

## **Playwrights' Center announces 2015-16 Jerome Fellows, McKnight Fellows in Playwriting, McKnight National Residency and Commission recipient**

(Minneapolis, MN—April 25, 2015)—The Playwrights' Center is pleased to announce its 2015-16 Jerome Fellows, McKnight Fellows in Playwriting and recipient of the McKnight National Residency and Commission. (Core Writers, Many Voices Fellows and McKnight Theater Artist Fellows will be announced at a later date.) These seven writers will split nearly \$150,000 in awards and additional development funds.

Each year, the Playwrights' Center serves as an artistic home for 35-40 playwriting fellows and Core Writers, in addition to supporting 1,500+ member playwrights living all over the world. The Center was founded in 1971 and has helped launch the careers of playwrights such as August Wilson, Lee Blessing, Suzan-Lori Parks, Jeffrey Hatcher and Kira Obolensky.

"The talent level of these new fellows is just astounding," says Jeremy B. Cohen, Producing Artistic Director of the Playwrights' Center. "We're thrilled to welcome back writers who have been on fellowships with us before, as well as writers coming to the Center for the first time. The panels selected an exciting and diverse group of emerging and mid-career playwrights as fellows. These include Jerome Fellows from their twenties to their sixties, and a playwright receiving her third McKnight Fellowship in Playwriting. Thank you, as always, to the Jerome and McKnight Foundations for their support of our fellowships, and to the Mellon Foundation and others for their critical support of the Playwrights' Center."

### **JEROME FELLOWSHIPS**

***Ryan Campbell, Basil Kreimendahl, Andrew Rosendorf, Keliher Walsh***

Jerome Fellows are emerging playwrights who receive a \$16,000 award and spend a year-long residency in Minnesota. The Playwrights' Center has awarded these fellowships in partnership with the Jerome Foundation since 1976, the longest-running fellowship funded by the foundation. The Playwrights' Center's 2015-16 Jerome Fellows are **Ryan Campbell**, a recent Yale School of Drama M.F.A. graduate whose plays include "Preston Montfort – An American Tragedy" and "Dead Ends."; **Basil Kreimendahl**, a 2012-13 Playwrights' Center Core Apprentice, 2013-14 Jerome Fellow, and 2014-15 McKnight Fellow in Playwriting whose play "Sidewinders" had its world premiere at The Cutting Ball Theater; **Andrew Rosendorf**, whose plays include "Cane" (Florida Stage), "Brilliant Corners" (NNPN National Showcase of New Plays) and "Tranquil" (Lark Playwrights' Week); and **Keliher Walsh**,

an actor, director, writer and member of Ensemble Studio Theatre in Los Angeles, where her play “Year of the Rabbit” was produced in 2012.

## **MCKNIGHT FELLOWSHIPS IN PLAYWRITING**

***Carson Kreitzer, Harrison David Rivers***

The McKnight Fellowship in Playwriting (formerly known as the McKnight Advancement Fellowship) is intended to further the careers of two Minnesota-based playwrights. It comes with a \$25,000 award, \$2,500 to support play development and other professional expenses, and \$1,400 in travel funds. The 2015-16 McKnight Fellows in Playwriting are **Carson Kreitzer**, who is receiving this fellowship for the third time and has also been a Core Writer and Jerome Fellow, and whose play “Lasso of Truth” recently received a National New Play Network rolling world premiere (Marin Theatre Company, Synchronicity Theatre Company, Unicorn Theatre); and **Harrison David Rivers**, a 2014-15 Many Voices Fellow at the Playwrights’ Center whose plays include “When Last We Flew,” which received both an NYC Fringe Excellence in Playwriting Award and a GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding Off-Off-Broadway Play, and “And She Would Stand Like This,” part of the upcoming Q-STAGE: New Works Series at Intermedia Arts.

## **MCKNIGHT NATIONAL RESIDENCY AND COMMISSION**

***Erik Ehn***

This program funds the creation and development of new works by nationally recognized playwrights and comes with a \$14,000 commission, \$5,750 in workshop funds, and travel and housing stipends. The 2015-16 McKnight National Residency and Commission recipient is **Erik Ehn**, whose work includes “The Saint Plays,” “No Time Like the Present,” “Wolf at the Door,” “Tailings,” “Beginner,” “The Cycle Plays” and “Ideas of Good and Evil.” His “Soulographie” project is a series of 17 plays on the history of the U.S. in the 20<sup>th</sup> century from the point of view of its genocides. Ehn is the artistic director of Tenderloin Opera Company in Providence, Rhode Island.

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BIOS →

## PLAYWRIGHT BIOS

Photos of the playwrights are available at [pwcenter.org/media-room](http://pwcenter.org/media-room)

### 2015-16 Jerome Fellows

#### RYAN CAMPBELL

Ryan Campbell's plays include "Preston Montfort – An American Tragedy," "Dead Ends." (Yale School of Drama); "A New Saint for a New World," "The Zero Scenario" (Yale Cabaret); and "Fourteen Flights" (2011 NYC International Fringe Festival Encore Series). He also wrote and performed the solo piece "fire chases the sky into nothingness," co-created with Nick Hussong and Hugh Farrell (Yale School of Drama). B.A. University of Texas at Austin. M.F.A. Yale School of Drama.

