

PLAYWRIGHTS'
CENTER

THE 37TH ANNUAL
PLAYLABS
FESTIVAL



OCTOBER 19–25, 2020

THE 37TH ANNUAL

PLAYLABS FESTIVAL

ROOM ENOUGH (FOR US ALL)

by Daaimah Mubashshir

Monday, Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. & Friday, Oct. 23 at 8 p.m.

Fatimah, a recently widowed matriarch, is determined to have it all. She wants the opportunity to set right a 10-year mistake by inviting Jamillah, her queer daughter, to return home after a long forced absence. Can she have it all when Abdullah, her son, is driven to fight against this decision even though he loves his mother deeply? *Room Enough (For Us All)* is centered on a contemporary African-American Muslim Family coming to terms with how to treat queerness up against long-standing ideals and faith.

MOTHER OF EXILES

by Jessica Huang

Wednesday, Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. & Saturday, Oct. 24 at 8 p.m.

In 1898 California, a pregnant Eddie Loi faces deportation. In 1998 Miami, her grandson Braulio accidentally summons her spirit while patrolling the border. In 2063 somewhere on the ocean, their descendants try to survive the climate crisis. An epic multigenerational tale of sacrifice, love, and survival that spans 150 years in 90 minutes.

PLAYWRITING FELLOWS SHOWCASE

Friday, Oct. 23 at 5 p.m.

Join us for an evening of scenes from plays in progress by our 2020-21 Playwrights' Center fellows and mentees: **Cristina Florencia Castro, Gracie Gardner, Marvin González De León, JuCoby Johnson, Candrice Jones, Shannon TL Kearns, Nora Montañez, Savannah Reich, Tylie Shider, and Katie Ka Vang.**

we are continuous

by Harrison David Rivers

Tuesday, Oct. 20 at 7 p.m. & Saturday, Oct. 24 at 1 p.m.

When a son reveals that he is HIV positive, his mother must decide how far her unconditional love extends. In this tender autobiographical play, Harrison David Rivers explores how people can change and how love can evolve.

BEGIN, BEGIN, BEGIN AGAIN

by Erin Courtney

Thursday, Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. & Sunday, Oct. 25 at 1 p.m.

In a re-imagining of *The Oresteia* set in an art museum in the near future, an audio tour guide voice artist is haunted by the desire to kill her husband. Is it possible to seek justice instead of revenge? In this formally inventive work, Erin Courtney invites us to see the horror behind the brutality of our current justice system and to invite change through collective imagination.

Welcome And Thank You For Joining Us For Our 37th Annual Playlabs Festival!

We are embracing what it means to create theater during a pandemic and moving the entire process online. While we will miss those personal moments of connection by being in space together—from the warm greetings in the lobby to that collective gasp at a play's surprise moment in the theater—we're grateful that this year, geography will no longer limit who can experience the festival. Whether you're joining us from across the country, around the world, or just down the street in the Twin Cities, we're excited you're here with us to celebrate these powerful new stories.

At Playwrights' Center, we lead with our values, and this year we are creating even more paid artist jobs by expanding the festival. Four playwrights are currently developing their new work, partnering with the creative team of their choosing, receiving two full weeks of writing and rehearsal time, and—as always at Playwrights' Center—being equitably compensated for their time and their artistry. Over the course of the festival, nearly 70 paid opportunities for theatermakers are being created.



Jeremy B. Cohen
Producing Artistic Director



Robert Chelimsky
Managing Director

At the heart of PlayLabs is the holistic incubation of new work, and this year is no exception. We are thrilled to bring you these incredible new plays by Erin Courtney, Jessica Huang, Daaimah Mubashshir, and Harrison David Rivers. Whether beautifully written family dramas or relevant reimaginations of classic tales, each story told is both unique and universal. You may see yourself in people you've never met or find new laughter and understanding in characters you've known.

These stunning plays accomplish what all good stories seek to do: bring us closer to our human connection with one another and guide our path to a more equitable, empathetic, and imaginative world.

So gather your friends or family (if you're able to in a socially distanced way) around the Zoom screen. Sit back. Get comfortable. And experience these new plays along with the rest of the world for the very first time.

On behalf of the PlayLabs artists, the Playwrights' Center staff and board, and the 2,200+ playwright members we serve each year, thank you and enjoy!



