

Contact: Jessica Franken
Phone: 612.332.7481 x118
jessicaf@pwcenter.org
www.pwcenter.org

The Playwrights' Center presents reading of Gabriel Jason Dean's new play *Terminus*

(Minneapolis, MN—February 10, 2014)—The Playwrights' Center presents a reading of Core Writer Gabriel Jason Dean's new play *Terminus*, directed by Lucie Tiberghien, on Monday, March 3, at 7 p.m., as part of 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.

Terminus is part of a seven-play collection Dean is creating called *The Attapulugus Elegies*, set in a small mountain town in North Georgia like the one in which he grew up. This play centers on Eller Freeman, who lives with her grandson Jaybo by the railroad tracks. When Eller's health and sanity begin to fade, her tragic and violent past haunts her from the very walls of the old family home. On the verge of discovering love and a place in the world, 17-year-old Jaybo struggles to provide what his wily grandmother needs most.

"For me, this play cycle is a politically charged project," says playwright Gabriel Jason Dean. "It looks at the past 30 years of our political administration in this country and what that's meant for people at the bottom. But it never does that in a huge, overt way; it just does it by spending time with these folks. I see these seven plays as a window into a world that we don't see very often onstage. And when we do see it, these portrayals of poor environments in the rural South, most of the stuff is really sentimental or caricatured or about ennobling the poor in some way. My hope is to show a part of American life that does exist, with people that are real, that an audience can connect with."

Playwrights' Center Producing Artistic Director Jeremy B. Cohen says, "Gabriel talks about growing up in a family full of storytellers, and that really comes through in his writing. *Terminus* introduces us to such intensely *human* characters—complex, imperfect, vulnerable, strong—that we find ourselves changed just by spending a couple hours with them."

Gabriel Jason Dean's plays have been produced or developed at New York Theatre Workshop, The Lark, New York Stage and Film, Oregon Shakespeare, the Kennedy Center, PlayPenn, ASSITE/International, A Red Orchid Theatre, Theatre Row, Hangar Theatre, Aurora Theatre, Dallas Children's Theater, People's Light & Theatre, Illinois Shakespeare Festival and more. His honors and awards include the Paula Vogel Prize, Ken Ludwig Prize and Theater for Young Audiences Award from the Kennedy Center; the 2014 Hodder Fellowship from Princeton University; the 2013 American Alliance for Theatre & Education Distinguished Play Award; the James A. Michener Fellowship at University of Texas at Austin; and winner of the Samuel French Off Off Broadway Festival. Gabriel's full bio is available at gabrieljasondean.net.

The Ruth Easton New Play Series provides Playwrights' Center Core Writers with 20 hours of workshop time to develop a new play in collaboration with top-notch actors and other theater artists. The workshops culminate in a public reading, giving audience members a uniquely intimate and accessible way to experience the thrill of raw new work and be part of the creative process.

Seats for the reading of *Terminus* are free and going fast—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 1,400 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 and dramaturgs.