playwright to experiment and see the play on its feet in front of two different audiences. The Center brings in visiting artistic leaders to see the readings and connect with the playwrights, and more than half of the plays developed in the series over the past decade have gone on to production.

The 2018-19 Ruth Easton New Play Series continues through April. *The History of Religion* by Core Writer Carlyle Brown on February 4 and 5, *Tiny Houses* by Core Writer Stefanie Zadravec on March 4 and 5, and concludes with a new play with movement, *The Dance* by Core Writer Kim Euell on April 1 and 2.

All events in the Ruth Easton New Play Series are free and open to the public. Reserve your spots at [pwcenter.org/ruth-easton-series](http://pwcenter.org/ruth-easton-series) or by contacting the Playwrights' Center at (612) 332-7481 or [info@pwcenter.org](mailto:info@pwcenter.org).

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*Photos of the playwright and previous Ruth Easton New Play Series readings are available by contacting Gregory Collins at [gregoryc@pwcenter.org](mailto:gregoryc@pwcenter.org)*

# ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHTS' CENTER

**The Playwrights' Center champions playwrights and new plays to build upon a living theater that demands new and innovative works.**

The Center serves playwrights by sustaining careers, developing new work, and connecting playwrights to theaters. Each year at the Center, fellows and Core Writers receive more than \$315,000 in direct support, 70+ new plays are workshopped, playwrights connect with 100 producing theaters through partnership programs, and 2,000-member playwrights from around the world find resources to achieve their artistic vision.

Since its founding in 1971, the Playwrights' Center has become one of the nation's most generous and well-respected theater organizations, helping launch the careers of numerous nationally recognized artists such as August Wilson, Lee Blessing, Suzan-Lori Parks, Jordan Harrison, Carlyle Brown, Craig Lucas, Jeffrey Hatcher, Melanie Marnich, and Kira Obolensky. Work developed through Center programs has been seen nationwide on such stages as Yale Rep, Woolly Mammoth, the Guthrie, Goodman, and many others.

## Programs and services

**The Core Writer** program gives 25-30 of the most exciting playwrights from across the country the time and tools to develop new work for the stage. All Core Writers receive play development workshops at the Center, in collaboration with prominent directors, actors, dramaturgs, and designers. Selected work by Core Writers makes up the Center's formal season of public readings: the PlayLabs festival and the Ruth Easton New Play Series. Core Writers are also promoted by the Center and provided opportunities through an extensive network of colleges and universities, cultural institutions, and producing theaters.

**Fellowships**, made possible by the McKnight and Jerome foundations, provide more than \$315,000 each year for residencies, commissions, and development funds. Beyond the financial stipend, the value of fellowships is more than doubled with the year-long support the Playwrights' Center adds through workshops with professional collaborators and through the connections the Center makes between playwrights and producers of new work. This holistic and customized combination of financial support, access to talent, and professional connections is career-changing for most playwrights. Fellowship programs: Jerome Fellows, Many Voices Fellows, McKnight Fellows in Playwriting, McKnight National Residency and Commission, McKnight Theater Artist Fellows.

**Membership** is open to all and provides nearly 2,000 playwrights worldwide with tools, resources, and support. Benefits include a database of playwriting opportunities, online and in-person seminars and classes, access to readings with professional actors, dramaturgical services, and more. In addition, the Playwrights' Center's **New Plays on Campus** program serves dozens of colleges and universities nationwide, providing script-matching services, arranging playwright residencies, and offering immersive apprenticeships to student playwrights.

**Local and national partnerships** elevate the role of living playwrights. Through the Regulars partnership program, the Playwrights' Center partners with 100 theaters around the country to bring their artistic staff to the Center in order to spend time with playwrights and to co-develop new plays with a keen eye towards production. In fact, 60% of these plays have gone on to full production within two years (rather than the average seven-year timeframe for most plays to see production).