



Our Impact: Playwright Success Stories *A Few of the Bright Spots [from over 500]*

LIZ DUFFY ADAMS



Playwrights Foundation helped to launch Liz's career shortly after she graduated from Yale School of Drama. In 2002, her seminal work, ***Dog Act*** was developed on the Bay Area Playwrights Festival (BAPF) and then went on to its 2004 premiere in the Bay Area - with Playwrights Foundation (PF) and Shotgun Players in Berkeley, CA, winning the 2005 Glickman Award for the Bay Area's Best New Play. The play has since been produced in San Diego, Los Angeles, New York, Massachusetts, Winnipeg, and dozens of other cities. Her next play ***One Big Lie*** was co-commissioned by Crowded Fire Theater (CFT) and PF as part of our Producing Partnership Initiative (PPI). The play received a year of development in our studio, culminating in the BAPF in 2004, and subsequently premiered in 2005 in a highly-acclaimed production at CFT. Her play ***The Listener*** was developed in PF's Rough Readings Series (RRS), premiered in a PPI with Crowded Fire in 2008, and went on to productions in Portland and San Diego. And, her play ***The Train Play*** was chosen as part of PF's *Des Voix Festival* for a French translation and reading in Paris in 2014. Subsequently, as a result of our support, Liz landed her first New York premiere for ***Or***, at the Women's Project, which has been produced some 50 times since. Liz's plays have continued to live on stages nation-wide, including the Magic Theater and Seattle Rep, and won her honors including a Women of Achievement Award, a Lillian Hellman Award, and the Will Glickman Award.

ANNIE BAKER

Pulitzer Prize winner Annie Baker received her first first developmental workshop at Playwrights Foundation for ***Body Awareness*** as part of the 2007 BAPF while she was still earning her MFA at Brooklyn College. The developmental process led to the play's Off-Broadway debut at Atlantic Theater Company in 2008, and later found its audience at SpeakEasy Stage Company (2010), Aurora Theatre (2012-13), and Signature Theatre (2017). Besides the winning the Pulitzer for ***The Flick***, Annie is now also a four-time Obie Award winner and four-time Drama Desk nominee.



GEORGE BRANT



George's play ***Grounded*** was initially developed on the 2012 BAPF, and subsequently received an NNPN rolling world premiere that started at the San Francisco Playhouse as a direct outcome of its BAPF showcase. It premiered in New York at Page 73, and then moved to London, and then the Public Theater in 2015, featuring the Oscar-winning actor Anne Hathaway, who will produce and star in the film version of ***Grounded***. Since then the play has received over 100 productions in 18 different countries, and has been translated into 9 languages. In addition, PF worked on his play ***Defiant*** on our 2009 RRS. George has won the Lucille Lortel Award, Edgerton Foundation New Play Award, and Off-West End Theatre Award, among others.

CHRISTOPHER CHEN

Christopher was still a graduate student at San Francisco State when he was selected for inclusion in the 2007 BAPF with ***Into the Numbers***, which went on to production in Beijing and Chicago; and subsequently with ***Aulis: An Act of Nihilism in One Long Act*** (BAPF 2009) which premiered at UC Berkeley. He was one of six inaugural Resident Playwrights at PF from 2010-2013, during which we collaborated with our Producing Partner, Crowded Fire Theater on the development and premiere of ***The Hundred Flowers Project*** (BAPF 2012), winning him the Will Glickman award, and ***Caught***, which was selected as a Drama League Award winner after an extended run off-Broadway. Since then, he has received productions and commissions from Oregon Shakespeare Festival, A.C.T., Central Works, Impact Theater, Crowded Fire, and San Francisco Playhouse. His other honors include a Lanford Wilson Award, a Barrymore Award, a Glickman Award, the Paula Vogel Playwriting Award for playwright-in-residence at The Vineyard Theatre in New York; the Barrymore Award; PHINDIE Critics Award; shortlist for the James Tait Black Award; nomination for the Steinberg Award; and 2nd Place in the Belarus Free Theater International Competition of Modern Dramaturgy.



TEARRANCE ARVELLE CHISHOLM



Tearrance was still an MFA student at Catholic University of America when ***Hooded, or Being Black for Dummies*** was selected for development on the 2015 BAPF. ***Hooded*** was subsequently produced by Theatre Battery in Kent, Washington, and then made its world premiere at Mosaic Theater in Washington D.C. in 2016 to outstanding critical acclaim, playing to sold-out houses. Mosaic will reprise its production on their 2017-18 season. He returned to PF for a developmental reading on our RRS of ***B’rer Cotton***, and a month-long residency at the Djerassi Artists Residency. Tearrance was named a “Person to Watch” by American Theatre Magazine and a “Rising Star” by Variety. He was also a winner of the Rosa Parks Playwriting Award and the Lorraine Hansberry Playwriting Award at KCACTF 2016.

NILO CRUZ

The Pulitzer Prize-winning Cuban American playwright found a home at Playwrights Foundation just after graduating from the Master’s program at Brown University. We worked with him for three successive years: ***Night Train to Bolina*** (BAPF 1993), ***Dancing On Her Knees*** (BAPF 1994) and ***A Park in Our House*** (BAPF 1995) were all developed with Playwrights Foundation, and subsequently produced at San Francisco’s Magic Theatre. Ever since, Nilo has continued to author works that are highly recognized in the field. Nilo’s ***Anna in the Tropics*** (2002) won over the Pulitzer judges - who had never seen a performance of it before - on the strength of its script alone. Along with the first PF playwright, Sam Shepard, Nilo received the 2009 PEN/Laura Pels Award.



