



## **MCC Theater PlayLabs**

The PlayLabs program helps foster the development of emerging and established playwrights, adds vibrant new plays to the contemporary theatrical canon, and nourishes the development of audiences for new work. Established in the fall of 2000, PlayLabs currently engages four writers annually, providing intensive dramaturgical support while giving audiences the opportunity to become a part of the development process through a public reading series that is the culmination of each playwright's tenure.

The program will grow with the opening of the company's first permanent home in 2018, expanding the playwrights served to eight annually with a focus on writers at the beginning of their careers. PlayLab readings will also expand, more deeply engaging audiences with the program and with the diverse perspectives and voices of its artists.

PlayLabs enlivens and stimulates what can be a solitary and insular process by bringing collaboration into the writers' practice early in the development of a new work through dramaturgical support from MCC's artistic staff and by providing each with a director, actors, and an intense, collaborative rehearsal period. Each PlayLab reading is followed by an informal reception where artists, MCC leadership, and audience members engage in an open dialogue about the play—offering new perspectives for the writer and helping develop informed and engaged audiences for new work.

Engaging writers at all stages of their careers, the PlayLabs program serves as both a testing ground for playwrights finding their voice and a resource for those to continue honing their craft even following full professional stagings of their work in New York and beyond. Playwrights supported by the program include Brooke Berman, Cusi Cram, Steven Levinson, Alex Lewin, Adam Rapp, and Adam Szymkowitz, among others.

Plays developed as part of PlayLabs have gone on to full productions at MCC, as well as at other nonprofit theaters in New York and overseas, adding vibrant new works to the contemporary theatrical canon. Recent examples include *Lost Girls* by John Pollono, which was first workshopped as part of PlayLabs in 2014 before making its acclaimed debut at MCC in 2015; *The Wooden Brecks* by Glen Berger, which premiered in an MCC production in 2006; *Mike & Seth* by Daniel Talbot, part of the 2013 PlayLabs before its debut at The Side Project Theater in Chicago; *A Brief History of Helen of Troy* by Mark Schultz, part of the 2003 PlayLabs prior to its staging at the Soho Theatre, London; and *In Arabia, We'd All Be Kings* by Stephen Adly Guirgis, developed in the 2000 PlayLabs before its debut at London's Hampstead Theatre in 2003.