

The Playwrights' Center announces 2014-15 playwriting fellows and Core Writers

(Minneapolis, MN—May 22, 2014)—The Playwrights' Center today announced its 2014-15 roster of playwriting fellows and new Core Writers, who together will receive more than \$200,000 in awards and additional development funds. The Playwrights' Center is an internationally renowned play development center and artist service organization dedicated to supporting the development of playwrights and new plays. Core Writers and fellows are selected by independent panels composed of nationally recognized theater artists and leaders.

"I am inspired by the entire field of playwrights creating work during this time, and the Playwrights' Center has redoubled our efforts to support these brilliant American writers and theatermakers," says Producing Artistic Director Jeremy B. Cohen. "Nearly all of our fellowship programs had their highest application numbers to date, and the slate of writers that were chosen for our 2014-15 season are absolutely extraordinary. From the fellows in our newly-expanded Many Voices program, to the incredible Jerome Fellows whose work is already making an impact across the country, to the consistent excellence of our McKnight Fellows and Core Writers, these are visionaries creating the new American theater. In fact, during the 2013-14 theater season at least 26 plays developed here were produced on stages across the country. As always, we're deeply indebted to both the Jerome and McKnight Foundations for their support of our fellowships, and to the Mellon Foundation, Ruth Easton Fund and others for their crucial support of the Playwrights' Center."

PLAYWRITING FELLOWSHIPS

Jerome Fellowships—for emerging playwrights (\$16,000 award)

Steve Moulds, Kate Tarker, Josh Wilder, Deborah Yarchun

Jerome Fellows spend a yearlong residency in Minnesota. The Playwrights' Center has awarded these fellowships in partnership with the Jerome Foundation since 1976. The Playwrights' Center's 2014-15 Jerome Fellows are **Steve Moulds**, who is currently Playwright in Residence at Theatre [502] and was previously the National New Play Network Playwright in Residence at Curious Theatre Company; **Kate Tarker**, a 2014 graduate of the Yale School of Drama whose play "THUNDERBODIES" was just seen at the Carlotta Festival of New Plays; **Josh Wilder**, a 2013-14 Many Voices Fellow at the Playwrights' Center whose play "Leftovers" will be on the main stage of the Great Plains Theatre Conference this month and who recently workshopped "The Stone Will Roll" at New York Theatre Workshop; and **Deborah Yarchun**, who was also awarded a 2013-14 Jerome Fellowship and whose plays include "The Man in the Sukkah" and "The Aleph Complex."

Jerome Many Voices Fellowships—for early-career writers of color (\$10,000 award, plus \$2,500 in living expenses)

Sharif Abu-Hamdeh, Harrison David Rivers

Last year, the Many Voices Fellowship award amount doubled and one of the fellowships opened up to writers residing outside of Minnesota. The Playwrights' Center's 2014-15 Jerome Many Voices Fellows are **Sharif Abu-Hamdeh** (MN), whose plays include "Habibi" (premiered by Campo Santo Theatre Company) and "Bodies in the Park"; and **Harrison David Rivers** (NY), whose play "When Last We Flew" received the 2011 GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding Off Broadway Play.

Two Many Voices Mentorships are also awarded annually to Minnesota-based beginning playwrights of color. These awards include a curated package of writing and development services and a \$1,000 stipend. The 2014-15 Many Voices Mentorship recipients are **Max Delgado**, who has been published in literary magazines including Prose Ax and Portland Review; and **Junauda Petrus**, a dancer, writer, aerialist and co-founder of Free Black Dirt, an experimental art collective.

McKnight Advancement Fellowship—to further the careers of Minnesota-based playwrights (\$25,000 award)
Aditi Brennan Kapil, Basil Kreimendahl

The McKnight Advancement Fellowship has been awarded to **Aditi Brennan Kapil**, who has been a Many Voices Fellow and Core Writer with the Playwrights' Center, and whose "Displaced Hindu Gods" trilogy premiered at Mixed Blood Theatre in Fall 2013; and **Basil Kreimendahl**, a 2011-12 Core Apprentice and 2012-13 Jerome Fellow with the Playwrights' Center whose play "Sidewinders" had its world premiere at The Cutting Ball Theater in Fall 2013.

