

***Stellar Acting Company Joins Exceptional Directors And Dramaturgs To Develop New American Plays For 2010 Bay Area Playwrights Festival***

**A.C.T.'s Steven Anthony Jones, CalShakes' Laura Hope and Cutting Ball's Nakissa Etemad Among the Artists Participating in Annual Festival**

**July 11, 2010, San Francisco, CA**— The Playwrights Foundation has announced the artistic teams working with the outstanding selection of Playwrights and their plays at the 33rd annual Bay Area Playwrights Festival (BAPF) taking place at the [Thick House](#). (Full festival calendar is available on the last page.)

The Festival includes eight new plays in the making—performing in repertory over two weekends, allowing audiences to witness the creative process as it unfolds and partake in a rich diversity of voices and contemporary topics, ranging from the Jewish/Palestinian conflict to European xenophobia. With exceptional directors bringing a keen artistic eye to each piece and talented dramaturgs helping the writers further shape their work (a dramaturg's function is similar to that of a book editor's), each play has been carefully staffed to provide playwrights and audiences with an amazing experience in new play development.

Steven Anthony Jones, until recently a revered member of American Conservatory Theater's Core Acting Company, makes his Bay Area directorial debut at the 2010 BAPF. Mr. Jones (who appeared in BAPF 2008 as Martin Luther King in Katori Hall's *The Mountaintop* and in Robert Henry Johnson's *The Othello Papers* in 2009) brings his breadth of experience to bear as director for Erin Bregman's play *Tvá Kamila*. As a participant in the development of world premieres by Tom Stoppard as well as the great August Wilson (he was in the original production of *Seven Guitars* and other Wilson works), Jones is well suited to tackle the experimental nature of Ms. Bregman's work, and in particular this play, which delves into the world of classical music of the 19th Century.

Working alongside Mr. Jones as dramaturg will be Dr. Laura Hope, resident dramaturg at the renowned California Shakespeare Theater, where she most recently worked with Octavio Solis and Jonathan Moscone on the world premiere of *Pastures of Heaven*. Nakissa Etemad will once again join the festival to dramaturg *Atlas of Longing*, a complex drama written by Jeanne Drennan. Nakissa is a nationally renowned dramaturg who has worked with Tom Stoppard, Arthur Miller and Lynn Nottage, and recently served the premiere of Marcus Gardley's *...and Jesus Moonwalks the Mississippi* and for BAPF, Katori Hall's Olivier-award winning, Broadway bound play, *The Mountaintop*.

Jones, Hope and Etemad will be joined by seasoned and up-and-coming Bay Area directors and dramaturgs, including Evren Odciğin (director of critically acclaimed productions at Box Car Theater, Brava and Shotgun Players), Scott Horstein (award winning dramaturg who worked with Arthur Miller at the Old Globe among many others), Jessica Heidt (acclaimed Bay Area director and Artistic Director of Climate Theater) and Ben Yalom (founder and Artistic Director of foolsFURY). Steve Yockey, an acclaimed playwright who recently completed a year-long residency at Marin Theatre Company, will serve as mentor and dramaturg to the Bay Area SHorts (BASH!). Other festival directors include BAPF favorite Christine Young, along with Doyle Ott, Jill MacLean and Yale graduate Nicholas Avila. Other festival dramaturgs include PF resident dramaturg Maryanne Olson and Margot Melcon (both of whom hail from Marin Theatre

Company, where Ms. Olson, formerly Ms. Melcon, is the current resident dramaturg) and Amy Mueller, Artistic Director of Playwrights Foundation.