ROOM ENOUGH (FOR US ALL)

by **Daaimah Mubashshir**

Director

Ebony Noelle Golden**

Dramaturg

Otis Cortez Ramsey-Zöe

Stage Manager

Salima Y. Seale*

Apprentice Stage Manager

Ashe Jaafaru

Festival Producer

Hayley Finn

Associate Producer

Julia Brown

Actors

Serena Brook* / Jessica Graton

AJ Friday / Stage Directions

Melissa Mickens* / Nedra Jackson-Rasheed

Cara Ricketts* / Jamillah Rasheed

Namir Smallwood* / Abdullah Rasheed

Regina Marie Williams* / Fatimah Rasheed

"Room Enough is a semi-autobiographical ode to my progressive mother. I was interested in exploring how queerness and Islam could function amicably in the same space. Also, I am interested in ways that grief, a powerful equalizer, can either make space for reinvention, as with Fatimah, or crystallize one's beliefs almost into a weapon, in Abdullah."

—**Daaimah Mubashshir**

*Appearing through an Agreement between this theatre, the Playwrights' Center, and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

**Member, Stage Directors and Choreographers Society



Daimah Mubashshir (playwright) is based in New York City. Awards include a 2020-2022 WP Theater Lab Fellowship, 2019-2022 Core Writer Fellowship (Playwrights' Center, MN), a 2018 Audrey Residency (New Georges), a MacDowell Colony Fellowship, a Foundation of Contemporary Arts Emergency Grant, and she is a proud alumna of Fire This Time

Festival. Selected full length plays include *The Immeasurable Want of Light* (3 Hole Press), *Room Enough* (Fire This Time Festival, the Playwrights' Center), *The Chronicles of Cardigan and Khente* (Soho Rep), and *Emily Black is A Total Gift* (New Georges).

Daimahmubashshir.com



Ebony Noelle Golden** (director) is an artist, scholar, and culture strategist from Houston, TX and currently based in Harlem. She devises site-specific ceremonies, live art installations, creative collaborations, and arts experiments that explore and radically imagine viable strategies for collective black liberation. In 2020, Ebony launched Jupiter Performance Studio (JPS)

which serves as a hub for the study of diasporic black performance traditions. JPS is integral to the development of a five-part theatrical ceremony that will be developed and produced over the next three years with partners in Harlem, Brooklyn, Durham, and Ashfield, MA. In 2009, Ebony founded Betty's Daughter Arts Collaborative, a culture consultancy and arts accelerator, that devises systems, strategies, solutions for and with education, arts, culture, and community groups globally. You can learn more about Ebony and her work by visiting bettysdaughterarts.com.



Serena Brook* (Jessica Graton) is so grateful to be a part of PlayLabs this year. Serena was an actor/announcer for 3 seasons of *Live from Here/A Prairie Home Companion* on National Public Radio. Theater credits: Guthrie Theater, Chanhassen Dinner Theater, 24 Hour Play Festival, New London Barn Playhouse, Cape Rep Theater. Off-Broadway: *Dear*

Edwina, National Tour: *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas*.

Serena is also an established voiceover artist whose voice can be heard in national commercials. www.serenabrook.com



AJ Friday (stage directions) is a recent transplant from Seattle, WA where he achieved a Master's Degree in the Fine Arts at the University of Washington. AJ is also a Guthrie Experience Alumni (c/o 2016; Guthrie Theater) and was last in Penumbra Theater Company's *Pipeline* (as Xavier) and Frank Theater's *The Convert* (as Chancellor).



Ashe Jaafaru (apprentice stage manager) is an actor, performer, writer, and creative idea-maker. She is involved in theater, film, and voiceover work in the Twin Cities and beyond. She creates art for liberation and continues to write imaginative stories.



