

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

Jonatha Brooke coming to the Playwrights' Center in August

(Minneapolis, MN—June 18, 2013)— Award-winning singer and songwriter Jonatha Brooke will be coming to Minneapolis in August to work on her new play with the Playwrights' Center. She will spend a week doing intensive play development work at the Center, culminating in three public performances. While here, she will also be offering a master class on songwriting and composing.

The play, a one-woman show called *My Mother Has Four Noses*, is pulled from Brooke's experiences caring for her mother at the end of her life, as she struggled with Alzheimer's.

"My mom was a character," says Brooke. "She was a published poet, a Christian Scientist, a clown, and always up for drama. In fact, I used to thank her on stage for all the good material. In her last two years, we shared every human experience on the spectrum. My only instinct? Write it down, sing it, tell it. It was her instinct too: Almost daily she would say, 'Boolie,' (my nickname) 'That's good! Are you getting this down? We should make a play out of it!' I did get it down, and I did write a play. It is my songs, her poems, and our stories enmeshed."

"Each year at the Center, we take on a couple projects that seek to not only help the writers and generative artists, but also help to expand our community, and meet the needs of our fellows, Core Writers and incredible members. We have a history of providing artists the resources and expertise they need to move their plays further along, and we look forward to doing so with Jonatha," says Producing Artistic Director Jeremy B. Cohen. "The story she is telling in the play is unique yet the emotions surrounding caregiving are incredibly universal. Dating all the way back to her days in her band, The Story, I have been an enormous fan of this profound, poetic and deeply-moving writer and composer. I can't tell you how thrilled I am to welcome Jonatha to the Playwrights' Center family, and for our local playwrights to have the opportunity to connect with her."

The performances will be held at the Playwrights' Center **August 15, 16 and 17 at 7 p.m.** They are free but reservations are highly encouraged. You can reserve your spot at www.pwcenter.org/jonatha.

The master class will be held **August 14 from 6 to 8 p.m.** Cost is \$25 for all attendees. To register, contact the Playwrights' Center at 612-332-7481 or info@pwcenter.org.

Jonatha Brooke has been writing songs, making records and touring since her early days in Boston with her band The Story. My Mother Has Four Noses is her first play.

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The logo for The Playwrights' Center, featuring the text "THE PLAYWRIGHTS' CENTER" in a serif font, with "THE" in a smaller size above "PLAYWRIGHTS'". The text is white and set against a dark, textured rectangular background.

THE PLAYWRIGHTS' CENTER

The Playwrights' Center champions playwrights and 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 promoting new plays to 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 the Yale Rep, Woolly Mammoth, 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 access to an online hub of information about the field including articles by theater luminaries, a database of playwriting opportunities, and access to dramaturgical services, readings with professional actors, discounted classes, and free seminars. 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.