This year's BAPF has attracted top-tier acting talent as well. A stellar troupe of nearly 40 performers is headed up by such luminaries as Naomi Newman and Corey Fisher (co-founders of the Traveling Jewish Theater—now The Jewish Theater San Francisco—and celebrated for their extraordinary shows) and Julia Brothers (a mainstay at such playhouses as the Marin Theatre Company and Aurora Theatre). Other exceptional talent includes Carlos Aguirre and Arwen Anderson, top Bay Area players, both of whom are known for bringing new work to life at San Francisco's Magic Theatre (which focuses exclusively on new work). The ensemble also includes Rebecca White, a New York actress best known to the Bay Area this season for her work in *Awake & Sing* at Aurora Theatre and Peter Ruocco, awarded for his work in *Fat Pig* at Aurora, and known throughout the Bay Area as an exceptional talent. Other notable actors include Danielle Levin, Kelsey Venter, a recent A.C.T M.F.A. graduate, Julia McNeal, Jessica Kitchens, Cassidy Brown, James Asher, John Flanagan, Jackson Davis, Benjamin Pither and Sally Dana.

Collaborating with top talent, BAPF playwrights will have the indispensable resources needed to fully investigate the structure and character development of their new works and help them to bring their new plays one step closer to completion. This year's festival includes six previously unproduced new plays by Erin Bregman, Sheila Callaghan, Jeanne Drennen, Yussef El Guindi, Elizabeth Gjelten and Cory Hinkle, as well as two one-act plays by JC Lee and Steven Salzman.

### **About the 2010 Bay Area Playwrights Festival Plays, Playwrights and Collaborators:**

This year's line up of plays has a decidedly international outlook, from Eastern Europe to the Middle East, from Krakow to San Francisco; in content, they cross all manner of cultural, religious and geographic territory. Far ranging in form and story, what is almost universally shared between them is a common thread of cross-national, cross-cultural and cross-generational conflict. Egyptian American writer Yussef El Guindi's sexy, irreverent and explosive *Three Wolves and a Lamb* satirizes the Jewish/Palestinian conflict inherent in the lives of a cross cultural couple wedded to peace activism, while Jeanne Drennan's *Atlas of Longing* is a charged dramatic play that meets Europe's xenophobic fears of its changing demographic head on. In Steven Salzman and JC Lee's plays, the generation gap creates its own kind of electric fence: in one, two lesbian couples, one at the onset of adult life, the other realizing the end nearing, clash over oysters and manner of death; in the other, the totalitarian state of 'High School' is under siege. Across the board, these eight plays reach across the divide – whether real or imagined – with humor, and with compelling dramatic story telling – to paint a portrait of a world in transition.

A listing of the plays follow, including play synopses and artist bios; a full festival calendar of performances and special events is attached.

### **Three Wolves and a Lamb by Yussef El Guindi**

*How well do you really know your spouse? Your best friend. Your lover. Especially when you've followed your passion headlong—with rushed abandon—to live the change you believe in. That's what Rachel and Idris, a Jewish and Palestinian married couple, secretly wonder, and publicly dismiss. But when they convene a meeting with their cadre of die-hard peace activist friends to plan a weekend peace camp for Arab and Israeli kids, certain personal revelations threaten to blow up into a full-out war between them. A funny, sexy, irreverent take on just what it takes to make peace when you're at war with the one you love.*

Yusef El Guindi's most recent productions include *Language Rooms* (Wilma Theater), *Jihad Jones and the Kalashnikov Babes* (Golden Thread Productions/ InterAct Theater/ Kitchen Dog Theater) and *Our Enemies: Lively Scenes of Love and Combat* (Silk Road Theatre Project). His plays *Back of the Throat* and *Such a Beautiful Voice is Sayeda's and Karima's City* have been published by Dramatists Play Service. The latter one-acts have also been included in THE BEST AMERICAN SHORT PLAYS: 2004-2005, published by Applause Books in 2008. His play *Ten Acrobats in an Amazing Leap of Faith* is included in SALAAM/PEACE: AN ANTHOLOGY OF MIDDLE-EASTERN AMERICAN PLAYWRIGHTS, published by TCG, 2009.

