

Playwrights' Center presents "Romeo & Naomi Ramirez" by Kathryn Walat

(Minneapolis, MN—March 17, 2015)—The Playwrights' Center presents two public readings of Core Writer **Kathryn Walat's "Romeo & Naomi Ramirez," April 6 and 7 at 7 p.m.**, as the final events in the Center's 2014-15 Ruth Easton New Play Series. The readings are free and open to the public; reserve tickets at pwcenter.org. The Playwrights' Center is located at 2301 E. Franklin Avenue in Minneapolis.

"Romeo & Naomi Ramirez" is about a rookie cop on her first undercover narcotics assignment who meets an Honors English student trying to live up to his Shakespearean name. They're in Florida, with some of the toughest drug laws in the nation. Is it a love story or a tragedy? Whose version are you going to believe?

The cast is **Cristina Castro, Ramon Torres, Jamila Anderson, and Dustin Bronson. Jess Chayes** from The Assembly in New York will be directing, with **Wendy Weckwerth** as dramaturg and **Katharine Horowitz** as sound designer.

"Something I explore in the play is the idea of choices that are made in a moment, and the regret that one might feel afterward," says playwright Kathryn Walat. "At moments in the script, we see a scene play out and then we kind of do a 'rewind' and see another possibility. I was influenced by current political events—the idea of the police officer, in a moment, relying on instincts, and having to make a choice with great consequences."

"Kathryn makes brilliant use of the myriad possibilities of theatrical space in this powerful and provocative new play," says Playwrights' Center Producing Artistic Director Jeremy B. Cohen. "Her title characters will grab you by the heart: rookie cop Anna, working so hard to prove herself, and Romeo the poet, a talented kid with his heart on his sleeve."

Kathryn Walat's plays include "Creation" (Theatre @ Boston Court, LA Ovation Award for Playwriting nomination), "This Is Not Antigone" (New George's Germ Project), "Bleeding Kansas" (Hangar Theatre, Francesca Primus Citation), "Victoria Martin: Math Team Queen" (Women's Project, published in "The Best Plays of 1997"), "Know Dog" (Salvage Vanguard Theater), "Johnny Hong Kong" (Perishable Theatre), "See Bat Fly" (Orchard Project, Brown/Trinity Playwrights' Repertory Theatre), and the opera "Paul's Case" (PROTOTYPE Festival, Pittsburgh Opera). She has received commissions from MCC Theater, Yale Rep, La Jolla Playhouse, and Actors' Theatre of Louisville ("On the Road Anthology"). She is a member of MCC's Playwrights' Coalition, and is a New Georges Affiliated Playwright. B.A. Brown University, M.F.A. Yale School of Drama.

The Ruth Easton New Play Series provides Playwrights' Center Core Writers with 24 hours of workshop time to develop a new play in collaboration with top-notch actors and other theater artists. The workshops culminate in public readings, giving audience members a uniquely intimate and accessible way to experience the thrill of raw new work and be part of the creative process. For the 2014-15 season, the series expanded from one reading of each play to two.

All events in the Ruth Easton New Play Series are free and open to the public. Reservations are recommended; reserve your spots at pwcenter.org or by contacting the Playwrights' Center at (612) 332-7481 or info@pwcenter.org.

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THE 2014-15 RUTH EASTON NEW PLAY SERIES

December 8 and 9 at 7 p.m.*Forget Me Not When Far Away* by Kira Obolensky
January 12 and 13 at 7 p.m.*Dust* by Qui Nguyen
February 2 and 3 at 7 p.m.*Marie and Rosetta* by George Brant
March 2 and 3 at 7 p.m.*The REALNESS: the second break beat play* by Idris Goodwin
April 6 and 7 at 7 p.m.*Romeo & Naomi Ramirez* by Kathryn Walat

FORGET ME NOT WHEN FAR AWAY by Kira Obolensky

John Ploughman returns from war to find his hometown very much changed. After ten years thriving without men, the town has little place for an aging Don Juan—much less one who has been counted on the list of the dead. In order to regain his place among the living and find his lost love, he is forced to confront both the mistakes of his past and the unromantic reality of his present. A tragic comedy about shifting gender politics and the ways we learn to adapt.

DUST by Qui Nguyen

Sixteen-year-old Thuy dreams of joining her GI father's American family and escaping her life in post-war Vietnam. The problem is, most of her new family doesn't know she exists. Her arrival in their small Arkansas town causes a rift in the household and brings up years of buried secrets. Always in search of a place to belong, Thuy discovers that she isn't the only one searching.

MARIE AND ROSETTA by George Brant

Bringing fierce guitar playing and swing to gospel music, Sister Rosetta Tharpe was a legend in her time and a huge influence on Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, and Ray Charles. *Marie and Rosetta* chronicles her first rehearsal with a young protégée, Marie Knight, as they prepare to embark on a tour that would establish them as one of the great duos in musical history.

THE REALNESS: THE SECOND BREAK BEAT PLAY by Idris Goodwin

Thomas has escaped the 'burbs and come to the city to savor authentic hip hop culture. He falls madly in love with Prima, a super-dope MC, and he is willing to lie, cheat, and scheme to win her well-guarded heart. But is he after real love or fulfilling a middle class rap fantasy? A meditation on authenticity and class collision, *The REALNESS* follows a young man's journey for his heart and true identity.

ROMEO & NAOMI RAMIREZ by Kathryn Walat

She's a rookie cop on her first undercover narcotics assignment. He's an Honors English student trying to live up to his Shakespearean name. And this is Florida, with some of the toughest drug laws in the nation. So is it a love story...or a tragedy? Whose version are you going to believe?