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****REVISED April 27, 2017.** The original release announced Diane Exavier as a Many Voices Fellow. Exavier has since accepted another opportunity that prevents her from joining us as a fellow. **Stacey Rose** will now be a 2017-18 Many Voices Fellow, along with previously-announced Saymoukda Duangphouxay Vongsay. Revisions are highlighted in yellow below. Contact Jessica Franken at jessicaf@pwcenter.org or (612) 332-7481 with questions.**

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Playwrights' Center announces 2017-18 Jerome and Many Voices Fellows, increase in Many Voices funding

(Minneapolis, MN—April 26, 2017) — The Playwrights' Center today announced the 2017-18 Jerome Fellows, Many Voices Fellows and Many Voices Mentee. The Many Voices program, which was created in 1994 and significantly expanded in 2013, will see another increase in funding from the Jerome Foundation for the incoming fellows, from \$12,500 to \$18,000. The Jerome Fellowship, which saw an increase last year to \$18,000, is the Jerome Foundation's longest-awarded program.

"These are seven brilliant playwrights and storytellers," says Jeremy B. Cohen, Producing Artistic Director of the Playwrights' Center. "I feel so moved to share the American theater field with them, particularly in this moment of national turbulence. These are the artists who will lead our country forward, and whose voices you will continue to hear echo across stages around the country. And we'll all surely be better for it."

2017-18 JEROME FELLOWS

Mia Chung, Jessica Huang, Tim J. Lord, Tori Skyler Sampson

Jerome Fellows receive an \$18,000 award and \$2,000 in play development funds. They spend a year-long residency in Minnesota. Past recipients of the Jerome Fellowship include Lee Blessing, Lisa D'Amour, Kristoffer Diaz, Dan Dietz, Sarah Gubbins, Naomi Iizuka, Melanie Marnich, Anna Moench, Joe Waechter, Rhiana Yazzie, Martín Zimmerman and August Wilson. The Playwrights' Center's 2017-18 Jerome Fellows are:

- **Mia Chung**, a Brown University M.F.A. graduate whose play "You For Me For You" has had productions with Mu Performing Arts/Guthrie Theater, Royal Court Theatre, Woolly Mammoth Theatre, Company One, Portland Playhouse, Crowded Fire Theatre and InterAct Theatre Company.
- **Jessica Huang**, a Twin Cities-based playwright, 2016-17 Jerome Fellow, and 2011-12 Many Voices Fellow whose play "The Paper Dreams of Harry Chin" recently premiered with History Theatre.

- **Tim J. Lord**, a New York-based playwright and graduate of UC San Diego's M.F.A. playwriting program and whose plays include "We declare you a terrorist..." and "11 Hills of San Francisco."
- **Tori Skyler Sampson**, a Boston native who graduates this spring from the Yale School of Drama, is under commission from Berkeley Repertory Theater, and is the Kennedy Center's 2017 Paula Vogel Playwright.

2017-18 MANY VOICES FELLOWS

Stacey Rose, *Saymoukda Duangphouxay Vongsay*

The Many Voices Fellowship for early-career writers of color comes with a \$18,000 award and \$2,000 in play development funds. The fellows receive dedicated support from Many Voices Coordinator Christina Ham and introductions to theater leaders in the Twin Cities and Chicago. One fellow each year must be Minnesota-based, and both writers spend a year-long residency in Minnesota. Previous recipients include Sharif Abu-Hamdeh, Benjamin Benne, Marisa Carr, Cristina Castro, Janaki Ranpura, Harrison David Rivers, James Anthony Tyler and Josh Wilder. The Playwrights' Center's 2017-18 Many Voices Fellows are:

- **Stacey Rose**, a theater artist from Elizabeth, New Jersey, who has presented work at The Fire This Time Festival, Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, and others. Rose earned an MFA in Dramatic Writing at NYU where she was honored with The Goldberg Prize for her play "The Danger."
- **Saymoukda Duangphouxay Vongsay**, a Minnesota-based writer whose work is focused on creating tools and spaces for the amplification of refugee voices, and whose award-winning play "Kung Fu Zombies Vs. Cannibals" premiered with Mu Performing Arts in 2013.