McKnight National Residency and Commission—for the creation and development of new works by nationally recognized playwrights (\$12,500 commission)

Karen Hartman

The 2014-15 McKnight National Residency and Commission goes to Karen Hartman, a former Jerome Fellow and Core Writer with the Playwrights' Center. Hartman is the award-winning author of more than twenty plays and musical works including "Goldie, Max and Milk," which premiered at Florida Stage and was nominated for the Steinberg/American Critics Award (Best New Regional Play) and the Carbonell Award (Best New Play in Florida); "Gum," which had its world premiere at Baltimore's Center Stage and has been seen in dozens of productions across the country; and "Wild Kate," which opened at ACT in San Francisco and was published by PlayScripts, Inc. in 2012.

CORE WRITERS—25 to 30 playwrights from across the country whose work is supported by the Playwrights' Center over a three-year term. In addition to the 17 continuing Core Writers, the eight new writers are:

Philip Dawkins, Sarah Gubbins, Qui Nguyen, Susan Soon He Stanton, Ken Urban, Joe Waechter, Kathryn Walat, Ken Weitzman

The Core Writer program brings a diverse range of playwrights to the Center for play development workshops in collaboration with prominent directors, actors, dramaturgs and designers. Over the three-year term with the Playwrights' Center as an artistic home, selected work by Core Writers is showcased in the community through the PlayLabs festival and the Ruth Easton New Play Series. Eight playwrights join the Core Writer roster this year.

Philip Dawkins' plays include "Miss Marx: or the Involuntary Effect of Living," "The Homosexuals" and "Failure: A Love Story," all nominated for Jeff Awards. **Sarah Gubbins** is a former Jerome Fellow whose plays include "Fair Use," "In Loco Parentis," "The Drinking Problem," "The Kid Thing" (Jeff Award and Edgerton Foundation New

American Play Award) and “fml: how Carson McCullers saved my life.” **Qui Nguyen** has been awarded another three-year Core Writer term as his current term comes to a close; he is a co-founder of the OBIE Award-winning Vampire Cowboys and his plays include “She Kills Monsters” and “Soul Samurai.” **Susan Soon He Stanton** is a playwright and screenwriter whose plays include “SEEK,” “Takarazuka!!!,” “Cygnus,” “Furball,” “the things are against us,” “The Underneath” and more. **Ken Urban** is a playwright and screenwriter whose plays include “The Awake” and “The Correspondent” and who has plays premiering at SpeakEasy Stage Company in Boston and New York’s Wild Project next season. **Joe Waechter** is a two-time Jerome Fellow and is currently a McKnight Advancement Fellow; his plays include “The Hidden People” and “PROFILES” and this summer he is researching a new play aboard an ice-class sailing vessel in the Arctic Circle. **Kathryn Walat**’s plays include “Creation” (Theatre @ Boston Court, LA Ovation Award for Playwriting nomination) and “Bleeding Kansas” (Hangar Theatre, Francesca Primus Citation); her play “See Bat Fly” will be produced this summer at Brown/Trinity Playwrights Repertory Theatre. **Ken Weitzman**’s plays include “Arrangements” (L. Arnold Weissberger Award), “The Catch” (TCG Edgerton Foundation New American Play Award) and “Fire in the Garden” (Fratti/Newman Political Play Contest Award).

The Core Apprentice program, which pairs student playwrights with a mentor and offers play development support, welcomes 2014-15 apprentices **Kelly Lusk, Stephanie Mohr, Bianca Sams, David Turkel** and **Emily Zemba**.

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PLAYWRIGHT BIOS

2014-15 Jerome Fellows

STEVE MOULDS

Productions of Steve Moulds’ plays include “Emergency Prom” (UT Austin); the Humana Festival anthology “Oh, Gastronomy!”; a Jeff-nominated adaptation of “Six Characters in Search of an Author” (The Hypocrites, Chicago); and the short plays “Principles of Dramatic Writing,” “Sisters of Soul” and “Commodity.” He spent a year in Denver as the NNPN Playwright in Residence at Curious Theatre Company and holds an M.F.A. from the Michener Center at the University of Texas at Austin. Most recently, Moulds co-wrote (with Diana Grisanti) the serialized play “The Stranger and Ludlow Quinn” for Theatre [502], where he is a Playwright in Residence.

KATE TARKER

Kate Tarker is a 2014 graduate of the Yale School of Drama, whose plays include “THUNDERBODIES,” “An Almanac for Farmers and Lovers in Mexico,” “Concertina,” and “The Green.” Her work has been developed with support from the National New Play Network, the MacDowell Colony, LOCAL lab in Boulder, Primary Stages/ESPA, and Theater Masters in Aspen/NYC. She received the Kennedy Center’s 2012 National Science Playwriting Award. B.A. Reed College.

