

**McKnight Theater Artist Fellows Sonya Berlovitz,
Thomasina Petrus and Kimberly Richardson present
Works in Progress June 26**

(Minneapolis, MN—May 24, 2017) — 2016-17 McKnight Theater Artist Fellows Sonya Berlovitz (costume design), Thomasina Petrus (actor) and Kimberly Richardson (actor) will present selections from theatrical works in progress on **Monday, June 26, 2017 at 7 p.m.** at Mixed Blood Theatre. This free event is presented by the Playwrights' Center, which is taking reservations at pwcenter.org, info@pwcenter.org or 612-332-7481. Mixed Blood Theatre is located at 1501 South 4th Street in Minneapolis.

The McKnight Theater Artist Fellowships at the Playwrights' Center recognize Minnesota theater artists other than playwrights whose work demonstrates exceptional artistic merit. In addition to the \$25,000 fellowship, the McKnight Foundation provides up to \$7,000 in development funds to McKnight Theater Artist Fellows, allowing them to build new theatrical works with collaborators they choose. The showing on June 26 will share the following works in progress:

“Familie,” a work in progress by Sonya Berlovitz

A multi-disciplinary, semi-autobiographical glimpse of life's stages and relationships told in a sometimes humorous, provocative, and poetic fashion.

Choreographer: Laurie Van Wieren

Performers: Barbra, Sonya, and Jennie Berlovitz

Sound designer: Sean Healy

“Pulling a GROIN,” a work in progress by Thomasina Petrus

On an impulse two sisters discover a hilarious, pain-free guide to getting rid of dead weight and chipped dreams, and discover the value and similarity of their emotional and physical junk!

Written and performed by: Thomasina Petrus* and George Keller*

Additional performers include: Antonio Duke

Sound designer: Kai Alexander

“Follies,” a work in progress by Kimberly Richardson

Made in collaboration with Ryan Patrick, *Follies* is a performance art cabaret based on Ziegfeld's Follies. Featuring song, dance, comedy and the world's smallest chorus line *Follies* aims to—as Ziegfeld would say—delight and surprise.

Created and performed by: Kimberly Richardson* and Ryan Patrick

The production manager of the event is Elizabeth MacNally*, assistant stage manager is Katie Deutsch, and lighting designer is Mike Wangen. *Member of Actors' Equity

About the 2016-17 McKnight Theater Artist Fellows:

Between 1980 and 2008 **Sonya Berlovitz** designed costumes for over 50 productions at Theatre de la Jeune Lune. Since then she has worked on numerous shows with The Moving Company, touring with them to South Coast Repertory, Playmakers Repertory Company, Berkeley Repertory Theatre and Actors Theatre of Louisville. Productions elsewhere have included Children's Theatre Company, the Guthrie Theater, American Repertory Theater, La Jolla Playhouse, The Jungle Theater, Theater Latté Da and Ten Thousand Things. Grants and awards have included The Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle ("The Green Bird," 2000), Bay Area Theatre Award ("Tartuffe," 2016), Minnesota State Arts Board Initiative Grant (2005, 2013) and a McKnight Theater Artist Fellowship (1998, 2016).
www.sonyaberlovitz.com

Thomasina Petrus is a 25-year equity actor and vocalist and company member at Penumbra Theatre and Mixed Blood Theatre. Her company, Thomasina Productions, has produced a number of works for music and theater including six separate stagings of "Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill" by Lanie Robertson and original productions "Lady Days," "Etta James...Dreams to Remember," "Hot Chocolate" and her newest endeavor, "The Sound Effects." All of Thomasina's upcoming productions and performances can be found on her website, thomasinaproductions.com. A successful departure from performing, Thomasina has also created Thomasina's Cashew Brittle, available at a number of locations: thomasinascashewbrittle.com

Kimberly Richardson is a physical theater performer. A member of Ten Thousand Things Artist Core, Kimberly has appeared frequently with the company since 2008, in productions including "Othello," "Music Man," "As You Like It" and "Dirt Sticks." Also a regular at Open Eye Figure Theatre, Kimberly performed/co-created "My Life as a Fairytale" and "The Clumsy Man" with Michael Sommers and played Ed Norton in Sommers' "To the Moon." Other credits include: Workhaus Collective, Children's Theatre Company, Jungle Theater, TigerLion Arts, Interact Center and actor-driven collaborations with Sodhouse Theater, Live Action Set, Jon Ferguson and Sara Richardson. Kimberly was awarded a 2006 Sage Award for dance performance.

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Photos of the artists are available at pwcenter.org/media-room or by contacting Jessica Franken at jessicaf@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.

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.