Melissa Mickens* (Nedra Jackson-Rasheed) is an actress, writer, director, producer, and teaching artist based in Brooklyn happy to be making her PlayLabs debut. A proud member of Actors' Equity Association, Melissa was last seen in the Private Theater's production of *Rocco, Chelsea...at* HERE Arts. She has also appeared in productions at the Brick, JACK

Arts, ARS Nova ANT Fest, Downtown Urban Theatre Festival, National Black Theatre, The Lark, Williamstown Theatre Festival, and the Hangar Theatre in Ithaca, NY. A NYU Tisch School of the Arts graduate, Melissa is proud to be the program director of the Stella Adler Youth and Summer Shakespeare Programs as well as the Black Arts Institute Coordinator. Melissa is also the award-winning creator and producer of the web series, *SHAMPAGNE*, where she received the award for best web series at the Hip Hop Film Festival NY in 2016 and best original sitcom screenplay at the Miami Web Fest 2016. IG: @rocksolidmel



Otis Cortez Ramsey-Zöe (dramaturg) is a care worker, dramaturg, director, and theater arts educator. He is an Adjunct Instructor in Dramaturgy at Carnegie Mellon University and Lecturer in Women's Studies at University of Maryland. He has developed new works at such institutions as Sundance Institute, Kennedy Center, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Playwrights'

Center, National New Play Network, Theater Alliance, The Classical Theatre of Harlem, and Arena Stage. He was a Lecturer of Theatre Arts at Howard University, Associate Artistic Director at *banished?* productions, Future Classics Program Coordinator at The Classical Theatre of Harlem, and Literary Manager at Center Stage.



Cara Ricketts* (Jamillah Rasheed) is an award-winning actress with a background in theater and has performed in Canada and the U.S. Theater credits include four seasons at the Stratford Festival, where she received the Best Actress award for her role in Pinter's *The Homecoming*. On Broadway; Joan in Roundabout Theater's *Time and*

the Conways and Isabella in TFANA's *Measure for Measure*. Her screen credits include *Anne with an E*, *Orphan Black*, and *Titans*. Video-games: Mickey in *Far Cry New Dawn*. Most recently, Cara received ACTRAs Outstanding Performance award for her portrayal of Mary LaCroix in *Anne with an E*.



Salima Y. Seale (stage manager) is a freelance stage manager based in the Twin Cities. Recent credits: *neighbors* (History Theatre), *Nature* (TigerLion Arts), *How It's Gon' Be* (Underdog Theater Company), *benevolence* (Penumbra Theatre), *Hooded: or being black for dummies* (Mixed Blood Theatre). She holds a BA from Macalester College.



Actors' Equity Association ("Equity"), founded in 1913, is the U.S. labor union that represents more than 51,000 professional Actors and Stage Managers. Equity fosters the art of live theatre as an essential component of society

and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages, improving working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors' Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. #EquityWorks



The Director is a Member of the **STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY**, a national theatrical labor union.



Namir Smallwood* (Abdullah Rasheed) joined the Steppenwolf Theatre Company ensemble in 2017. Steppenwolf: *Bug*, *True West*, *Monster*, *Man In Love*, *The Hot L Baltimore*. Chicago: *The Lost Boys of Sudan* (Victory Gardens Theater); *Charm* (Northlight Theatre); *The Grapes of Wrath* (The Gift Theatre); *East Texas Hot Links* (Writers Theatre). Regional: Marin Theatre

Company, Pillsbury House Theatre, Lincoln Center Theatre, Ten Thousand Things Theater, Guthrie Theater. Television: *Chicago Fire*, *Betrayal*, *Elementary*, *Pipeline (Live From Lincoln Center)* on PBS.



Regina Marie Williams* (Fatimah Rasheed) is an actor/singer based in Minnesota. She received McKnight Theater Artist Fellowships at the Playwrights' Center in both 2007 and 2017. Ms. Williams originated the role of Nina Simone in Christina Ham's *Nina Simone: Four Women* and has performed it at The Kenny Leon True Colors Theatre, The People's

Light, and twice at Park Square Theatre in St Paul where the show was commissioned. She was last seen on stage as Mama in *Chicago* and as Bernarda Alba in *The House of Bernarda Alba* at Theatre Latté Da. Regina is a core member at Ten Thousand Things, a founding company member of New Dawn Theatre, and a proud Penumbra Theatre company member.