Doyle Ott (director) is thrilled to be making his directing debut with the Playwrights Foundation. Recent directing credits include *The Little Engine that Could* with the Bay Area Children's Theatre, where he also created puppetry sequences for a national tour of *Strega Nona* and *We Won't Pay, We Won't Pay* at Sonoma State. Other recent credits include dramaturgy for Circus Center's *Journey to the West* and performing in San Francisco Shakespeare Festival's *Comedy of Errors*. Doyle holds a Ph.D. in Theatre from Arizona State University and is a graduate of the San Francisco Clown Conservatory. He currently teaches at Sonoma State University and is the Director of the Fairyland Children's Theatre in Oakland.

Margot Melcon (dramaturg) is the literary manager and resident dramaturg at Marin Theatre Company where she produces the New Works Reading Series and administers two annual new play prize competitions in addition to acting as production dramaturg on all shows. Prior to joining Marin in 2008, she worked in the literary and publications departments at A.C.T. She is a freelance writer for American Theatre magazine and was a fellow at the National Critics Institute at the O'Neill Playwrights Festival. She is a graduate of California State University, Chico.

### **Tvá Kamila by Erin Bregman**

*Contemporary deconstructionist composition meets 19th century social mores in this literary quartet based on the lives of Czech composer Leos Janacek and his muse Kamila Stosslova. Tvá Kamila follows their rapturous and mysterious relationship through letters and music as they (and their respective spouses) navigate unknown territory—at the cusp of a brave new world they can't even imagine.*

Erin Bregman is a 2009-2010 resident playwright at the Playwrights Foundation in San Francisco. She was the recipient of the 2008-09 June Ann Baker Prize and has been a finalist for the Princess Grace Award, the Jerome Fellowship, and the Bay Area Playwrights Festival (2008 BASH!). Erin has had work produced or developed with Just Theater, The Lark, the Playwrights Foundation, foolsFURY, Santa Cruz Actors' Theatre, UCSB New Plays Festival, Women's Will and PlayGround and has received commissions from the Magic Theatre/Sloan Foundation (2006), Just Theater (2008) and PlayGround (2009). Her short work has been published in Best of Playground 2009 and 2010, Spectrum Literary Journal, and Muse(d) Magazine. Her PlayGround commissioned *Nightmare Play* will be premiered with Just Theater in 2011.

Steven Anthony Jones (director) has worked professionally on stage, television and in film for 37 years. He has performed in the works of Wilson, (Charles) Fuller, Fugard, Stoppard, (Phillip) Gotanda, Becket, Pinter, Moliere, Shakespeare, Chekhov and others. He was in the original cast of *A Soldier's Play* produced by the Negro Ensemble Company, which won an Obie Award for ensemble acting and the Pulitzer Prize for a member of the corps acting company.

Dr. Laura Hope (dramaturg) just dramaturged the world premiere of John Steinbeck's *The Pastures of Heaven* by Octavio Solis for the California Shakespeare Theater, where she has been

a dramaturg since 2006. Previously, she was the Literary Manager and Festival Director at the Magic Theatre, where she produced numerous new play festivals including "A Festival of Irish Women Playwrights." She is an Assistant Professor of Theatre at Loyola University New Orleans, with a Ph.D. in Performance Studies (UC Davis). Two shows she directed run this summer: Anthony Clarvoe's *Show and Tell* in San Francisco and Adam Rapp's *Blackbird* in New Orleans. She is co-authoring a book entitled Between the Hurricanes: Performing New Orleans from 1965 to post-Katrina.

### **Atlas of Longing by Jeanne Drennan**

*Nathalie becomes the unwitting focus of a religious and cultural crisis when a close colleague is discovered abducted by Islamic terrorists. Making things even worse, her son's skateboarding antics earn the ire of the local mosque and she is beset by the disarming, penniless Polish immigrant, Dominika, who arrives unexpectedly at her doorstep, and trades on her family's role in saving Nathalie's mother during WWII. Managing the sexy young guest along with her teenage son's dangerous standoff at the mosque and the rebuke of their quickly changing neighborhood overwhelms Nathalie's desire to be accepting and tolerant, and the family is drawn further into a complex drama that takes them to the edge of catastrophe. A charged dramatic play that meets head-on Europe's xenophobic fears of its changing demographic.*

