

The 2018-19 Ruth Easton New Play Series kicks off with Allison Gregory's politically charged reading at the Playwrights' Center

MINNEAPOLIS (November 16, 2018) — As the 2018 election season winds down with several races still to be decided, the Playwrights' Center offers crucial work from playwright Allison Gregory. A play teeming with glamour and tragedy, *Darling Boud (as in Loud)* brings the six infamous, blue-blooded Mitford sisters to searing, witty life. Arresting and radically different, their fascinating world intersected some of the biggest global events of the twentieth century. "**Darling Boud (as in Loud)**" is the first play in the Playwrights' Center's 2018-19 Ruth Easton New Play Series, as part of the public season. Core Writers receive 20 hours of workshop time to develop a new play and give theater fans a chance to see free public readings of the plays in progress. Readings of "Darling Boud (as in Loud)" will take place **Monday, December 3 and Tuesday, December 4 at 7 p.m. at the Playwrights' Center**, 2301 E. Franklin Avenue in Minneapolis. Reservations are recommended and can be made at pwcenter.org.

The workshop and readings will be directed by Risa Brainin, with dramaturg Liz Engelman and joined by a cast that includes Twin Cities favorites: Jane Froiland*, Carolyn Pool*, Sue Scott*, Sandra Struthers*, Suzanne Warmanen*, and Amy Warner* (*Member of Actors' Equity Association).

"I'm so proud of the roles I write for women, because I think they are, across the board, kick-ass roles": says playwright **Allison Gregory**. "I'm trying to burn down the old house and build a new one with this play. And that's exciting to me, and challenging, and hopefully something I've achieved here."

Jeremy B. Cohen, producing artistic director at the Playwrights' Center, says this adaptation is timely in its exploration of empathy within a world of shifting values. He adds, "In our own world today, we are clearly in a struggle to protect our most vulnerable citizens and to find more ways towards warmth, community, and compassion. With this stunner of a new play, Allison invites us into the communal experience of sharing hilarious and moving stories, music, and space with one another."

Allison Gregory is an award-winning playwright and theatre collaborator. Her plays have been produced all over the country and she has received commissions, grants, and development from Oregon Shakespeare Festival, South Coast Repertory, The Kennedy Center, Indiana Repertory Theatre, and Skirball-Kenis Foundation, ACT Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Orlando Shakespeare, The New Harmony Project, and Hedgebrook. She's the recipient of the Julie Harris Award, South Coast Repertory's Playwright's Award, AATE Distinguished Play Award, and Garland & Dramalogue Awards. Her play *Not Medea* received a 2016 National New Play Network (NNPN) Rolling World Premiere, and *Wild Horses* will receive an NNPN RWP in '17-18. Her plays are published by

Playscripts, Smith & Krauss, Dramatic Publishing, and Rain City Press. She splits her time between Austin and Seattle.

The Ruth Easton New Play Series provides selected Core Writers with 20 hours of workshop time to develop a new play with collaborators of their choice: top local and national actors, directors, designers, and dramaturgs. Each play has two public readings, allowing the playwright to experiment and see the play on its feet in front of two different audiences. The Center brings in visiting artistic leaders to see the readings and connect with the playwrights, and more than half of the plays developed in the series over the past decade have gone on to production.

The 2018-19 Ruth Easton New Play Series will also feature two new plays with music: “Jeune Terre” by Core Writer Gab Reisman on January 14 and 15, and “The History of Religion” by Core Writer Carlyle Brown on February 4 and 5, “Tiny Houses” by Core Writer Stefanie Zadravec on March 4 and 5, and concludes with a new play with movement, “The Dance” by Core Writer Kim Euell on April 1 and 2.

All events in the Ruth Easton New Play Series are free and open to the public. Reserve your spots at pwcenter.org/ruth-easton-series or by contacting the Playwrights’ Center at (612) 332-7481 or info@pwcenter.org.

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Photos of the playwright and previous Ruth Easton New Play Series readings are available by contacting Gregory Collins at gregoryc@pwcenter.org

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHTS' CENTER

The Playwrights' Center champions playwrights and new plays to build upon a living theater that demands new and innovative works.

The Center serves playwrights by sustaining careers, developing new work, and connecting playwrights to theaters. Each year at the Center, fellows and Core Writers receive more than \$315,000 in direct support, 70+ new plays are workshopped, playwrights connect with 100 producing theaters through partnership programs, and 2,000-member playwrights from around the world find resources to achieve their artistic vision.

Since its founding in 1971, the Playwrights' Center has become one of the nation's most generous and well-respected theater organizations, helping launch the careers of numerous nationally recognized artists such as 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 Core Writer program gives 25-30 of the most exciting playwrights from across the country the time and tools to develop new work for the stage. All Core Writers receive play development workshops at the Center, in collaboration with prominent directors, actors, dramaturgs, and designers. Selected work by Core Writers makes up the Center's formal season of public readings: the PlayLabs festival and the Ruth Easton New Play Series. Core Writers are also promoted by the Center and provided opportunities through an extensive network of colleges and universities, cultural institutions, and producing theaters.

Fellowships, made possible by the McKnight and Jerome foundations, provide more than \$315,000 each year for residencies, commissions, and development funds. Beyond the financial stipend, the value of fellowships is more than doubled with the year-long support the Playwrights' Center adds through workshops with professional collaborators and through the connections the Center makes between playwrights and producers of new work. This holistic and customized combination of financial support, access to talent, and professional connections is career-changing for most playwrights. Fellowship programs: Jerome Fellows, Many Voices Fellows, McKnight Fellows in Playwriting, McKnight National Residency and Commission, McKnight Theater Artist Fellows.

Membership is open to all and provides nearly 2,000 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.

Local and national partnerships elevate the role of living playwrights. Through the Regulars partnership program, the Playwrights' Center partners with 100 theaters around the country to bring their artistic staff to the Center in order to spend time with playwrights and to co-develop new plays with a keen eye towards production. In fact, 60% of these plays have gone on to full production within two years (rather than the average seven-year timeframe for most plays to see production).