Presenting

UNIVERSITY COURSES



The Playwrights' Center, in partnership with Augsburg University, is offering online, accredited playwriting courses taught by today's leading writers in the field, creating unparalleled arts education access for aspiring writer! Learn more at pwcenter.org/univeristy-programs

Jerome Fellow Tylie Shider teaches Playwriting II at Augsburg University. Photo Paula Keller

**THE
RUTH EASTON
NEW PLAY SERIES**

December, 2020–April, 2021



Dec. 9, 2020

No Cure
Jake Jeppson

Jan. 13, 2021

Getting There
Dipika Guha

Feb. 3, 2021

This Much I Know
Jonathan Spector

Mar. 3, 2021

Pulp Vérité
Crystal Skillman

Apr. 7, 2021

Nancy
Rhiana Yazzie

For Information And Tickets
pwcenter.org/ruth-easton-series

Meghan Kreidler as Volina in Betty Shamieh's *Malvolio*, during the February 2020 Ruth Easton New Play Series. Photo by Paula Keller

THANK YOU DONORS

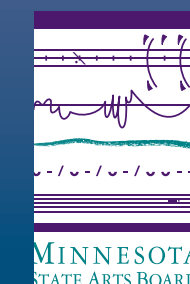
The Playwrights' Center gratefully acknowledges the following individuals and organizations who have financially supported our work. The following names represent gifts given between August 1, 2019 and October 15, 2020.

GOVERNMENT, FOUNDATIONS, AND ORGANIZATIONS

\$100,000

MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION

\$50,000–\$99,000



\$25,000–\$49,999

The Harold & Mimi Steinberg
Charitable Trust



\$2,500–\$24,999

ArtSpace Projects, Inc.
Boss Foundation
Bush Foundation
Patrick & Aimee Butler Family Foundation
Dual Citizen Brewing Co.
France 44 Wines & Spirits
The Head Family Foundation
KNOCK, Inc.
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
Piper Sandler & Co
City of St. Paul (Cultural STAR)
Tides Foundation

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Faegre Drinker Foundation
Securian Financial Foundation
Whole Lotta Future Foundation

Up to \$999

Actors' Equity Foundation, Inc.
AmazonSmile
The Benevity Community Impact Fund
GiveMN.org
Jamf
Network for Good
Seagate Technology LLC
US Bank Foundation
YourCause

In-Kind

Alma
Trader Joe's

INDIVIDUALS

\$10,000+

Eric Anderson and Roger Beck
Barry Berg and Walter Tambor
Lee Blessing and Melanie Marnich
Jeffrey Bores* and Michael Hawkins
Mary Beidler Gearen*
Christina Ham
MaryAnn Lippay Kanee and Stephen Kanee Family Fund
Jennifer Melin Miller and David Miller
Wayne Zink and Christopher Schout*
Dana and Stephen Strand

*denotes Playwrights' Center Board Member

THANK YOU DONORS

INDIVIDUALS (CONTINUED)

\$5,000-\$9,999

Anonymous
David Chelimsky and Flor Pinho
Barbara Davis
Robert P. Englund
Barbara Field
Larissa Kokernot and Karl Gajdusek•
John Geelan and Megan Feeney
Elizabeth Grant
Jeff Hedlund• and Amy Apperson
David and Leni Moore Family Foundation
Peter and Carla• Paulson Family Fund
Diane and Mark• Perlberg
The Racciatti Family Fund
Marcia and John Stout
John Sullivan
Margaret VB Wurtele

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Harrison David Rivers and Christopher R. Bineham
James and Julie Chosy
Geoffrey M. Curley• and Associates
Fran Davis
Polly Brown Grose Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation.
Jodi Grundyson•
Tessa Gunther and Scott Hagg
Lili Hall and Andrea Scarpa
Bruce and Jean Johnson
Patrick Kennedy
Rebecca Krull Kraling• and James Kraling
Mr. and Mrs. Chad M. Larsen/Larsen Fund
Annie Lebedoff•
Heather and John Leiviska
James Empson and Cheryl Olseth
Randall and Gail Ross
Mary and Adam Sellke
Mary Anne Ebert and Paul Stembler•
Harry Waters, Jr.• and Tom Borrup
Ginger Wilhelmi•

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Anonymous
dik Bolger and Carmen Gutierrez-Bolger
Peter and Maura• Brew
Jeremy Cohen and Michael Elyanow
Jeanne Corwin
Dan Dietz
Nancy Engh
Chelle and Mike Gonzo
Dan Hedlund and Robin Preble
Charlyne Hovi•
Marlon James
Janet Jones and Rob Reul
Miriam and Erwin Kelen
Anita Kunin
Firouzeh Mostashari
Wendy Nelson
Kira Obolensky and Irve Dell
George Steitz
Weiser Family Foundation

