



# 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.  
**Trumpet** by Peter Parnell at Atlantic Theatre, New York  
**Of Equal Measure** by Tanya Barfield at Center Theatre Group, Los Angeles  
**13<sup>th</sup> 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.

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