Jeanne Drennan's other full-length plays include *Asparagus*, *Limoges*, *Medea at Athens*, *Wrong Side Out*, *12 Dogs*, and *Waxworks*, mostly produced and/or developed on the east coast. Besides *Atlas*, current projects include a chamber musical with composer David Berlin called *Dear Boy* and the more embryonic *Left Luggage*, which she recently spent time researching in central Europe. She has been the grateful recipient of seven fellowships from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts in support of her writing and also has a sideline in teaching and dramaturgy for young playwrights through City Theatre in Pittsburgh, her adopted hometown.

Evren Odckin (director) is a San Francisco-based director and dramaturg. His new play directing credits include the world premieres of Denmo Ibrahim's *ECSTASY* | a waterfable (Golden Thread Productions), Sue Butler's *The Greek Play* (elastic future), Ignacio Zulueta's *22 Minutes Remaining* (Golden Thread Productions), and Jennifer Williams's *Edge* (Phoenix Theatre). His other directing credits include *Machinal* (Brava, three Bay Area Theatre Critics' Circle Award nominations including best director and best production), *Blood Wedding* (Shotgun Players), *Road to Mecca* (Secondwind), *Death of Yazdgerd* (Darvag), and the ensemble generated pieces *Rhino* (Boxcar Theatre) and *Heavy Days* (Shotgun Theatre Lab). He was the dramaturg on *Mother Courage and Her Children*, *Owners*, and *Quills* at Shotgun Players and *Blue/Orange* at Aurora Theatre Company. Born and raised in Turkey, he is a founding company member with elastic future, the literary artistic associate with Golden Thread Productions, and is a graduate of Princeton University.

Nakissa Etemad (dramaturg) is a professional dramaturg, producer and French translator based in San Francisco. This marks her 5th Bay Area Playwrights Festival, most recently dramaturging Katori Hall's *The Mountaintop* in 2008. She has held full-time posts as Dramaturg and Literary Manager for The Wilma Theater in Philadelphia, San Diego Rep and San Jose Rep, for whom she also produced the 5th Annual New America Playwrights Festival in 2001. Nakissa has fostered 15 world premiere musicals and plays and dramaturged 75 productions and staged readings working with such writers as Tom Stoppard, Arthur Miller, and Lynn Nottage. She was Dramaturg for Marcus Gardley's *...and Jesus Moonwalks the Mississippi* for the Playwrights Foundation and Cutting Ball, where she serves as Resident Dramaturg, and will dramaturg the

world premiere of Gardley's *every tongue confess* (developed on the 2008 BAPF) at the inaugural season of The Mead Center for American Theater in D.C. She is a member of LMDA, and holds an MFA in Dramaturgy from UCSD.

**The Killing of Michael X, A New Film by Celia Wallace by Cory Hinkle**

*After Celia's brother mysteriously ODs, she enlists her best friend Jake on a quest for revenge: they steal her step-mom's Lexus and travel cross-country, hell-bent on killing the CEO of the pharmaceutical company that manufactured the drug. At least that's the movie running in Celia's head. But her imagined life quickly becomes more and more real as she finds herself in a motel room hatching a scheme meant to send a message to all of America. A dark, hilarious comedy about grief and pharmaceuticals, shot in digital video.*

Cory Hinkle's plays include *Little Eyes*, *Cipher*, *Phosphorescence*, and *SadGrrl13* and have been produced or developed at the Guthrie, ART, Williamstown Theatre Festival, the SPF Summer Play Festival, Illusion Theater, Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, Salvage Vanguard, Workhaus Collective, P73 Productions, Hangar Theatre and Red Eye Collective, among others. Cory is a co-creator of *Fissures (Lost and Found)* commissioned by Actors Theater of Louisville and premiered at the 2010 Humana Festival. He has been commissioned by the Guthrie and is a former MacDowell Colony fellow, Sewanee Writers' Conference Fellow, and recipient of a Jerome Travel and Study Grant. He is a Core Member of the Playwrights' Center, a member playwright of the Workhaus Collective and he received two Jerome fellowships through the Playwrights' Center. Cory earned his MFA in Playwriting from Brown University and his work is published by Playscripts Inc. and Heinemann.