\$500 - \$999

Elissa Adams and Michael Margulies
Toni Nebal Bjorklund and Lee Bjorklund
Jane Blanch
Susan Conley De Castro
Erika and Nathan Eklund
Beth Gaede
Greg Giles and Teresa West
Karen Grabow and Keith Halperin
Katie Hey
Suzanne Joyce
Dr. Art Kaemmer
Faye Knowles and Douglas Muirhead
Jon Newman and Brooks Christensen
JoAnne Pastel
James A. Payne
Charlie Quimby and Susan Cushman
Shannon Robinson
Donald and Linda Silpe
Merrie and Aaron Sjogren
Ed McConaghay and Margaret Telfer

Michelle Vaught
Barbara Weber
Suzanne Weinstein and Danny Levey
Joan and Scott Wilensky
Jamie Wilson and David Ericson

\$250 - \$499

Patricia Barrier
George Brant and Laura Kepley
Carlyle Brown• and Barbara Rose-Brown
Sarah and Matt Chaplin
Sarah Cooke and Adam Lowe
Mary Dolan
Adam Rao and Elizabeth Emery
Liz Engelman
Lesley Ferris
Jeffrey Grover
Kathleen Hansen
Ross Johnson
Willard Kitchen
Sally and Jonathan Lebedoff
Doug and Mary Logeland
Karen Hartman and Todd London
Beth MacDonald
Ron and Mary Mattson
Robert and Lucy Mitchell
Amy Muse
Amy Noble Seitz
Tonja Orr
Timothy J. Pabst and Dana Lindsay
Kendra Plant
Audray Rees
Carl Atiya Swanson and Stacy Schwartz
Jane E Zilch
Laura Zimmermann

\$100 - \$249

Monika Albrecht
Howard Ansel
Karen Bachman and Robert Fisch
James Ball
Jeannette and Jeffrey Bineham

Peter Brosius and Rosanna Staffa
Robert P. and Debbie A. Brown
Mary and Mike Burke
Bob and Carolyn Bye
Allene Cohen
Robert Dorfman
Marilyn J. Doyle
Robert C Droddy
Bonnie S. Dudovitz and Jean K. Quam
Paul Eiding
Scott Elyanow
Nancy Finn
Tiffa Foster
Seth Freeman
Robin Gillette
Carol Grady
Josh and Pamela Gruber
Rossi and Penelope Snipper
Scott Halle
Craig Harris and Candy Kuehn
W. Blake and Erin Herron
Thang and Randy Holt
Harriet Horwitz
Jessie Houlihan•
Robert Hybben
J. Lynn Jackson
Margaret Johnson
Bobbi and Louis Kaplan
Daisuke Kawachi
Martine Kei Green-Rogers
Mary Louise Klas
David Koehser and Nancy Dunnigan
Katherine Kohl
Aaron and Eric Komo
Neal and Abigail Kreitzer
Joseph Kuznik
Sigrun Leonhard
Seth Levin and Mia Nosanow
Edith Leyasmeyer
David Manderson
Jeff Masco
Timothy Mason

THANK YOU DONORS

INDIVIDUALS (CONTINUED)

David McNeil
Kelly Miller
Patricia Mitchell
Silas Morgan
Sarah Myers
Rebecca Noon, in honor of Daisuke Kawachi
Anne L. Paape
James and Susan Peterson
Beth and Wes Pfeifer
Eric Polizer
Barbara Pratt
Denise Prosek and Milton Ferris
Daniel Rech and Nicole DeBace-Rech
Lawrence Redmond and Eddie Ellington
Christopher Reeves and MaryAnn Nord
Melissa and Scott Rockman
Charlene K. Roise
Erika Schwichtenberg
Dan and Margaret Shulman
Emily Simon and Nathan Lucero
Jerrie Steele
David Odenbach and John Stefany
Carol Stoddart
Seema Sueko
Virginia Sundberg
Megan Erlandson and Merritt Swain
Elizabeth Thimmesh and Matthew Johnson
William Underwood and Christopher Everett
Adrian Walker
Eryn Warne
Wendy Weckwerth
Barbara Weissberger
Joan Heule Wright and Jeffrey Wright
Scott and Pam Wright
Laura Zabel and Levi Weinhagen
Deborah Zanish and Daniel Danielson

