

Guest Artists and Luminaries

These esteemed individuals will conduct critiques and facilitate discussions with the audiences following each play reading at the **Playwrights Showcase of the Western Region**. In addition, they will present workshops and panel discussions involving playwriting and contemporary theater practices.

STEVEN DIETZ – PLAYWRIGHT



Mr. Dietz's 20 + plays have been seen at over 100 regional theaters in the United States, as well as off-Broadway. International productions have been seen in England, Japan, Germany, France, Australia, Sweden, Russia, Slovenia, Argentina, Peru, Singapore and South Africa. Mr. Dietz is a two-time recipient of the Kennedy Center Fund for New American Plays Award – for *Fiction* and *Still Life With Iris*. He received the PEN USA West Award in Drama for his play, *Lonely Planet*, as well as the Yomuiiri Shimbun Award (the Japanese "Tony®") for his adaptation of Shusaku Endo's novel, *Silence*. Other widely produced plays include *Private Eyes*, *God's Country*, *Trust*, *Rocket Man*, *Ten November*, *Handing Down the Names*, *Foolin' Around With Infinity*, *Painting It Red*, and *More Fun Than Bowling*. Mr. Dietz's award-winning stage adaptations include *Force Of Nature* (from Goethe), *Over the Moon* (from P.G.Wodehouse), *Paragon Springs* (from Ibsen), *Dracula* (from Bram Stoker), *The Rememberer* (from Joyce Simmons Cheeka), and, with his wife Allison Gregory, *Go Dog Go!* (from P.D. Eastman). His recent plays include *Last of the Boys*, will be seen this coming season at Steppenwolf Theatre in Chicago; and *Honus and Me*, commissioned by the Seattle Children's Theatre. A Denver native, he now lives in Seattle.

SYLVIE DRAKE - PLAYWRIGHT/DIRECTOR OF PUBLICATIONS



Sylvie Drake was born and grew up in Alexandria, Egypt. She graduated from the Pasadena Playhouse, worked as an actor and director in Los Angeles and New York before turning to writing episodic television. In 1969 she became theatre critic for the *Canyon Crier*, a Los Angeles weekly, and joined the staff of *The Los Angeles Times* in 1971, becoming chief Theatre Critic 1991-1993. She served on the 1994 Pulitzer Prize Drama Jury, was a personal interpreter for playwright Eugene Ionesco in the 1980s, served as president of the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle and on the Executive Committee of the American Theatre Critics Association. Translations/adaptations include Goldoni's *The Servant of Two Masters*, Claudel's *The Tidings Brought to Mary*, Anouilh's *Traveler Without Luggage* and *The Lark*. In 1993, she wrote the principal text for a bilingual book about Quebec's Le Cirque du Soleil. She has been Director of Publications for the Denver Center since 1994.

JESSICA GOLDBERG – PLAYWRIGHT



Jessica's plays include *Get What You Need*, which was commissioned by the Atlantic Theater Company (NY); *Sex Parasite*, which received a grant from the NEA and recently premiered at the Mark Taper Forum's Taper TOO; *Good Thing* was presented at the Mark Taper Forum TOO in L.A. and at the New Group (Off-Broadway). *Refuge*, which premiered at Playwrights' Horizons (Off-Broadway), won the 1999 Susan Smith Blackburn Prize and has had many subsequent productions including at the Schaubuehne (West Berlin). Other plays include *The Hologram Theory* and *Stuck*. Her plays have been translated into German, Swedish, Norwegian, and Catalan; and are published by Dramatists Play Service, Inc., Vintage Press' recent book titled, *Under 30, Plays For a New Generation*, and Smith and Krauss. Her film, *Hungry Girl* is currently in development with Fox/Phillips. Jessica is a graduate of NYU's Dramatic Writing Program and the Juilliard School. She was a Tennessee Williams Fellow at the University of the South, a recipient of the Le Compte de Nouy stipend, the first annual Helen Merrill Award, and a 2000 Berrilla Kerr Foundation Award. She is a resident of New River Dramatists and a member of PEN American Center. Jessica is also a teacher at Art Center College, and with Spoken Interludes is working with girls in the Dorothy Kirby Juvenile Detention Center.

