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## The Playwrights' Center presents reading of Winter Miller's new play *Seed*

(Minneapolis, MN—March 17, 2014)—The Playwrights' Center presents a reading of Core Writer Winter Miller's new play *Seed*, directed by M. Graham Smith, on Monday, April 7, at 7 p.m., as the last event in the Center's 2013-14 Ruth Easton New Play Series. The reading is free and open to the public. The Playwrights' Center is located at 2301 E. Franklin Avenue in Minneapolis.

*Seed* takes place in a surreal, post-apocalyptic world in which our worst fears about big agriculture have come to pass. But people survive, bargaining for food, falling in love, making homes in the most unlikely of places—and building toward a revolution. In this bleak but romantic oddball comedy set 50 miles north of old Lake SamWalton, Annie and Claret defend their territory, Mic sells seeds on the black market and Mrs. B romances a giant, handsome spider. Meanwhile in Monsanto's labs, scientists engineer a detoxifying salmon and vegetables that bounce.

"With this play, I'm thinking about the inequities of how rich our rich are today and how that's not sustainable," says playwright Winter Miller. "I don't know what's going to happen, but I know that's a recipe for environmental disaster. You can't just keep stepping on people; eventually they revolt." She continues, "I am perpetually curious (often enraged, occasionally overjoyed) about much of what I observe out in the world. Through plays I'm questioning my own values and choices and wanting to provoke an audience to be self-reflective."

Playwrights' Center Producing Artistic Director Jeremy B. Cohen says, "With *Seed*, Winter demonstrates an urgency about the inequalities of our food system, but it's handled in a way that really engages the audience. It's a play in which the delicious and unexpected hide around every corner – it hits your head and heart simultaneously. Expect to walk out of the theater a little riled up."

Winter Miller is an award-winning playwright, a founding member of the Obie-recognized collective 13 Playwrights (13P) and a Core Writer with the Playwrights' Center. She is best known for her drama *In Darfur* which premiered at the Public Theater, followed by a standing room only performance at their 1800-seat Delacorte Theater in Central Park, a first for a play by a woman. Miller's other plays include *The Penetration Play*, *Paternity*, the musical *Amandine* and *The Arrival*. She is a playwriting instructor and mentor, and as a journalist she wrote for *The New York Times*, *New York Magazine*, *The Boston Globe* and *Variety*. Her full bio is available at [wintermiller.com](http://wintermiller.com).

The Ruth Easton New Play Series provides Playwrights' Center Core Writers with 20 hours of workshop time to develop a new play in collaboration with top-notch actors and other theater artists. The workshops culminate in a public reading, giving audience members a uniquely intimate and accessible way to experience the thrill of raw new work and be part of the creative process.

Seats for the reading of *Seed* are free and going fast—reservations are recommended. Reserve your seats by visiting [www.pwcenter.org](http://www.pwcenter.org), emailing [info@pwcenter.org](mailto:info@pwcenter.org) or calling (612) 332-7481 x110.

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## 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 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 more than 1,400 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 and dramaturgs.