



Press Release

For immediate release
June 1, 2009

Contact: Linda Jacobs
212.609.5900, ext. 255

9 TCG Member Theatres are 2009 Recipients of Edgerton Foundation New American Play Awards

Edgerton-Funded Plays Join a Successful Group that Include Nominees for Tony Awards, Drama Desk Awards, and Outer Circle Awards

“The hope is that extra rehearsal time will help these plays become mainstays
of the American theatrical repertoire.”
---Dr. Brad Edgerton, President, Edgerton Foundation

Launched in 2006, the Edgerton Foundation New American Play Awards have a growing track record for success, with 24 out of 46 plays living on in subsequent productions, many of which are nominated for prestigious awards. “That’s a remarkable outcome,” said Teresa Eyring, Executive Director of Theatre Communications Group (TCG). “Dr. Brad Edgerton and his wife Louise are clearly making a contribution to play development that has an impact on the continuing life of new plays.”

The Edgerton Foundation funding supports an extension of the rehearsal period with the goal of achieving a stronger first production, which will hopefully increase the chances of a continued life for the plays.

Many plays have not only gone on to subsequent productions but have attained critical success as well. ***Next to Normal***, a 2007 recipient at Second Stage Theatre (New York) had a second production at Arena Stage (Washington). It then transferred to Broadway in April 2009 and is nominated for 11 Tony Awards, including Best Musical. Another 2007 recipient, ***33 Variations*** had its first production at Arena Stage (Washington) and its second production at LaJolla Playhouse (California). It moved to Broadway in February 2009 and received 5 Tony nominations, including Best Play, and 3 Drama Desk Nominations. ***Back, Back, Back*** (first produced at Old Globe (San Diego) and subsequently at Manhattan Theatre Club and Dallas Theatre Center received a Drama Desk Nomination. Three Edgerton recipients (***33 Variations***, ***13*** (premiered at Mark Taper Forum, Los Angeles and ***Farragut North*** (premiered at Atlantic Theater, New York) received a total of 8 Outer Circle nominations in 2009.

TCG, the national organization for non-profit professional theater, is proud to announce today that 9 new Edgerton Foundation New American Play Awards, totaling \$ 192,000, have been granted to the following TCG member theatres:

Berkeley Repertory Theatre
Berkeley, CA

Concerning Strange Devices
by Naomi Iizuka

Geffen Playhouse
Los Angeles, CA

La Jolla Playhouse
La Jolla, CA

Long Wharf Theatre
New Haven, CT

McCarter Theatre
Princeton, NJ

Performance Network Theatre
Ann Arbor, MI

Phoenix Theatre
Phoenix, AZ

The Wilma Theater
Philadelphia, PA

Woolly Mammoth Theatre
Washington, D.C.

Matthew Modine Saves the Alpacas
by Blair Singer

Restoration
by Claudia Shear

Lil's 90th
by Darci Picoult

Fetch Clay, Make Man
by Will Power

It Came From Mars
by Joseph Zettelmaier

All the More to Love
by Bohmler, Adler & Jacobs

Language Rooms
by Youssef El Guindi."

Eclipsed
by Danai Gurira

A second group of 2009 awards will be announced in August 2009.

"We want to encourage and thank the regional non-profit theaters that are taking on the risk of producing new plays," said Dr. Brad Edgerton, co-director of the foundation with his wife Louise Edgerton. "We hope that this extra rehearsal time with the whole creative team in place, including the playwright, will help these excellent plays become great plays destined for future productions. Getting the plays to Broadway is not our goal, although that's a terrific honor. Having them become a part of the American theatre repertoire is our specific intention."

Selected theatres with a strong and consistent track record of producing new work are invited to submit letters of inquiry to the Foundation. A panel of readers reviews the plays, and one-time grants (ranging from \$5,000 - \$75,000) are awarded.

More information on each of the plays can be found on the TCG website:

<http://www.tcg.org/tools/newplays/index.cfm>

In the last 4 years, 38 TCG member theatres have received 55 Edgerton Foundation New American Play Awards totaling \$ 1,719,000.