Jessica Heidt (director) is the Artistic Director of Climate Theater where she recently directed *The Bright River* by Tim Barsky. She served as Associate Artistic Director at Magic Theater for nine years and directed world premiere productions by Betty Shamieh (*The Black Eyed Territories*) and Chantal Bilodeau (*Pleasure and Pain*). She will be directing the upcoming world premiere of *Collapse* by Allison Moore at Aurora Theater in January 2011. She works as a casting director with many Bay Area film and theater companies and teaches at institutions across the Bay Area, including the University of San Francisco and Film Acting Bay Area.

Amy Mueller (dramaturg) is an award-winning director, and a dramaturg by profession. Since taking the helm of Playwrights Foundation seven years ago as Artistic Director she has transformed the scope of the organization into a year-round center for new plays and playwrights. Recent credits include: *...and Jesus Moonwalks the Mississippi* by Marcus Gardley (director) with Cutting Ball Theater; *One Big Lie* by Liz Duffy Adams (dramaturg); *Mr. Fujiyama's Electric Beach* by Kevin Oakes (dramaturg) and co-creator of *The Mandala Olive Project* at the Exit Theatre. Director: *Voices Under Water* by Abi Basch, *Between The Eyes* by Naomi Wallace and *No Good Deed* by Mollena Williams. She has directed at Berkeley Rep, San Diego Rep, A.C.T. Seattle and Arizona Theatre Company.

**Hunter's Point by Elizabeth Gjelten**

*On the toxic edge of San Francisco, a homeless singer seeks refuge from her ghosts as arsonists, developers, Bosnians and her own sister close in on her. A play with music and bicycles about fierce outsiders, the complicated love of sisters, and the meaning of home.*

Elizabeth Gjelten's previous full-length plays include *What the Birds Carry* (at The Pear Avenue Theater) and *Dance Lessons* (at the Working Women Festival and Venue 9); she has also written and performed solo one-acts in festivals and group shows around the Bay Area. She received her

MFA in playwriting from San Francisco State University, taught writing for performance at New College, and continues to teach as an artist/mentor to graduate students and incarcerated youth. A member and resident playwright of Jump! Theatre Company, Elizabeth is also a longtime student of poetics with Diane di Prima.

Christine Young (director) is a theater director, dramaturg and educator who specializes in new play development. She currently serves as an Assistant Professor at the University of San Francisco, where she teaches in the Performing Arts and Social Justice program. Prior to joining USF, she held several administrative posts with non-profit arts organizations: Playwrights Foundation (Literary Manager and Associate Artistic Director), Magic Theatre (Young California Writer's Project Coordinator) and Streetside Stories (Facilitator and Program Coordinator). Favorite artistic projects include: *One Instance of Burning* with Chris Rodgers (for which she received a Theatre Bay Area individual artist grant), *Cry Don't Cry* with multi-disciplinary ensemble Balé Techlorico (developed through Shotgun Theatre's Lab Program), the American premiere of Edward Bond's *A-A-America* for Crowded Fire, the world premiere of *Executive Order 9066* with Lunatique Fantastique and the world premiere of *Two Birds & A Stone* by Amy Wheeler for the Capitol Hill Arts Center in Seattle. Christine holds an MFA in Theater Directing from the University of Iowa and a BA in Religion from Princeton University.