\$99 & Under

Valetta Anderson
Linda Anderson Willette and Jan Willette
Mark Armstrong
Carol Barnett
In memory of Susan Barton
Angela and George Bernhardt
Ann M. Biggar
Kate Brennan
Harriet Chessman
Todd Clasen
Marvin Gonzalez De Leon
John DeLaire
Sheila DeSellier
Andrew Dominus
Denise Dreher
Mary Easter
Jill Engeswick
Diane Faissler
Leigh Flayton
Peter Fleck and Mary Weber
Annette Gavens
Ain Gordon
Donna Gordon
Judy Goss
Rachel Greene and Victor Perazzoli
Janet Allen and Joel Grynheim
Matt Haar
Peter Heeringa
Stephanie Melissande
John Humphrey
Ivan Idland
Walt Jacobs
Laura Jacqmin
Andrew and Amy Jendrzewski
Rachel Jendrzewski and Theo Goodell

Jake Johansen
Lauren Johnson
Jaclyn Johnson
Pat Johnston
Jeremy Jones
Mervyn Kaufman
Anne-Lynn Kettles
Adeeb Khalid and Cheryl Duncan
Mary T. Kokernot
Jonna Kosalko and Dan Rabin
Jennifer Kranz
Carson Kreitzer
Jessica Kubzansky
Jim Larson
Carol Lichterman
Mark Lutwak and Y York
Bruce Manning and Tricia Cornell
Susan Marrash-Minnerly
Judy McConnell
Linda McDonald
Chaz Mena
Lynne Menturweck
Ellen Merlin
Meg Miroshnik
Lacey Morgan
Joseph Moses
Miriam Must
Jon Neuse and K.C. Foley
Douglas Nopar
Jennifer and Joe Novak
Kemi Ojelade
William Parry
Barb and Rick Person
Daniel Pinkerton
Shelli Place
Marilynn Pyatigorets

Noël Raymond and Amy Finch
Sara Richardson
Julie Robbins
Cliff Robinette
Susie Rowland
Whitney Rowland
Candyce Rusk
Christina Saunders
Jill Schafer
Kate Schwartz
Maureen Siliman
Nancy Simon
Christopher G. Smith
Philip Spensley
Joseph H Stanley
Sandra Struthers
Melissa A. Thone Rn
Doug Tiede
Andrew Troth
Stephen Troutman
Ken Urban
Ryan Volna
Daniel Weiner and Carl Roller
Dawn Williams
Sarah Woessner
Robert Young
Jared Zeigler
Susan Zwickey

AMPLIFY VITAL STORYTELLING THROUGH GIVING

Social justice is at the heart of the Playwrights' Center's work. We strive for it by actively supporting equitable theater-making practices that shift the paradigm, uplifting unheard stories and sharing them with the world. With your support, the Center can provide the greatest diversity of artists with the time, tools, and space to tell their truths and reshape audiences' perspectives.

Make a gift and amplify vital storytellers today! pwcenter.org/donate

STAFF

Jeremy B. Cohen, Producing Artistic Director
Robert Chelimsky, Managing Director
May Adrales, Artistic Associate
Alayna Barnes, Membership Programs Associate
Julia Brown, Artistic Programs Manager
Hayley Finn, Associate Artistic Director
Martine Kei Green-Rogers, Fellowship Associate
H. Adam Harris, Engagement Associate
Katie Hey, Director of Development
Jasmine Johnson, General Manager
Hannah Joyce, Director of Membership Programs
Emily Mathees, Executive Staff Administrator
Sarah Myers, Director of University Programs and Partnerships
Daniel Rech, Director of Marketing and Communications
Whitney Rowland, Institutional Development Manager
Teri Schafer, Development Assistant
Sonitha Tep, Marketing Communications Graphic and Media Designer
Kaitlyn Boyer, Artistic and Administrative Apprentice
Roshni Desai, Artistic and Administrative Apprentice
Ashe Jaafaru, Artistic and Administrative Apprentice
Isabella Star LaBlanc, Artistic and Administrative Apprentice

