



# Press Release

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Contact: Linda Jacobs  
ljacobs@tcg.org  
212.609.5955

## TCG Announces Twenty-Seven 2009 Edgerton Foundation New American Play Awards Totaling \$ 772,000

“Being a multiple recipient of the Edgerton Foundation’s generosity has absolutely shaped the way in which we move forward with new play development,” said Geffen Playhouse producing director Gil Cates. “Their support through extra rehearsal time gives us the confidence to take necessary risks, which has elevated both our programming choices and our final productions to a new level.”

--- Gil Cates, Geffen Playhouse producing director

New York – Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for not for profit professional theatre, is pleased to announce that in 2009, twenty-seven Edgerton Foundation New American Play Awards were granted to theatres around the country.

The Edgerton Foundation New American Play Award was piloted in 2006 with the Center Theatre Group in Los Angeles and launched nationally in 2007. The award provides Theatre Communication Group member theatres with financial resources to increase rehearsal time with the full production team, including the playwrights, onsite at the producing theatre. The total of awards to date is seventy-three (\$ 2,292,000).

“There is no replacement for time when it comes to developing new plays. Our recent production of Tarell Alvin McCraney’s break through trilogy, *The Brother/Sister Plays*, is testament to that fact,” said Emily Mann, McCarter Theatre artistic director. “In large part due to the extended rehearsal period provided by the Edgerton Foundation, *The Brother/Sister Plays* opened to great acclaim at McCarter Theatre. The plays then moved on to our partner, The Public Theater in New York, where audiences and critics alike hailed McCraney as one of the new voices of his generation.”

The 2009 Edgerton Foundation New Play Awards were presented to:

**Alliance Theatre**, Atlanta, GA  
***Tennis in Nablus***  
by Ismail Khalidi

**American Repertory Theater**, Cambridge, MA  
***Red Sox Nation***  
by Richard Dresser, Robert Reale, & Willie Reale

**Berkeley Repertory Theatre**, Berkeley, CA  
***Concerning Strange Devices From the Distant West***  
by Naomi Iizuka

**City Theatre Company**, Pittsburgh, PA  
***When January Feels Like Summer***  
By Cori Thomas

**Denver Center Theatre Company**, Denver, CO  
***Eventide***  
by Eric Schmiedl

**Geffen Playhouse**, Los Angeles, CA  
***Matthew Modine Saves the Alpacas***  
by Blair Singer

**La Jolla Playhouse**, La Jolla, CA  
***Restoration***  
by Claudia Shear

**Lincoln Center Theater**, NY, NY  
***The Grand Manner***  
By A.R. Gurney

**Long Wharf**, New Haven, CT  
***Lil's 90th***  
by Darci Picoult

**Marin Theatre Company**, Mill Valley, CA  
***Sunlight***  
by Sharr White

**McCarter Theatre Center**, Princeton, NJ  
***Fetch Clay, Make Man***  
by Will Power

**New Jersey Repertory Company**, Long Branch, NJ  
***Exposure Time***  
By Kim Merrill

**Pasadena Playhouse**, Pasadena, CA  
***Havana***  
by Nilo Cruz, Frank Wildhorn, & Jack Murphy

**The Old Globe**, San Diego, CA  
***Sammy***  
by Leslie Bricusse

**Performance Network Theatre**, Ann Arbor, MI  
***It Came From Mars***  
by Joseph Zettelmaier

**Philadelphia Theatre Company**, Philadelphia, PA  
***Golden Age***  
by Terrence McNally

**Phoenix Theatre**, Phoenix, AZ  
***All The More to Love***  
by Marc Jacobs, Marion Adler, & Craig Bohmier

**Playwrights Horizons**, New York, NY  
***The Burnt Part Boys***  
by Mariana Elder, Chris Miller, & Nathan Tysen

**Playwrights Horizons**, New York, NY  
***This***  
by Melissa James Gibson

**Salt Lake Acting Company**, Salt Lake City, UT  
***Charm***  
by Cathleen Cahill

**Signature Theatre**, Arlington, VA  
***Sycamore Trees***  
by Ricky Ian Gordon

**South Coast Repertory**, Costa Mesa, CA  
***The Happy Ones***  
by Julie Marie Myatt

**South Coast Repertory**, Costa Mesa, CA  
***In a Garden***  
by Howard Korder

**Victory Gardens Theater**, Chicago, IL  
***The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity***  
by Kristoffer Diaz

**Wilma Theater**, Philadelphia, PA  
***Language Rooms***  
by Youssef El Guindi

**Women's Project**, New York, NY  
***Lascivious Something***  
by Sheila Callaghan

**Woolly Mammoth**, Washington, D.C.

***Eclipsed***

by Danai Gurira

"We are currently in rehearsal for the premiere of *Fetch Clay, Make Man* by Will Power, in which the additional rehearsal time with all of the key creators at the table (playwright, director, actors, etc.) is already proving to be invaluable," Mann continued. "The work is thrilling. As with *The Brother/Sister Plays*, The Edgerton Foundation's commitment to providing time for in-depth rehearsal makes it more likely that a first production can realize its potential."