MARCUS GARDLEY



We first discovered Marcus when he was in Yale's MFA playwriting program, even though he grew up in West Oakland, and went to SF State. We helped launch in career in 2002 with *like sun fallin' the mouth* (BAPF 2002), and continued with *...and Jesus Moonwalks the Mississippi* (RRS 2008) which subsequently received a Producing Partnership with PF, to premiere on Cutting Ball Theater's 2010 season. The production won five Bay Area Theater Critics Circle Awards and was nominated for the Glickman Award. His play *every tongue must confess* (BAPF 2008), made its debut at Arena Stage the same year to wild critical acclaim. Marcus is one of the most prolific playwrights in America, with multiple productions consistently playing across the country. He is the recipient of a Mellon Playwright Residency at Victory Gardens Theater in Chicago, and has received a Helen Merrill Award, a Bay Area's Gerbode Emerging Playwright Award, and a National Alliance for Musical Theatre Award. He was the 2013 James Baldwin Fellow and the 2011 PEN Laura Pels award winner for Mid-Career Playwright. *The New Yorker* describes **Gardley** as "the heir to Garcia Lorca, Pirandello and Tennessee Williams". His play *The House That Will Not Stand* was commissioned and produced by Berkeley Rep, won the 2015 Will Glickman award, and has had subsequent productions at Yale Rep and the Tricycle Theater in London. He is an ensemble playwright at Victory Gardens Theater where his play *The Gospel of Lovingkindness* was produced in March and where he won the 2015 BTAA award for best play.

LAUREN GUNDERSON

We first met Lauren a week after she relocated to the Bay Area, and offered her a developmental reading of *Exit, Pursued by Bear* and a home base. Lauren was recently named the most produced living playwright in America for the 2016-17 season, and, in addition to productions throughout the country, has been produced or work developed at nearly every small and large theater in the Bay Area. We are excited to welcome her back with a new musical this year after developing *Exit, Pursued by Bear* (RRS 2008), *Rock Creek: Southern Gothic* (BAPF 2011), *The Revolutionists* (BAPF 2015) and *Book of Will* (PPI Studio Retreat with Denver Theatre Center), among many others. A Resident Playwright at Playwrights Foundation from 2013-2016, PF was Lauren's first artistic home when she moved west; *Exit* premiered at Crowded Fire Theater, and since has been produced throughout the country, *The Revolutionists* premiered at Cincinnati Playhouse and 7 Stages in Atlanta, and *Book of Will* premiered at Denver Theatre Center. Lauren's honors include a Steinberg/ATCA New Play Award, a Berrilla Kerr Award, an Essential Theatre Prize and a Mellon Playwright Residency at Marin Theatre Company.



KATORI HALL



Katori, a Memphis native, joined us at BAPF 2008 with *The Mountaintop*, which subsequently won the 2010 Olivier Award, and ran on Broadway in 2011, in a production starring Samuel L. Jackson and Angela Bassett. Katori will make her directing debut with a film adaptation of her play *Hurt Village*, which premiered at Signature in 2012. Katori has received two Lecomte du Nouy Prizes, a Lorraine Hansberry Award, an Otto Rene Castillo Award for Political Theatre, and an Otis Guernsey New Voices Playwriting Award, among others.

AARON LOEB

Aaron is a Bay Area playwright who joined Playwrights Foundation as a Resident Playwright 2011-14, during which we helped him launch his career. His play ***Ideation*** was first developed on the 2012 BAPF and was subsequently premiered in 2014 by San Francisco Playhouse as a direct result, where it was reprised in 2016, and moved to New York's 59E59 Theaters. in. Another work of Aaron's, ***Abraham Lincoln's Big, Gay Dance Party***, danced its way into an off-Broadway theater in 2010, after becoming a hot ticket at the New York International Fringe Festival the year before. NYT critics generously lauded the productions of both ***Ideation*** and ***Dance Party***. His play ***Houston*** has been commissioned by the Dallas Theatre Center, and is currently in development.



PETER NACHTREIB



Peter Nachtreib is a Bay Area playwright who launched his career right out of San Francisco State with Playwrights Foundation, for a developmental workshop of ***Hunter Gatherers*** (BAPF 2005). The play won the Will Glickman award, and the ATCA/ Steinberg Award. In 2007, while part of the inaugural Resident Playwrights Program at PF, we developed Peter's ***boom*** (RRS 2007) - which went on to premiere at Marin Theatre Company, and ***BOB*** (RRS 2010), which premiered at the Humana Festival for New Plays. Peter's plays have been produced off-Broadway and across the country at Ars Nova, Woolly Mammoth, Seattle Repertory, Actors Theatre of Louisville, San Diego Rep, and in the Bay Area at A.C.T., Marin Theatre Company, and Impact Theatre. Peter has received honors for his work, including an ATCA/Steinberg Award and a Glickman Prize.

LAUREN YEE

Lauren Yee first came to Playwrights Foundation shortly after earning her bachelor's degree, and developed a short piece for the BAPF in 2009. Her play ***Samsara*** was developed on the 2012 BAPF during her MFA program at UCSD. ***Samsara*** went on to full productions at Victory Gardens Theatre (2015), Chance Theater (2015) and Single Carrot Theatre (2017). Her play ***King of the Yees*** was developed on PF's RRS in 2016 and subsequently premiered at the Goodman Theater in Chicago. Lauren is one of the many local playwrights who have successfully made their way onto the national horizon, bringing home the ATCA/Francesca Primus Prize, the Gerbode Foundation Playwright Commissioning Award, the Glickman Award, the Kumu Kahua Theatre Pacific Rim Prize, and the KCACTF Awards.