BOARD

Carla Paulson, President
Harrison David Rivers, Vice President
Maura Brew, Secretary
Adam Rao, Treasurer
Jeffrey Bores
Carlyle Brown
Geoffrey Curley
Karl Gajdusek
Mary Beidler Gearen
Jodi Grundyson
Jeff Hedlund
Jessie Houlihan
Charlyne Hovi
Jonathan Jensen
David Kim
Rebecca Krull Kraling
Annie Lebedoff
Mark Perlberg
Christopher Schout
Leah Spinosa de Vega
Cecilia Stanton Adams
Paul Stembler
Harry Waters Jr.
Ginger Wilhelmi
Michael Winn
Jeremy B. Cohen, ex officio
Robert Chelimsky, ex officio

THE 2020-21

FELLOWS AND CORE WRITERS

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Kelly Renee Armstrong | Sofya Levitsky-Weitz |
| Lee Blessing | Nora Montañez |
| Sharon Bridgforth | Daaimah Mubashshir |
| Carlyle Brown | Kira Obolensky |
| Darren Canady | John Olive |
| Cristina Florencia Castro | Marisela Treviño Orta |
| Erin Courtney | Savannah Reich |
| Mashuq Mushtaq Deen | Stacey Rose |
| Emily Feldman | Andrew Rosendorf |
| Gina Femia | Riti Sachdeva |
| Barbara Field | Tylie Shider |
| Gracie Gardner | Charly Evon Simpson |
| Marvin González De León | Crystal Skillman |
| Jeffrey Hatcher | Jonathan Spector |
| Rachel Jendrzewski | Ariel Stess |
| Jake Jeppson | James Anthony Tyler |
| JuCoby Johnson | Katie Ka Vang |
| Candrice Jones | Abbee Warmboe |
| Nicholas Kaidoo | Talvin Wilks |
| Shannon TL Kearns | Ray Yamanouchi |
| Keyanna Khatiblou | Stefanie Zadravec |
| Kurt Kwan | |

THEATER BEGINS HERE

"Stories give us chances to see ourselves and what we could hope to be."

—2020–21 Jerome Fellow, Candrice Jones

**We start with the storytellers.
The playwrights.
The artists.**

As we continue to meet the challenges of these times, the Playwrights' Center seeks to reimagine what is possible in theater; both in this moment and beyond. Throughout our 2020–21 Season we are intensifying our efforts, investing even more deeply in creative process, arts education, and access to opportunity. We are working to amplify unheard voices and promote equitable spaces, allowing for the greatest diversity of artists to make plays around the world. Through additional fellowships and increased public programming, we are creating new channels of support for thousands of writers—from paid opportunities that will sustain playwrights and theatermakers, to expanded educational resources that will enhance online learning tools and connect university students from around the world. We are inspiring a whole new generation of theater artists. It all begins here.

Join us!

ARTISTS IN CONVERSATION

Building on our sold-out Public Discussion series from past seasons, *Artists in Conversation* offers a uniquely intimate look at playwrights and their process. Unlike the Center's many scripted events throughout the year, these conversations offer audiences a chance to connect directly with writers, hearing artists' thoughts on craft, the field, and the world through their own unfiltered words. Past conversations have featured acclaimed theater artists, including Migdalia Cruz, Lisa D'Amour, Daniel Alexander Jones, José Rivera, and Paula Vogel, among others.

Specific participants, topics, and dates will be announced throughout the year. Stay tuned!



IN THE LAB

New worlds require new ways.

And the Playwrights' Center is stepping up our support to meet this moment, launching a brand new online development and performance project called *In the Lab*.

Through this innovative program, three writers will develop wildly experimental new works, pushing the boundaries of form and content, and revolutionizing the way we experience stories.

**TOMORROW
WILL BE SUNDAY**
by Heather Raffo

CELL SURFACE
by Dominic Taylor

VAPOR TRAIL
by Ken Urban

Dates and times to be announced soon.
Visit pwcenter.org for more information.

Meiyin Wang, Producing Director at The Ronald O. Perelman Performing Arts Center joins Philip Bither, McGuire Director and Senior Curator, Performing Arts at Walker Art Center for a sold-out Public Discussion. Photo by Josh Olson