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The Playwrights' Center presents reading of Carlyle Brown's new play *Finding Fish*

(Minneapolis, MN—November 19, 2013)—The Playwrights' Center presents a reading of local playwright Carlyle Brown's new play *Finding Fish* on Monday, December 9, at 7 p.m., as the first event in the Center's 2013-14 Ruth Easton New Play Series. The reading is free and open to the public. The Playwrights' Center is located at 2301 E. Franklin Avenue in Minneapolis.

This will be the first workshop and public reading of *Finding Fish*, a play commissioned by STAGE FORCE in Maine as part of their sustainability project. It portrays a near future in which food is scarce and the oceans have been depleted of fish. One fisherman on the Maine Coast keeps bringing in the catch, possibly thanks to the strange magic of his new wife. The fisherman's brother works for "The Committee," a group of people who control the country's food supply, and is sent to get to the bottom of his brother's success.

Carlyle Brown is uniquely positioned to tell this story, as he spent 20 years as a sea captain. In doing research for *Finding Fish*, Brown spoke to people on all sides of the fight around fishing quotas, ocean ecology and sustainability. "What I discovered," he says, "was that all these people were totally on the same side, but spoke so harshly about each other. They talked about each other like dogs! That led me to want to write a play where they could see themselves being on the same side, having the same passions for the oceans, but having these different perspectives about solutions and the way they look at the world and the way they look at each other."

As with all Playwrights' Center workshops, the creative team boasts top theater professionals. John Catron, Stephen Yoakam, Jen Blagen, Terry Hempleman and Jodi Kellogg make up the cast, joining director Noël Raymond, dramaturg Barbara Rose-Brown and video designer Kevin Obsatz.

Brown is a Core Writer with the Playwrights' Center and the artistic director of Carlyle Brown & Company. His plays include *The African Company Presents Richard III*, *The Little Tommy Parker Celebrated Colored Minstrel Show*, *Buffalo Hair*, *The Beggars' Strike*, *The Negro of Peter the Great*, *Pure Confidence*, *A Big Blue Nail*, *Dartmoor Prison* and others. Readings of his play *Nobody*, *No Time* at the Playwrights' Center's 2012 PlayLabs festival were standing-room only, so reserving your seats for *Finding Fish* early is recommended.

"Carlyle has been connected to the Playwrights' Center since the '80s, and we are always thrilled when he's developing a play in our Lab," said Producing Artistic Director Jeremy B. Cohen. "He is an important voice in the American theater, and this new play is a great example of why. He's dealing with such big ideas—the ruthlessness of nature and capitalism, ecological sustainability, the resilience of the human spirit—but he does it through the very relatable struggles of a single family. It's a thought-provoking piece, and we're looking forward to sharing it with an audience."

Seats for the reading of *Finding Fish* are free but reservations are recommended. Reserve your seats by visiting www.pwcenter.org, emailing info@pwcenter.org or calling (612) 332-7481 x110.

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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 Ruth Easton Lab brings the Playwrights' Center Core Writers—25-30 of the most exciting playwrights from across the country—and their collaborators to Minneapolis for play development workshops and a formal season of public readings with prominent directors, actors, dramaturgs, and designers. Core Writers are promoted by the Center and provided opportunities through an extensive network of colleges and universities, cultural institutions, and producing theaters.

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 cultural institutions as the Walker Art Center and Minnesota History Center to develop theater that deepens their programming.

Fellowships, made possible by the McKnight and Jerome foundations, provide more than \$200,000 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 Grants (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 for just \$50 per year and provides more than 1,300 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 and dramaturgs.