



MEDIA CONTACT: JIM KLEINMANN
415.992.6677
JIM@PLAYGROUND-SF.ORG

PLAYGROUND ANNOUNCES THIRD ROUND OF NEW PLAY PRODUCTION FUND

\$25,000 TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO BAY AREA THEATRES IN 2012

Supporting local production of Bay Area playwrights

BERKELEY, (October 5, 2011) – PlayGround announced today the third round of the **New Play Production Fund**. Designed to encourage full production of Bay Area playwrights' work, the Fund will distribute at least \$25,000 in 2012. Guidelines and applications are available online at <http://playground-sf.org/productionfund> and the deadline for applications is December 5, 2011.

Since 1994, PlayGround has been a leading incubator for some of the Bay Area's most promising new playwrights, developing nearly 600 original short plays by 170 Bay Area emerging playwrights. In the last several years, PlayGround *itself* has emerged, as one of the leading commissioners of new full-length works by Bay Area writers. 34 full-length plays have been developed to date and 7 new works are being commissioned this season by PlayGround's most distinguished alumni.

In support of these playwrights and to further encourage the production of new works by Bay Area playwrights in Bay Area theatres, PlayGround established the New Play Production Fund in 2009. The New Play Production Fund provides awards totaling \$25,000 annually to Bay Area theatres in support of professional production of full-length works commissioned and developed by PlayGround that have not yet received their world premiere. 2010-11 recipients included: Daniel Heath's *Seven Days* at SF Playhouse; Trevor Allen's *Lolita Roadtrip* at San Jose Stage Company; and Erin Bregman's *Down a Little Dirt Road* at Just Theater. 2011-12 recipients include: Kenn Rabin's *Reunion* at SF Playhouse (Feb 2012); Lauren Yee's *Crevice* at Impact Theatre (May 2012); and Ken Slattery's *Truffaldino Says No* at Shotgun Players (June 2012). 2012-13 recipients will be selected from this year's applicants.

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MEDIA CONTACT: JIM KLEINMANN, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
PLAYGROUND, 268 BUSH ST. #2912, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94104-3503
PHONE 415.992.6677 FAX 415.704.3177 EMAIL: JIM@PLAYGROUND-SF.ORG

Numerous plays developed with direct PlayGround support have gone on to have successful productions at theatres throughout the Bay Area and around the country, including Aaron Loeb's *Abraham Lincoln's Big Gay Dance Party*, which won "Outstanding Play" at the 2009 New York International Fringe Festival and received its off-Broadway debut last year, following its 2008 SF Playhouse premiere. Loeb, a two-time winner of the Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award for "Best Original Script" (both for PlayGround commissions), commented: "PlayGround's commissioning program has been a huge part of my own growth and I see the New Play Production Fund as another critical way in which PlayGround can help bring local theatres and playwrights together." Other PlayGround commissioned works that have premiered in the Bay Area in just the past six years include: Daniel Heath's *Seven Days*, Geetha Reddy's *Safe House* and Aaron Loeb's *First Person Shooter* at SF Playhouse (in PlayGround co-productions); Trevor Allen's *Tenders in the Fog* and *Lolita Roadtrip* (in a PlayGround co-production) at San Jose Stage; Garret Jon Groenveld's *Missives* at Theatre Rhinoceros (which also received its New York debut in a PlayGround co-production in 2008 at 59E59 Theaters); and Martha Soukup's *Manumission* at Exit Theatre. Round 2 New Play Production Fund awards announced earlier this year and scheduled for co-production later this season include: Kenn Rabin's *Reunion* at SF Playhouse; Lauren Yee's *Crevice* at Impact Theatre; and Ken Slattery's *Truffaldino Says No* at Shotgun Players. In addition, PlayGround writers and commissioned works have been featured in some of the Bay Area's top new play programs, including the Playwrights Foundation's Bay Area Playwrights Festival and Aurora Theatre Company's Global Age Project.

In 2012, PlayGround will distribute at least \$25,000 in production support. The upcoming deadline of the New Play Production Fund is Midnight, Monday, December 5, 2011. Selected theatres and productions will be announced by December 15. Production must take place between August 1, 2012 and July 31, 2013. For complete **guidelines** and **applications**, visit <http://playground-sf.org/productionfund>. For more information, contact PlayGround Artistic Director Jim Kleinmann at jim@playground-sf.org or (415) 992-6677.

For more information, visit <http://playground-sf.org>. For more information on the commissioned works of PlayGround, visit <http://playground-sf.org/commissioning.shtml>.