JOSH WILDER

Josh Wilder is a playwright and actor hailing from South Philadelphia. He was the first national Jerome Many Voices Fellowship recipient at the Playwrights’ Center during the 2013-14 season and is thrilled to come back as one of this year’s Jerome Fellows. His play “Gravity” was recently presented at the 5th annual Fire This Time Festival in New York and is published by Indie Theater Now. Wilder’s works have been developed and read at The Classical

Theatre of Harlem, the Playwrights' Center, Pillsbury House Theatre, The Alchemical Theatre Lab, The Lark, New York Theatre Workshop, The Drama League and Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

DEBORAH YARCHUN

Deborah Yarchun's plays have been developed at The New Harmony Project, Jewish Plays Project's OPEN Residency, The Great Plains Theatre Conference, Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, and WordBRIDGE, and produced at Theater Master's National M.F.A. Playwrights Festival, Estrogenius Festival, the Philadelphia Fringe, The Samuel French Off Off Broadway Festival, Playwrights Horizons' Peter Jay Sharp Theater by Young Playwrights Inc., and at theaters and universities across the United States and Canada. Yarchun's honors include a 2013-2014 Jerome Fellowship, The Kennedy Center's Jean Kennedy Smith Playwriting Award, University of Iowa's Richard Maibaum Playwriting Award, and the Iowa Arts Fellowship. M.F.A., University of Iowa, 2013.

2014-15 Jerome Many Voices Fellows

SHARIF ABU-HAMDEH

Sharif Abu-Hamdeh was introduced to theater in a class taught by Naomi Iizuka at the University of California at Santa Barbara during his final year in the Art Studio program. After returning to the Bay Area, Abu-Hamdeh continued his theater training with Campo Santo as a member of their collaborative team. After becoming a company member there, Abu-Hamdeh worked on the development of his first full-length play, "Habibi," and was the director of the dance theater piece, "Sunday Will Come." In June 2013, he received an M.F.A. in playwriting from the University of California at San Diego. Abu-Hamdeh was born in Walnut Creek, CA.

HARRISON DAVID RIVERS

Harrison David Rivers' play "When Last We Flew" (About Face/Diversions/Sundance) received the 2011 GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding Off Off Broadway Play. His other plays include "Look Upon Our Lowliness" (The Movement Theatre Company), "sweet" (Public Theater), "The Bandaged Place" (Aurora Theatre/Classical Theatre of Harlem/New York Theatre Workshop), "AND SHE WOULD STAND LIKE THIS" (The Drama League/P73) and "THE SEA & THE STARS" (National Black Theatre). Rivers is a recipient of the Emerging Artist of Color (NYTW) and Van Lier (New Dramatists) Fellowships. He is an alumnus of the Emerging Writers Group at The Public Theater. M.F.A., Columbia University.

2014-15 Jerome Many Voices Mentees

MAX DELGADO

Max Delgado is a graduate of Fordham University and earned an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from The California College of the Arts in 2007. He spent his early years living between Mexico and Ohio, and now resides in St. Paul, Minnesota with his wife and daughter. Delgado has been published in numerous small literary magazines including Prose Ax and the Portland Review. In addition, Delgado is the founder and editor of The Longbox Project (www.thelongboxproject.com), a literary journal for comic book geeks. He is a teacher and school administrator.

JUNAUDA PETRUS

Junauda Petrus is a dancer and writer who fell in love with aerial arts five years ago. Combining the ritual of theater with the art of aerial, she calls the stories, sayings, ideas, fears and triumphs that live in psychic memory and dwell in spirits and gives them a home on the visceral landscape of the body and space. She reflects primarily on the

modern Black reality and its complexities, its light, shadow, heart and soul, humanity. She and Erin Sharkey are the Co-Founders of Free Black Dirt, an experimental art collective.

2014-15 McKnight Advancement Fellows

ADITI BRENNAN KAPIL

Aditi Brennan Kapil is a playwright, actress, and director, whose work is produced around the country. Most recently, her “Displaced Hindu Gods” trilogy, consisting of the plays “Brahman/i, a one-hijra stand-up comedy show,” “The Chronicles of Kalki,” and “Shiv,” premiered in repertory at Mixed Blood Theatre in Fall 2013. She is currently working on play commissions with Yale Repertory Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, and South Coast Repertory Theatre, and is a McKnight Fellow and a Core Writer at the Playwrights’ Center, the Mellon Playwright-in-Residence at Mixed Blood Theatre, and an Artistic Associate at Park Square Theatre.

