



For Immediate Release

## **Bay Area Playwrights Festival (BAPF) Alumni Have Major Impact On New American Theater in 2010**

**2010 and 2006 BAPF Playwright Sheila Callaghan Play Has World Premiere at Julia Miles Theater; Plays by Katori Hall and Marcus Gardley Premiering on Broadway, in D.C.**

**June 24, 2010, San Francisco, CA**—The Playwrights Foundation, based in San Francisco and recognized as one of the top six new play development centers in the country, and the only one of its scope on the West Coast, today noted the incredible contribution that Bay Area Playwrights Festival alumni are having on new American theater this year. Sheila Callaghan, a longtime member of the Playwrights Foundation community whose newest work, *Port Out, Starboard Home*, is part of the 2010 Bay Area Playwrights Festival (BAPF), celebrated the world premiere of *Lascivious Something* (developed during BAPF 2006) this spring at New York's Julia Miles Theater. The production, produced by the Women's Project and the Cherry Lane Theatre in May and June 2010, received rave critical reviews from such outlets as Metromix—"sucks the breath from your lungs with its depth, complexity, and weight"—and The Villager—"a poetically stunning, emotionally satisfying, and deeply physical play".

Callaghan is not the only Bay Area Playwrights Festival alum to see a new production of her work in 2010. Katori Hall's play *The Mountaintop*, developed during BAPF 2008, was named Best New Play at London's Olivier Awards in March after a successful run in the West End's Trafalgar Studio 1—"At its strongest, Hall's writing has evangelical passion," said the Guardian newspaper. The extraordinary piece, which imagines the events the night before the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., will have its Broadway debut in Fall 2010, directed by Kenny Leon (director of the Tony Award winning revival of *Fences*.)

Marcus Gardley's *every tongue confess* (developed as *every tongue must confess* alongside Hall's work as part of BAPF 2008) will have its world premiere this fall during the inaugural season of the internationally renowned Mead Center for American Theater in Washington, D.C. A piece about church bombings in the south, Gardley's work will be presented as part of an exciting series of plays celebrating the \$125 million makeover of the Arena Stage.

"We are thrilled to have been involved in the development of these pieces from the very beginning," said Amy Mueller, Artistic Director of the Playwrights Foundation. "Of course, when we select plays for the Festival from an open submission process involving more than 500 scripts, we have no way of knowing what will happen with them. We simply work to identify writers who have singular, exceptional voices—and who speak to contemporary issues in new and interesting ways; we then support them and nurture the development of their plays during the annual Festival. When you look at it, our track record speaks for itself—as these three plays remind us, the Bay Area Playwrights Festival is the place to witness new work by extraordinary emerging writers who go on to shape the American theater of tomorrow."

Callaghan's piece *Port Out, Starboard Home*, a co-commission with foolsFURY Theater, will have public readings on July 25 at 7:30 pm and August 1 at 4:00 pm as part of the 2010 Bay Area

Playwrights Festival, alongside five other full-length plays and two one-acts. (Half of this year's winning plays are by Bay Area writers.)

All 2010 Bay Area Playwrights Festival performances take place at the Thick House, 1695 18th Street. Tickets are \$15 each (multi-use passes start at \$60, prices go up on July 9) and are available via [www.playwrightsfoundation.org](http://www.playwrightsfoundation.org).

The Festival lineup includes:

- ***The Killing of Michael X, A New Film by Celia Wallace* by Cory Hinkle**
- ***Three Wolves and a Lamb* by Yussef El Guindi**
- ***Atlas of Longing* by Jeanne Drennan**
- ***Hunter's Point* by Elizabeth Gjelten**
- ***Tvá Kamila* by Erin Marie Bregman**
- ***Port Out, Starboard Home* by Sheila Callaghan. A co-commission with foolsFURY Theater Company.**

The festival also includes Bay Area SHorts, more affectionately known as BASH!

- ***Pookie Goes Grenading* by JC Lee**
- ***The Expiration Date* by Steven M. Salzman**

The Playwrights Foundation New Play Institute will be offering two playwriting classes in conjunction with the BAPF. For details on these classes visit the Playwrights Foundation website at <http://playwrightsfoundation.org/index.php?p=134>

- **Lee Blessing: Good Note, Odd Note, Better Play? The Art of Revisions, July 28- 31, 2010**
- **Marcus Gardley: Playwriting Bake-Off, August 3-12, 2010**

To learn more about the playwrights and plays, or to view a calendar of events and purchase tickets, visit the Playwrights Foundation website at <http://playwrightsfoundation.org/>.

### **About the Thick House**

Art Space Development Corporation (ArtsDeco) presents contemporary new theater that reflects and engages the San Francisco Bay Area's racially and culturally diverse audience community. We believe that when art is relevant and accessible it can transform the world, so our work rises naturally out of connecting to our local community, to popular culture, and to events of the day. To that end, we operate our venue, the Thick House, as a performing arts/community center -- presenting world-class professional theater, hosting neighborhood events, collaborating on community projects, and partnering with local businesses.

### **About Playwrights Foundation**

Playwrights Foundation is dedicated to discovering and supporting local and national American playwrights across a broad spectrum of artistic and career positions, in the inception and development of new plays that speak to and from an increasingly diverse society. Founded on a deeply held belief that the relevance and vitality of American theater depends upon a continual infusion of new work, Playwrights Foundation sustains a commitment to the playwright, who we regard as the creative wellspring of theater.

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Contact:

Michaela Murphy, Festival Administration

Playwrights Foundation

415.626.2176

[michaela@playwrightsfoundation.org](mailto:michaela@playwrightsfoundation.org)