JOE KRAEMER – LITERARY MANAGER/PLAYWRIGHT

Since 1992, Joe Kraemer has administered The Juilliard School's prestigious Lila Acheson Wallace American Playwrights Program in New York City. For the Drama Division, directed by Michael Kahn, Joe serves as literary manager and oversees a playwriting fellowship program that has included exciting young writers from around the English-speaking world. The program, which was created by John Guare and Terrence McNally, is presently co-directed by Christopher Durang and Marsha Norman. As the Drama Division's dramaturg, Joe also assists in developing new and classical plays that are performed over the four years of actor training at the school. Prior to joining the staff at Juilliard, Joe worked with Mr. Kahn at The Shakespeare Theater at the Folger Library in Washington, D.C. Joe's short play *Find Some Planets* was developed for actors at Juilliard in 1997 and given a workshop production in 1999. *The American Occupation*, which has also been developed for Juilliard actors, is his first full-length play and had its world premiere on the main stage at Juilliard in November of 2004. Joe grew up in Richmond, Indiana, and was educated at Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Michigan, where he received his B.A. in English in 1990. He has also lived in Maine and Los Angeles and in Morocco with his cousin, Jane.



AOISE STRATFORD – PLAYWRIGHT

Ms. Stratford has had more than 30 productions of her plays throughout the United States, Italy and Australia and has served as respondent and featured artist at Edward Albee's Last Frontier Theatre Conference, the Northwest Drama Conference and the first Playwrights Showcase of the Western Region. Since moving to the United States six years ago, Stratford has won more than 10 national awards. *Somewhere In Between* won both the 2001 Yukon Pacific Playwright Award and the Audience Choice Award at the Last Frontier Theatre Conference. In 2001 *Will And The Ghost*, a one-act co-authored with her father, won the New Britain Repertory One-Act Play competition and the Pennsylvania Playhouse Premiere Play competition and was also produced off-off Broadway. Her short play, *Elephants and Coffee*, won the Best Ten Minute Play Award and the Audience Choice Award at the 2002 Last Frontier Conference, the Best New Play Award in the 15 Minute Division from Sonoma Repertory Theatre Company (2002) The Five And Dime Playwrights Award (2002) and the Alan Minieri Award at the 2003 New York Fifteen Minute Play Festival. *Three Horseshoes* was featured in a one-act play festival in Bologna, Italy. Ms. Stratford's latest play, *Henry's Wives*, is slated for production at the University of Wyoming. Stratford is a member of the Dramatists' Guild and the Australian National Playwrights' Center. In addition to publishing short stories in literary journals, she has received residencies from the Vermont Studio Center, Byrdcliffe Arts Colony and the Dorland Mountain Arts Colony. She has a BA with Honors in Theater and English from the University of NSW in Australia and an M.F.A. in fiction from the University of San Francisco.



EDITH WEISS – PLAYWRIGHT/ACTOR

Returning to the Playwrights Showcase for a second year, Ms. Weiss is the author of four published children's plays: *Hyronomous A Frog The Frog Prince*, *Snow White and the Three Slobs*, *The King's New Clothes*, and *The Three Prince Charmings*. Her adult play, *Sister Elizabeth*, was performed by Millerville University. In Denver, she was one of the writers and actors in the plays, *Unidentified Female Objects I* and *UFO 2* at the Avenue Theater and the Theatre On Broadway. Her one-woman show, *The Philosopher Whore*, was seen at the Mercury Café. A lot of her writing time goes into her stand-up comedy routine, which has taken her all over the country and on three overseas military tours. The magazine, *Colorado Women News* featured her columns, "Status Quo" and "Bad Attitude News." She was also a writer for the online soap opera, *City's Edge*. Visit her writer's blog at: <http://myst-technology.com/mysmartchannels/public/blog/17489>. Ms. Weiss holds a B.A. in Political Science from Millersville University and an M.A. in Theater from New York University. She also attended Bretton Hall College in England.