BASIL KREIMENDAHL

Basil Kreimendahl’s play “Sidewinders” won the Rella Lossy Playwright’s Award and had its world premiere at The Cutting Ball Theater, and “Orange Julius” was developed at the O’Neill National Playwrights Conference. Kreimendahl was commissioned by Actors Theatre of Louisville for “Remix 38” in the 2014 Humana Festival of New Plays. Kreimendahl’s plays have also been developed by New York Theatre Workshop, About Face Theatre, La Jolla, Inkwell, Rattlestick, WordBRIDGE, The Lark and The Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Kreimendahl was a recent Jerome Fellow and a recipient of an Arts Meets Activism grant from the Kentucky Foundation for Women. Kreimendahl is the Provost’s Visiting Writer at the University of Iowa. M.F.A. University of Iowa, 2013.

2014-15 McKnight National Residency and Commission

KAREN HARTMAN

Karen Hartman is the award-winning author of over twenty plays and musical works including “Goldie, Max and Milk” (Nominee, American Theater Critics Association award, best new regional play), “Gum,” “Goliath,” “Leah’s Train” and more. Her plays have been produced regionally and in New York, and published by TCG, DPS, Playscripts, and more. Honors: Jerome Fellowship, Playwrights’ Center Core Writer, New Dramatists residency, Rockefeller Foundation at Bellagio, the N.E.A., the Helen Merrill Foundation, Hodder Fellowship, Fulbright Scholarship. Her essays are published in The New York Times and The Washington Post. Hartman is currently under commission at Yale Repertory Theatre and People’s Light and Theatre. In Fall 2014 she becomes a Senior Artist in Residence at University of Washington, Seattle. “The Book of Joseph” premieres at Chicago Shakespeare Theater in 2016.

2014-15 New Core Writers

PHILIP DAWKINS

Philip Dawkins’ work includes “Miss Marx: or the Involuntary Side Effect of Living,” “The Homosexuals” and “Failure: A Love Story,” all of which were nominated for Joseph Jefferson Awards after their world premieres with Strawdog Theatre Company (2014), About Face Theatre (2011) and Victory Gardens Theater (2012) respectively. His plays for young folks are published through Playscripts, Inc. Dawkins is an Artistic Associate of About Face Theatre, an Ensemble Playwright at Victory Gardens and a founding member of Chicago Opera Vanguard. Dawkins teaches playwriting at Northwestern University, Loyola University Chicago and through the Victory Gardens ACCESS Program.

SARAH GUBBINS

Sarah Gubbins' plays include "Fair Use," "In Loco Parentis," "The Drinking Problem," "The Kid Thing" (Jeff Award and Edgerton Foundation New American Play Award), "fml: how Carson McCullers saved my life," "I am Bradley Manning," "A Sense of Things" and "Cocked." Her plays have been produced at the Steppenwolf Theatre, Actor's Express, Next Theatre, About Face Theatre and Chicago Dramatists among others. Her plays have been developed at the Public Theater, New York Theatre Workshop, The Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre, the Playwrights' Center, Center Theatre Group and the O'Neill Theater Center among others. She has been a Carl J. Djerassi Fellow and Jerome Fellow. She is a member of the CTG 2013-14 Writers' Workshop and the Playwrights' Union. She holds a M.F.A. from Northwestern University.

QUI NGUYEN

Qui Nguyen is the Co-Artistic Director of the OBIE Award-winning Vampire Cowboys of NYC. His plays include "She Kills Monsters," "Soul Samurai," "Alice in Slasherland," "The Inexplicable Redemption of Agent G," and the musicals "KrunK Fu Battle Battle," "War is F**king Awesome" and "Samantha Rai and the Shogun of Fear." He is a proud member of The Playwrights' Center, New Dramatists, Ensemble Studio Theatre and The Ma-Yi Writers Lab. His company, Vampire Cowboys, often considered the pioneers of "Geek Theater," holds the unique distinction of being the first and only professional theater organization to be sponsored by NY Comic Con.

SUSAN SOON HE STANTON

Susan Soon He Stanton is a playwright and screenwriter based in New York, originally from the consonant-free town of Aiea, Hawaii. Plays include "SEEK," "Takarazuka!!!," "Cygnus," "Furball," "the things are against us," "The Underneath" and more. Her work has been produced or developed at Clubbed Thumb, Playwrights Horizons, Joe's Pub, Lark, Kennedy Center, East West Players, Terra Nova, Flea, and others. She is a member of Ma-Yi Writers Lab and was a member of the Public Emerging Writer's Group, SoHo Rep Writer-Director Lab, and the Van Lier fellowship at the Lark. M.F.A.: Yale Playwriting.