Maryanne Olson (dramaturg) is a freelance dramaturg living in the Bay Area and resident dramaturg at Playwrights Foundation, working with the Resident Playwrights Initiative. Past dramaturgical work includes *1001* and *Current Nobody* at Just Theatre, where she is a member, *said Said* (Marin Theatre Company) and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (Hartford Stage). Past new play development work includes staged readings/workshops of plays by Josh Costello (SF Playhouse Sandbox Reading Series); Julia Jarcho, Jen Silverman and Sam Hunter (Bay Area Playwrights Festival); Marisela Trevino Orta (Marin Theatre Company); Erin Bregman (Just Theatre); and Sekou Sundiata (New WORLD Theater). She received her MFA in dramaturgy from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

**Port Out, Starboard Home by Sheila Callaghan (with foolsFURY)**

*A co-commission between foolsFURY and Playwrights Foundation POSH (the play's affectionate acronym) is a theatrical spectacle set on a luxury cruise liner—and our Festival marks its final developmental milestone in preparation for a fall world premiere production. In the play, an eclectic group of vacationing cruise-shippers form an intimate temporary community and, untethered from the baggage of past or future, become entangled in a mysterious and disturbing ritual. Through an intriguing multi-disciplinary amalgamation of dance, dialogue, and story, POSH explores the fine line between luxury and decadence in contemporary American consumer culture, where the relationship between one's public persona and the private, personal search for authenticity and awareness must be navigated in the rarified, temporary space of the cruise vacation. The question remains, how far will one go to achieve fulfillment?*

Sheila Callaghan's plays have been produced and developed with Playwrights Foundation, Soho Rep, Playwrights Horizons, South Coast Repertory, Clubbed Thumb, The Lark Play Development Center, Actors Theatre of Louisville, New Georges, Woolly Mammoth and Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre, among others. Sheila is the recipient of the Princess Grace Award for emerging artists, a Jerome Fellowship from the Playwrights Center in Minneapolis, a MacDowell Residency, a 2005 Cherry Lane Mentorship Fellowship, the Susan Smith Blackburn Award and the prestigious Whiting Award. She has received grants from NYFA, NYSCA, and the MAP Foundation. Her plays have been produced internationally in New Zealand, Norway, Germany, and the Czech Republic.

She has been commissioned by Playwrights Horizons, South Coast Repertory, The Playwrights Foundation, Clubbed Thumb, and EST/Sloan. Her full-length plays include *Scab*, *Crawl Fade to White*, *Crumble (Lay Me Down, Justin Timberlake)*, *We Are Not These Hands*, *Dead City*, *Lascivious*, *Something*, *Kate Crackernuts*, *That Pretty Pretty; Or, The Rape Play* and *Fever/Dream*. Several of her plays are published by Playscripts.com and Samuel French, and her monologues can be found in various anthologies. She has taught playwriting at Columbia University, The University of Rochester, The College of New Jersey and Florida State University, and she is currently on the faculty at Spalding University's MFA program in creative writing. Sheila is a resident artist at HERE Arts Center and a member of the Obie winning playwright's organization 13P. Sheila is also a resident of New Dramatists. Currently, Sheila is a writer on the Showtime series *The United States of Tara*. Her play *Roadkill Confidential* will be produced by Clubbed Thumb at 3LD Art & Technology Center in the fall.

Ben Yalom (director) is founder and artistic director of foolsFURY Theater Company, whose mission is to create groundbreaking performances that inspire audiences and artists to reconnect with the world around them. Recent directorial projects with foolsFURY include the world premiere of *Monster in the Dark*, the US premiere of Fabrice Melquiot's *The Devil on All Sides* (which he also translated), Don DeLillo's *Valparaiso* and the West Coast premiere of Martin Crimp's *Attempts on Her Life*. He teaches playwriting and physical performance at California College of the Arts. He has also taught at the Lee Strasberg Institute (NYU/Tisch), the La Mama Umbria Director's Symposium, Stanford University, Vassar College and the Berkeley Rep School of Theater. Ben holds an MFA from the renowned Iowa Writers' Workshop and his fiction, essays and translations of plays have appeared in magazines nationwide. He is currently at work on a book with Viewpoints originator Mary Overlie.