#### BASIL KREIMENDAHL

Basil Kreimendahl is an award winning playwright and a resident playwright at New Dramatists. Kreimendahl's plays have been developed or produced by O'Neill National Playwrights Conference, New York Theatre Workshop, The Cutting Ball Theater, La Jolla, About Face Theatre, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Rattlestick Theater, Labyrinth Theater, The Lark and The Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Kreimendahl was a recent McKnight Fellow in Playwriting and Jerome Fellow and a recipient of an Arts Meets Activism grant from the Kentucky Foundation for Women. M.F.A. University of Iowa, 2013.

#### ANDREW ROSENDORF

Andrew Rosendorf's plays include "Cane" (Florida Stage), "Brilliant Corners" (NNPN National Showcase of New Plays), "Good Night & God Bless, or The Lone Ranger Rides Again" and "The Kid." His play "Tranquil" was part of The Lark's Playwrights' Week. His other work has been produced or developed at La Jolla, MCC, the National New Play Network, City Theatre, Geva Theatre, Luna Stage, Actor's Express, UglyRhino and Tofte Lake Center. Rosendorf is an alum of terraNOVA Collective's Groundbreakers Playwrights Group and NNPN's Playwright-in-Residence program, and has been a VCCA and MacDowell Colony Fellow. M.F.A. The New School for Drama Playwriting, B.A. William & Mary Theatre. [www.andrewrosendorf.com](http://www.andrewrosendorf.com).

#### KELIHER WALSH

Keliher Walsh is an actor, director and writer. Her work includes "That Oceans Are," "Desire Line/Plymouth Rock," "Idols of the Cave," "Year of the Rabbit," "Fifth World" and "Face of the Water." She is a member of Ensemble Studio Theatre (EST), in New York and Los Angeles. "Year of the Rabbit" was presented at the Lark Play Development Center, won the 2011 Kentucky Women's Writer's Conference in Playwriting, and received a production in 2012 at EST LA. "Idols of the Cave" was presented in The Blank Theatre's Living Room Series. Her directing with IAMA Theatre includes Louise Munson's "Do Like the Kids Do," produced at the Studio Theatre, NYC.

BIOS CONTINUE →

## **2015-16 McKnight Fellows in Playwriting**

### **CARSON KREITZER**

Carson Kreitzer has been associated with the Playwrights' Center since moving to Minneapolis in 2000 for the first of two Jerome Fellowships. She is currently working with composer Matt Gould on a new musical, "Lempicka," and writing a new play, "Red Velvet, Blue Glass," for the Guthrie Theater, where she was last year's Dowling Annaghmakerrig fellow. She is a member of the Workhaus Collective, an alumna of New Dramatists, and was the first Playwrights of New York (PoNY) Fellow at the Lark. She is the recipient of two previous McKnight Fellowships in Playwriting. Her collection "SELF DEFENSE and other plays" is available from No Passport Press.

### **HARRISON DAVID RIVERS**

Harrison David Rivers' plays include: "When Last We Flew" (NYCFringe Excellence in Playwriting Award, GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding Off-Off-Broadway Play), "And She Would Stand Like This," "Where Storms Are Born," "AND ALL THE DEAD LIE DOWN" and "sweet." His librettos include: "The Last Queen of Canaan" (with Yandura & Melocik) and "FIVE POINTS: An American Musical" (with Lyons & Pakchar). Honors: Many Voices (Playwrights' Center), Van Lier (New Dramatists) and Emerging Artist of Color Fellowships (NYTW). Rivers was a member of the 2011-13 Emerging Writers' Group at the Public Theater. M.F.A. Columbia University.

## **2015-16 McKnight National Residency and Commission recipient**

### **ERIK EHN**

Erik Ehn's work includes "The Saint Plays," "No Time Like the Present," "Wolf at the Door," "Tailings," "Beginner," "The Cycle Plays" (for Theatre of Yugen), and "Ideas of Good and Evil." The "Soulographie" project is a series of 17 plays on the history of the U.S. in the 20th century from the point of view of its genocides; scripts include "Maria Kizito," "Heavenly Shades of Night are Falling," "Yermedea" and "Drunk Still Drinking." Artistic Director, Tenderloin Opera Company (Providence, RI – generating new works of music-theater by, for, and about people who are homeless/homeless advocates). Artistic Associate, Theatre of Yugen (SF). Graduate of New Dramatists. Director of Writing for Performance, Brown University.

# ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHTS' CENTER

The Playwrights' Center champions playwrights and new 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 moving new plays toward 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 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 \$225,000 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 Fellows in Playwriting (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 and provides more than 1,500 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. 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 community organizations such as Jazz88 KBEM and Veterans for the Arts to develop theater that enriches their programming.