2017-18 MANY VOICES MENTEE

Julia Gay

The Many Voices Mentorship awards a Minnesota-based beginning playwright of color with individually-curated writing and play development services and a \$2,000 stipend. The Playwrights' Center's 2017-18 Many Voices Mentee is **Julia Gay**, a writer, performer and dancer who was part of the Transatlantic Love Affair ensemble who devised "Promise Land" (Guthrie Theater, January 2017) and whose one-woman show "motherlanded" premiered in 2016 in Pangea World Theater's Emerging Artist Series.

Fellowships at the Playwrights' Center, made possible by the McKnight and Jerome foundations, provide more than \$325,000 each year to support 13 to 14 fellows and mentees. In addition, the Center serves as an artistic home for 25 to 30 Core Writers on three-year terms. Fellows and Core Writers are selected by independent panels. The 2017-18 McKnight Fellows in Playwriting, McKnight National Residency and Commission recipient, McKnight Theater Artist Fellows and new Core Writers will be announced at a later date.

The Playwrights' Center also supports close to 2,000 member playwrights around the world and runs a robust series of partnership programs building relationships between playwrights and producing theaters.

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[BIOS →](#)

PLAYWRIGHT BIOS

Photos of the playwrights are available at pwcenter.org/media-room

2017-18 Jerome Fellows

MIA CHUNG

Mia Chung is the author of “You For Me For You,” “Catch as Catch Can,” and “This Exquisite Corpse.” “You For Me For You” had a UK premiere at The Royal Court Theatre, a world premiere at Woolly Mammoth Theatre, and multiple productions around the country; it is published by Bloomsbury Methuen Drama. In addition to the 2016 Stavis Playwright Award, Mia has received much support: BAPF, Berkeley Rep, Blue Mountain Center, The Civilians, Hedgebrook, Huntington Theatre, Icicle Creek, Inkwell, LAByrinth, Ma-Yi Writers Lab, NEA, NYTW, Playwrights Realm, RISCA, South Coast Rep, Southern Rep, Stella Adler Studio, and TCG. She is a New Dramatist.

JESSICA HUANG

Jessica Huang is a Twin Cities-based playwright whose work includes “The Paper Dreams of Harry Chin” (“striking” –*Star Tribune*; “Kaleidoscopic and timely” –*Broadway World*; “Superb storytelling” –*City Pages*) and the Susan Smith Blackburn nominated “Purple Cloud” (“a thoroughly entertaining and moving work” –*City Pages*). Jessica's work has been developed and/or produced by Mu Performing Arts (Minneapolis), History Theatre (Saint Paul), Mixed Blood Theatre (Minneapolis), Timeline Theatre Company (Chicago), A-Squared Theatre Workshop (Chicago), 2nd Generation (NYC), the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts (D.C.), the Source Festival (D.C.), and Yellow Earth's Typhoon Festival (London). She co-founded and co-directs Other Tiger Productions, which pursues multidisciplinary collaborations, intentional inclusivity and a re-examination of traditional theater practices. Jessica has received a MSAB Cultural Community Partnership grant, a MRAC/McKnight Next Step grant, and the Playwrights' Center's Jerome and Many Voices Fellowships.

Jessica-Huang.com

TIM J. LORD

Tim J. Lord is a native of St. Louis who has spent the last ten years in New York—five of them with his wife, the director Nicole A. Watson. His plays include “We declare you a terrorist...,” “11 Hills of San Francisco,” “Peloponnesus,” “Down in the face of a God,” and “Fault & Fold.” These and others have been seen at the Public Theater, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Working Theater, the New Harmony Project, the Summer Play Festival, NNPN/Kennedy Center University Playwrights Workshop, Circle Rep, the Cutout Theatre, the Vagrancy, and most recently at the Barn Arts Collective. He has been a volunteer at the 52nd Street Project since 2012 and on staff there since 2014. Tim studied with Paula Vogel while living in Providence, RI, and is a graduate of UC San Diego's M.F.A. playwriting program.

timjlord.wordpress.com

TORI SAMPSON

Tori is a third year playwriting candidate at Yale School of Drama, where her credits include “THIS LAND WAS MADE” and “Some Bodies Travel.” Her plays have been developed at Great Plains National Theater Conference and Berkeley Repertory Theatre's Ground Floor residency program. She holds an Honorable Mention from the 2016 Relentless Award, is the Kennedy Center's 2017 Paula

Vogel Playwright and second-place Lorraine Hansberry recipient. She is a 2017 finalist for the Alliance Theater's Keneda Prize. Tori's other plays include: "Cadillac Crew," "If Pretty Hurts Ugly Must be a Muhfucka," "Black Girl Nerd," "Cottoned Like Candy." Her short play "She's our President" will be produced by Baltimore Center Stage as part of the "My America: She" commission. Tori is currently working on a commission from Berkeley Repertory Theatre. A native of Boston, Massachusetts, she holds a B.S. in sociology from Ball State University in Muncie, IN.