Selected theatres with a strong and consistent track record of producing new work are invited by the foundation to submit letters of inquiry to the Foundation: [plays@edgertonfoundation.org](mailto:plays@edgertonfoundation.org). A panel of readers reviews the plays, and one-time grants (ranging from \$5,000 - \$75,000) are awarded. To date, 73 Edgerton Foundation New American Play Awards have been granted and 34 plays have gone on to further professional productions.

These subsequent productions have been performed and/or are scheduled for performances across the country and the globe in almost thirty regional companies, five repertory companies, and an international festival in Ireland. Six have made it to Broadway including *Curtains*, *13*, *Next To Normal*, *33 Variations*, *In the Next Room (or the vibrator play)*, and *Time Stands Still*. Four others have had off Broadway productions of plays first staged in regional theatres: *Back, Back, Back*, *Equivocation*, *Restoration*, and *The Brother/Sister Plays*.

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

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

The following thirty-four Edgerton Foundation New Play Award recipients have gone on or been scheduled to have subsequent productions following their world premiere productions:

#### **2009**

***Eclipsed*** by Danai Gurira at Woolly Mammoth in Washington, D.C.

***Elaborate Entrance of Chad Diety*** by Kristoffer Diaz at Victory Gardens Theatre, Chicago, IL

***Golden Age*** by Terence McNally at Philadelphia Theatre Company, Philadelphia, PA

***It Came From Mars*** by Joseph Zettelmaier at Performance Network in Ann Arbor, MI

***Restoration*** by Claudia Shear at La Jolla Playhouse in La Jolla, CA

***Sunlight*** by Sharr White at Marin Theatre Company, Mill Valley, CA

#### **2008**

***Back Back Back*** By Itamar Moses at The Old Globe in San Diego, CA

***Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*** by Rajiv Joseph at Kirk Douglas Theatre, Los Angeles, CA

***Brother Sister/Plays*** by Tarell Alvin McCraney at McCarter Theatre, Princeton, NJ

***Equivocation*** By Bill Cain at Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, OR

***Farragut North*** By Beau Willimon at Atlantic Theatre Company in New York, NY

***In the Next Room (or the vibrator play)*** By Sarah Ruhl at Berkeley Rep in Berkeley, CA

***Inana*** by Michele Lowe at Denver Center Theatre, Denver, CO

**Managing Maxine** by Janece Shaffer at Alliance Theatre, Atlanta, GA  
**My Name is Asher Lev** By Aaron Posner at Arden Theatre in Philadelphia, PA  
**Out of Sterno** by Deborah Zoe Laufer at Portland Stage, Portland, ME  
**Po Boy Tango** by Kenneth Lin at Northlight Theatre, Skokie, IL  
**Resurrection** By Daniel Beaty at Arena Stage in Washington, D.C.  
**You, Nero** By Amy Freed at South Coast Repertory in Costa Mesa, CA

#### 2007

**13th of Paris** by Mat Smart at City Theater, Pittsburgh, PA  
**33 Variations** by Moises Kaufman at Arena Stage, Washington, D.C.  
**Better Late** by Larry Gelbart and Craig Wright at Northlight Theater, Chicago, IL  
**Book Club Play** By Karen Zacarias at Round House Theater, Washington, D.C.  
**Crowd You're in With** By Rebecca Gilman at Magic Theatre in San Francisco, CA  
**For Better** By Eric Coble at Curious Theatre in Denver, CO  
**Magnetic North** By William Donnelly at Portland Stage in Portland, ME  
**Next to Normal** By Tom Kitt and Brian Yorkey at Second Stage Theatre in New York, NY  
**Time Stands Still** By Donald Margulies at Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles, CA  
**Tranced** By Bob Clyman at Laguna Playhouse in Laguna Beach, CA  
**Trumpery** By Peter Parnell at Atlantic Theatre Company in New York, NY  
**Welcome Home, Jenny Sutter** By Julie Marie Myatt at Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, OR  
**Wittenberg** By David Davalos at Arden Theatre in Philadelphia, PA

#### 2006

**Curtains** by Rupert Holmes, John Kander, and Fred Ebb at Center Theatre Group, Los Angeles  
**13** by Jason Robert Brown and Dan Elish at Center Theatre Group, Los Angeles, CA

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

Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre, exists to strengthen, nurture and promote the professional not-for-profit American theatre. Its programs serve nearly 700 member theatres and affiliate organizations and more than 12,000 individuals nationwide. As the US Center of the International Theatre Institute, TCG connects its constituents to the global theatre community. In all of its endeavors, TCG seeks to increase the organizational efficiency of its member theatres, cultivate and celebrate the artistic talent and achievements of the field and promote a larger public understanding of, and appreciation for, the theatre. TCG is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. [www.tcg.org](http://www.tcg.org).

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