KEN URBAN

Ken Urban is a playwright and screenwriter. His plays have been produced and developed at Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, 59E59, SpeakEasy Stage Company, Summer Play Festival at The Public, Donmar Warehouse, Epic Theatre Ensemble, Studio 42, Theatre @ Boston Court, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Playwrights Horizons, Primary Stages, and Huntington Theatre Company. Awards include the Weissberger Playwriting Award, Huntington Playwriting Fellowship, Djerassi Artist Residency, Dramatist Guild Fellowship, and MacDowell Colony Fellowships. The feature film adaptation of his play "The Happy Sad," with a screenplay by the author, screened at over 25 film festivals both in the U.S. and internationally, with theatrical releases in New York and Los Angeles, and is available on Netflix and iTunes. He plays in the band Occurrence and their releases are available from Insound and Bandcamp.

JOE WAECHTER

Joe Waechter is a playwright and theater-maker living in Minneapolis. His plays include "The Hidden People," "PROFILES," "Lake Untersee," "Good Ol' Boys" and "The Strangler." His work has been seen at Playwrights Horizons, Guthrie Theater, Ars Nova, American Repertory Theater, McCarter Theatre, Trinity Repertory Company, The Kennedy Center, PlayPenn, Red Eye Theater and Inkwell. Awards include the AracaWorks Graduate Playwriting Prize, Lucille Lortel Playwriting Fellowship, and a McKnight Advancement Fellowship and two Jerome Fellowships at the Playwrights' Center. He is a member of Workhaus Collective, and this summer will research a new play aboard an ice-class sailing vessel in the Arctic Circle. M.F.A. Brown University. www.joewaechter.com

KATHRYN WALAT

Kathryn Walat's plays include "Creation" (Theatre @ Boston Court, LA Ovation Award for Playwriting nomination), "This Is Not Antigone" (New George's Germ Project), "Bleeding Kansas" (Hangar Theatre, Francesca Primus Citation), "Victoria Martin: Math Team Queen" (Women's Project, published in "The Best Plays of 1997"), "Know Dog" (Salvage Vanguard Theater) and "Johnny Hong Kong" (Perishable Theatre). She has received commissions from MCC Theater, Yale Rep, La Jolla Playhouse, and Actors' Theatre of Louisville (On the Road Anthology). She is a member of MCC's Playwrights' Coalition, and is a New Georges Affiliated Playwright. B.A. Brown University, M.F.A. Yale School of Drama. Upcoming: "See Bat Fly" at Playwrights Rep.

KEN WEITZMAN

Ken Weitzman's plays include "The Catch" (Denver Center), "Fire in the Garden" (IRT), "The As If Body Loop" (Humana), "Arrangements" (Atlantic Theater Company) and "Spin Moves" (Summer Play Festival). Devised work includes "Hominid" and "Stadium 360" (Out Of Hand Theater). Plays-in-progress: "Reclamation" (O'Neill NPC) and "Halftime with Don" (reading at City Theatre upcoming). Awards: Weissberger Award, TCG/Edgerton New Play Award, Fratti/Newman Political Play Award, Elizabeth George Commission for an Outstanding Emerging Playwright. Commissions: Arena Stage, the Alliance Theatre, Actors Theatre of Louisville, South Coast Repertory. Weitzman received his M.F.A. from UCSD and has taught at Indiana University, UCSD, Emory and Stony Brook University (upcoming).



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 our 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 \$225,000 each year for residencies, commissions, and development funds. Through these fellowships, the Playwrights' Center functions as a home for:

- Jerome Fellows (three to five emerging American playwrights);
- Many Voices Fellows (two early-career and two beginning playwrights of color);
- McKnight Advancement Fellows (two Minnesota-based playwrights whose work demonstrates exceptional artistic merit and potential);
- McKnight National Residency and Commission (one playwright selected annually from an impressive national pool); and
- McKnight Theater Artist Fellows (three Minnesota-based professional theater artists recognized for their outstanding skill and talent).

Membership is open to all and provides more than 1,400 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 partners have included Tectonic Theater Project, Mixed Blood Theatre, Actors Theatre of Louisville, The Public Theater (NY), Goodman Theatre (Chicago, IL), Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the Guthrie Theater, Ten Thousand Things Theater Company, Berkeley Rep, Marin Theatre Company, Seattle Repertory Theatre, and others. The Center also collaborates with local community organizations such as Jazz88 KBEM and Veterans for the Arts to develop theater that enriches their programming.