2017-18 Many Voices Fellows

STACEY ROSE

Stacey Rose is a theater artist from Elizabeth, NJ by way of Charlotte, NC. She earned a B.A. in Theatre from UNC Charlotte and an M.F.A. in Dramatic Writing at NYU where she was honored with The Goldberg Prize for her play "The Danger." Stacey has presented work at The Fire This Time Festival, The Bushwick Starr Reading Series, Mosaic Theater and Rattlestick Playwrights Theater. She was a 2015-16 Dramatist Guild Fellow and served as writers assistant and script coordinator for "She's Gotta Have It," The Series. Stacey's work celebrates and explores Blackness, Black identity, Black history, and the dilemma of life as the "other."

www.staceytherose.com

SAYMOUKDA DUANGPHOUXAY VONGSAY

Saymoukda Duangphouxay Vongsay is a Lao American poet and playwright. Her theater work has been presented by the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center, Mu Performing Arts, Consortium of Asian American Theater Artists, and Theater Unbound. She is a Playwrights' Center Many Voices fellow, a Mu Performing Arts New Performance fellow, a Loft Literary Center Spoken Word Immersion fellow, a VERVE Grant for Spoken Word Poets recipient, and an Aspen Ideas Bush Foundation scholar.

www.SaymoukdaTheRefugenius.com

2017-18 Many Voices Mentee

JULIA GAY

Julia Gay is a Minneapolis based writer and performer. She received her B.A. from Macalester College, studying American Studies, Urban Studies, and Theatre. Julia is a dancer with professional dance company Ananya Dance Theatre, and was one of five artists awarded the 2016-2017 Creative Changemakers Apprenticeship by The DIAL Group. She was a collaborator and ensemble member with physical theatre ensemble Transatlantic Love Affair on "Promise Land," a devised work that premiered at the Guthrie Theater in January 2017. In May 2016, as part of Pangea World Theater's Emerging Artist Series, Julia premiered her one-woman show "motherlanded," exploring her personal narrative as a Chinese adoptee.

juliagay.com

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHTS' CENTER

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

One of the nation's most generous and well-respected theater organizations, the Playwrights' Center focuses on both supporting playwrights and moving new plays toward production at theaters across the country. The Center has helped launch the careers of numerous nationally recognized artists, notably 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 \$325,000 each year for residencies, commissions, and development funds. Through these fellowships, the Playwrights' Center functions as a home for:

- Jerome Fellows (four emerging American playwrights);
- Many Voices Fellows (two early-career playwrights of color, one Minnesota-based) and Many Voices Mentees (one or two Minnesota-based beginning playwrights of color);
- McKnight Fellows in Playwriting (two accomplished Minnesota-based playwrights);
- McKnight National Residency and Commission (one playwright selected annually from an impressive national pool); and
- McKnight Theater Artist Fellows (three exceptional Minnesota-based theater artists, other than playwrights).

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. The Center works with several theaters each year to develop work for their stages. Recent collaborations include partnerships with Denver Center on Idris Goodwin's *Victory Jones and the Incredible One Woman Band*, Marin Theatre Company on Carson Kreitzer's *Lasso of Truth*, Mixed Blood on Aditi Kapil's *Brahman(i) and Shiv*, Pillsbury House Theatre on Tracey Scott Wilson's *Buzzer*, and The Walker Art Center and Elevator Repair Service on Sibyl Kempson's *Fondly, Collette Richland*. The Center also flies in 10-15 artistic leaders each year to meet writers and hear their work. The newly-launched Regulars program brings together a group of nearly 100 producing theaters in the United States who seek the support of the Center in order to meet new writers, develop their work, and move them into production.