Scott Horstein's (dramaturg) dramaturgy credits include Denver Center, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Berkeley Rep and San Diego Rep, among many others. He dramaturged for Arthur Miller on *Resurrection Blues* at the Old Globe. Formerly Manager of Play Development for Cornerstone and Literary Director for the Black Dahlia Theater, he has directed at East West Players, Native Voices at the Autry, the Black Dahlia Theater and the West Coast Ensemble. He currently is Assistant Professor of Contemporary Theatre and Dramaturgy at Sonoma State University. He is a member of Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas (LMDA) and received his MFA from UCSD.

## **Bay Area SHorts (BASH!) One-Act Plays**

### **Pookie Goes Grenading by JC Lee**

*When a young girl named Pookie is denied the opportunity to create her greatest work of art, all hell breaks loose in Camden, New Jersey. What ensues is insane, hilarious, and filled with donuts and terrorism.*

JC Lee is a playwright and director whose work has been seen throughout the country. Originally from New York City, he is the former founding Artistic Director of the Omicron Theatre Project and a former faculty member at the Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Performing Arts. His plays have been seen at The Williamstown Theatre Festival, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Stages Repertory Theatre (Houston, TX), Crowded Fire Theater Company (San Francisco), and many others. His trilogy *This World and After* will be produced by Sleepwalkers Theatre in San Francisco starting in August of 2010 with *This World is Good*. JC is currently a Lila Acheson Wallace Playwriting Fellow at the Juilliard School. For more information

on him and his daily musings, please visit [rantsravesandrethoughts.blogspot.com](http://rantsravesandrethoughts.blogspot.com) where he writes about politics, arts, and lots of other random things or follow him on Twitter at @jcllee1230 for even more random stuff.

Nicholas Avila is now based in the Bay Area and thrilled to working with BAPF for the very first time. Since graduating from the Yale School of Drama in 2005, Nicholas has directed many workshops and new plays including works at Marin Theatre Company, South Coast Repertory and the world Premiere of Jose Cruz Gonzalez's *Sunsets & Margaritas* at the Denver Center Theatre Company. Nicholas is excited to be a part of this festival and would like to thank everyone for their tireless work in making this wonderful process possible.

### **The Expiration Date by Steven Salzman**

*A midnight storm, a deserted house. Four mysterious women. Premeditation. Is this homicide? Or the death of feminism? At first glance what appears to be the perfect lesbian pulp novel reveals itself as a hilarious and heartbreaking story for our times as two couples separated by a generation clash over helium, oysters, and matters of life and death.*

Steven M. Salzman is a playwright and actor. His scripts have been produced at Actors Theatre of Louisville, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Blue Theatre (Austin, TX) and San Francisco State University. His full length plays have been honored with two Highsmith Awards, and his short works have been finalists for Heideman and Kennedy Center competitions. His fiction has been published in the Austin Chronicle. Steven is a member of Magic Theatre's Emerging Artists Lab, the Dramatists Guild and Austin ScriptWorks. He holds a BA in Drama from the University of Texas and an MFA in Creative Writing, Playwriting from San Francisco State University.

Jill MacLean (director) is a theater educator, director, producer and administrator. In New York, she spent five years working at Lincoln Center Theater as the Directors Lab Assistant, where she assisted the Dramaturg and helped to coordinate the Directors Lab—a developmental program for nurturing stage directors and emerging theater artists from around the country and around the world—and served as the Associate Director of Education and a teaching artist for the Open Stages Education program. She has taught at Marymount Manhattan College, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, American Conservatory Theatre's Young Conservatory and StageWrite. She has directed for NYU's Undergraduate Musical Theatre Program and recently for the Bay One Acts (BOA) Festival. She is a member of the Magic Theatre Artists Lab and Actors' Equity and is a co-founder of the Bay Area Musical Theater Workshop. Jill holds a BA in Spanish and an MFA in Musical Theater from San Diego State University.