The Edgerton Foundation New American Play Awards began on a local level in 2006 at Center Theater Group in Los Angeles with support for two new musicals - ***Curtains*** by John Kander & Fred Ebb and ***13*** by Jason Robert Brown & Dan Elish.

During the national launch in 2007, the following 21 theaters were granted awards for 21 plays:

Cardenio by Stephen Greenblatt & Charles L. Mee at American Repertory Theatre, Boston
Wittenberg by David Davalos at Arden Theatre, Philadelphia
33 Variations by Moises Kaufman at Arena Stage, Washington, D.C.
Trumpery by Peter Parnell at Atlantic Theatre, New York
Of Equal Measure by Tanya Barfield at Center Theatre Group, Los Angeles
13th of Paris by Mat Smart at City Theater, Pittsburgh
For Better by Eric Coble at Curious Theatre, Denver
Plainsong by Eric Schmiedl at Denver Center Theatre
Time Stands Still by Donald Margulies at Geffen Playhouse, Los Angeles
Tranced by Bob Clyman at Laguna Playhouse
Crowd You're in With by Rebecca Gilman at Magic Theatre, San Francisco
Better Late by Larry Gelbart & Craig Wright at Northlight Theater, Skokie
In this Corner by Steven Drukman at Old Globe, San Diego
Welcome Home, Jenny Sutter by Julie Marie Myatt at Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Ashland
Matter of Honor by Michael J. Chepiga at Pasadena Playhouse
Magnetic North by William Donnelly at Portland Stage, Maine
Book Club Play by Karen Zacarias at Round House Theater, Bethesda
Billion Dollar Baby by Julie Jensen at Salt Lake City Acting Company
Blessing of a Broken Heart by Todd Salovey at San Diego Repertory
Next to Normal by Tom Kitt & Brian Yorkey at Second Stage, New York
Paris by Night by Curt Columbus, Andre Pluess & Amy Warren at Trinity Repertory, Providence

In 2008, the following 21 theaters were granted awards for 23 plays:

Managing Maxine by Janece Shaffer at Alliance Theatre, Atlanta
Communist Dracula Pageant by Anne Washburn at American Repertory, Boston
My Name is Asher Lev by Aaron Posner at Arden Theatre, Philadelphia
Something Intangible by Bruce Graham at Arden Theatre, Philadelphia
Resurrection by Daniel Beaty at Arena Stage, Washington.
Farragut North by Beau Willimon at Atlantic Theater, New York
In the Next Room (or vibrator play) by Sarah Ruhl at Berkeley Repertory Theatre
Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo by Rajiv Joseph at Center Theatre Group, Los Angeles
Speak American by Eric Simonson at City Theatre, Pittsburgh
Inana by Michele Lowe at Denver Center for the Performing Arts
Cagney by Peter Colley & Robert Creighton at Florida Stage, Manalapan
Turn of the Century by Rick Elice & Marshall Brickman at Goodman Theatre, Chicago
Marcus or the Secret of Sweet by Tarell Alvin McCraney at McCarter Theatre, Princeton
Little Hours by David Buckman at New Jersey Repertory, Long Branch
Po Boy Tango by Kenneth Lin at Northlight Theatre, Skokie
Back Back Back by Itamar Moses at The Old Globe Theatre, San Diego
Cornelia by Mark Olsen at Old Globe Theatre, San Diego
Equivocation by Bill Cain at Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Ashland
Harry's Friendly Service by Rob Zellers at Pittsburgh Public Theater
Out of Sterno by Deborah Zoe Laufer at Portland Stage, Maine
Free Man of Color by John Guare at the Public Theater, New York

Princess and the Black-Eyed Pea by Foreman, Childs & Chukerman at San Diego Rep
You, Nero by Amy Freed, South Coast Repertory, Costa Mesa

Other areas of focus for The Edgerton Foundation are the environment, global security and Los Angeles institutions.

Theatre Communications Group (TCG) is the national organization for the American theatre. TCG is dedicated to nurturing professional, not-for-profit American theatre institutions, artists, and audiences, and to fulfilling its mission to strengthen, nurture and promote professional, not-for-profit field.

TCG initiatives include a variety of artistic, management, international and advocacy programs, while TCG's many publications offer a national resource for reference, opinion, and debate on theatre and the performing arts today.

###