

## **Paula Vogel to visit Playwrights' Center**

### **Public invited to a conversation on June 20 with Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright as part of the Dramatists Guild Fund's Traveling Masters Program**

(Minneapolis, MN—June 7, 2016)—Celebrated playwright and teacher Paula Vogel will spend two days at the Playwrights' Center in June as part of the Dramatists Guild Fund's Traveling Masters Program. Vogel's visit will conclude with a public conversation on **Monday, June 20, at 7 p.m.** at the Playwrights' Center, 2301 E. Franklin Avenue in Minneapolis. Reservations for this free event are encouraged: [pwcenter.org/vogel](http://pwcenter.org/vogel), [info@pwcenter.org](mailto:info@pwcenter.org) or (612) 332-7481.

Vogel will also be running one of her famous Bake-offs for Playwrights' Center fellows, an intensive writing workshop in which writers get three ingredients and 48 hours to write a new play.

"The Playwrights' Center is thrilled that Paula Vogel will be visiting the Center and sharing her ideas with our community," says Playwrights' Center Producing Artistic Director Jeremy B. Cohen. "Paula is one of the most important theater artists in the country and we are grateful to the Dramatists Guild Fund for making her visit possible."

The Dramatists Guild Fund's Traveling Masters Program is a national outreach program that brings prominent dramatists into communities across the country for writing workshops, master classes, talkbacks, and other public events. In partnership with leading regional theaters and universities, the Traveling Masters Program creates local programming that gives theater professionals and the public first-hand experience with renowned artists. Delta is the official Presenting Sponsor of Dramatists Guild Fund's Traveling Masters Program.

Other Traveling Masters for 2016 include Terrence McNally, Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty, Madeleine George, Philip Kan Gotanda, Laura Jacqmin, Lauren Yee, Chisa Hutchinson and Anna Ziegler.

**PAULA VOGEL** is Playwright in Residence at Yale Repertory Theatre. Her play "How I Learned To Drive" received the 1998 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, the Lortel Prize, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, and New York Drama Critics Awards for Best Play, as well as her second OBIE Award. Other plays include "Indecent," "Don Juan Comes Home From Iraq," "The Long Christmas Ride Home," "The Mineola Twins," "The Baltimore Waltz," "Hot 'N' Throbbing," "Desdemona," "And Baby Makes Seven," "The Oldest Profession" and "A Civil War Christmas." In 2004-05, she was the playwright in residence at New York's Signature Theatre. TCG has published four books of her work: "The Mammary Plays," "The Baltimore Waltz And Other Plays," "The Long Christmas Ride Home," and "A Civil War Christmas." Most recent awards include the Theatre Hall of Fame, Lifetime Achievement Award from

the Dramatists Guild, and the 2015 Thornton Wilder Award. She is honored to have two awards to emerging playwrights named after her: the Paula Vogel Award, created by the American College Theatre Festival in 2003, and the Paula Vogel Award in Playwriting, given annually by the Vineyard Theatre since 2007. Ms. Vogel won the 2004 Award for Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the OBIE for Best Play in 1992 & 1998, the New York Critics Drama Circle, the Hull-Warriner Award, The Laura Pels Award, the Fund for New American Plays, the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Center Fellowship, several National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships, the McKnight Fellowship, and a recent Lilly Award. She was recently awarded a Thirtini from 13P in New York. She has been a fellow at the MacDowell Colony, the Double Ucross Colony, as well as Yaddo. She has taught for 24 years at Brown University and for five years at Yale School of Drama where she was the Eugene O'Neill Professor of Playwriting. She is honored by Philadelphia Young Playwrights and Quiara Hudes, who is curating the Paula Vogel Mentors Project. Playwrights with whom she has worked include Sarah Ruhl, Lynn Nottage, Nilo Cruz, Bridget Carpenter, Gina Gionfriddo, Christina Anderson, Ayad Akhtar, Gina Gionfriddo, Jen Haley, Quiara Hudes, Adam Bock, Jordan Harrison, Dan LeFranc and a host of original voices in the United States and abroad.

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*Photo of Paula Vogel available at [pwcenter.org/media-room](http://pwcenter.org/media-room)*

# 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 \$315,000 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 (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 a national pool); and
- McKnight Theater Artist Fellows (three exceptional Minnesota-based theater artists, other than playwrights).

**Membership** is open to all and provides more than 1,500 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.