Steven Yockey (playwright mentor & dramaturg for BASH) is a roaming member of Out of Hand Theater. His bay area credits include *Cartoon*, *Sleepy*, *Large Animal Games* (Impact Theatre), *Octopus* (Magic/Encore) and *Skin* (Climate/Encore). Impact will also produce the world premiere of *Disassembly* this season. *Octopus*, *Cartoon*, *Large Animal Games* and *subculture* are available from Samuel French. *Afterlife—a ghost story* will receive a Continued Life rolling world premier in 2010-2011 at Southern Rep (New Orleans), New Rep (Boston) and Edgemar (Los Angeles). Other plays include: *Bellwether*, *Wolves and Wonder*. He is a Phi Beta Kappa, Summa Cum Laude graduate of the University of Georgia and holds an MFA in Dramatic Writing from NYU. Steve taught dramatic structure at Emory University in Atlanta, GA on a Coca-Cola Artist Residency and recently completed an NNPN playwriting residency at Marin Theatre Company.

## **About Playwrights Foundation**

Playwrights Foundation is dedicated to discovering and supporting local and national American playwrights across a broad spectrum of artistic and career positions, in the inception and development of new plays that speak to and from an increasingly diverse society. Founded on a deeply held belief that the relevance and vitality of American theater depends upon a continual infusion of new work, Playwrights Foundation sustains a commitment to the playwright, who we regard as the creative wellspring of theater.

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## CALENDAR EDITOR: BAY AREA PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL: CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**What:** 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Bay Area Playwrights Festival

**Where:** The Thick House, 1695 – 18<sup>th</sup> Street, San Francisco

**When:** July 23-Aug 1:

July 23-25: Fri @ 8pm, Sat @ 12n, 4pm & 8pm, Sun @ 10am, 12pm, 4pm & 7:30pm

July 29-Aug 1: Thurs @ 7pm, Fri @ 3pm & 8pm, Sat @ 12n, 4pm & 8pm, Sun @ 12n & 4pm

**Tickets:** Festival Passes, VIP \$85/ FLEX \$75/ Individual Tickets \$15. To purchase tickets visit [www.playwrightsfoundation.org](http://www.playwrightsfoundation.org), or call 415 -626-2176 for information.

### EVENT SCHEDULE:

#### **Staged Readings July 23-25, 2010**

Friday, July 23, 8pm—*The Killing of Michael X, a New Film by Celia Wallace*, Cory Hinkle

Saturday, July 24, 12pm— *Tvá Kamila*, Erin Bregman

Saturday, July 24, 4pm—*Hunter's Point*, Elizabeth Gjelten

Saturday, July 24, 8pm—*Three Wolves and a Lamb*, Yussef El Guindi

Sunday, July 25, 12pm—BASH! *Pookie Goes Grenading*, JC Lee and *The Expiration Date*, Steven Salzman

Sunday, July 25, 4pm—*Atlas of Longing*, Jeanne Drennan

Sunday, July 25, 7:30pm—*Port Out, Starboard Home*, Sheila Callaghan

#### **Staged Readings July 29-August 1, 2010**

Thursday, July 29, 7pm—BASH! *Pookie Goes Grenading*, JC Lee and *The Expiration Date*, Steven Salzman

Friday, July 30, 8pm—*Atlas of Longing*, Jeanne Drennan

Saturday, July 31, 12pm—*Hunter's Point*, Elizabeth Gjelten

Saturday, July 31, 4pm—*Three Wolves and a Lamb*, Yussef El Guindi

Saturday, July 31, 8pm— *Tvá Kamila*, Erin Bregman

Sunday, August 1, 12pm—*The Killing of Michael X, a New Film by Celia Wallace*, Cory Hinkle

Sunday, August 1, 4pm— *Port Out, Starboard Home*, Sheila Callaghan

#### **Special Events**

Sunday, July 25, 10am—Playwrights' TalkBack, a panel discussion with Steven Yockey & Lauren Gunderson: California Transplant: On Making a Career Having Relocated From New York. Free with VIP Pass. Bagels and coffee served.

Friday, July 30, 3pm-6pm—New Play Symposium with Erik Ehn, Marcus Gardley, Rebecca Novick and others.

Theater in One World: an in-depth discussion on how theater functions to heal the traumas of war and mayhem. Free with VIP Pass.