



NEW PLAYS NOW

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS THEATRE ARTS

On the following pages you'll find the constellation of new playwrights who are about to take over theaters all around the country.

Don't look for one kind of play here, but rather a group of plays challenging what it is to make theater in this new century.

Don't look for one kind of playwright. Think of them as an international collective that's been meeting up at Columbia University for the past two years bashing out work driven by passion rather than seeking to conform to easy definition.

This year's playwrighting MFA candidates individually chose the following mentors, including: Adam Rapp, Martin Epstein, John Logan, Chris Durang, Sarah Ruhl, Kevin Cunningham, Sheila Callaghan, Will Eno and Chay Yew

We hope you'll see the work of these artists premiering this spring at 3LD.

—Chuck Mee, *Head of Playwriting*

## EXPERIENCE THEIR NEW PLAYS NOW!

New Plays Now is made possible with the generous donations of:

**The Howard Stein New Play Fund**  
**The Edward John Noble Foundation**  
**The Katherine and Gilbert Miller Fund**

All events are held at 3LD

3LD Art & Technology Center  
80 Greenwich St. @ Rector  
New York, NY 10006



Events are free and open to the public. You may make reservations for all events at [newplays@columbiastages.org](mailto:newplays@columbiastages.org)

## KICK-OFF CELEBRATION

Get to know this year's playwrights, alongside some of their renowned mentors, at an informal talk and reception.  
**April 11 at 7pm**

LOVE ABZ (AN)ALPHABETIC TRIANGLE  
by Otso Huopaniemi  
April 13 at 2p | April 14 at 7p | April 17 at 7p

LINES IN CODE  
by Samara Weiss  
April 14 at 2p | April 16 at 7p | April 17 at 2p

HARLOWE  
by Jenny Lane  
April 15 at 7p | April 16 at 2p | April 19 at 2p

I AM A MOON  
by Zhu Yi  
April 20 at 2p | April 21 at 7p | April 24 at 7p

THE MAIN ATTRACTION  
by Doug Weidner  
April 21 at 2p | April 23 at 7p | April 24 at 2p

SURVIVED BY  
by Erin Moughon  
April 22 at 7p | April 23 at 2p | April 26 at 2p

THE FANTASY ARTISTS  
by James Ryan Caldwell  
April 27 at 2p | April 28 at 7p | May 1 at 7p

RELATIVE VALUE  
by Jesse Longman  
April 28 at 2p | April 30 at 7p | May 1 at 2p

DE SOUS  
by Camila Le-Bert  
April 29 at 7p | April 30 at 2p | May 2 at 2p

## LOVE ABZ (AN)ALPHABETIC TRIANGLE

by Otso Huopaniemi  
Directed by Otso Huopaniemi  
Mentored by Sheila Callaghan

April 13 at 2p  
April 14 at 7p  
April 17 at 7p



"It's time for a sheet of porous structure."

"...for thought, if it be translated truly, cannot be lost in another language; but the words that convey it to our apprehension (which are the image and ornament of that thought), may be so ill chosen, as to make it appear in an unhandsome dress, rob it of its native lustre."

-John Dryden

### About the Playwright

Otso Huopaniemi is a bilingual playwright and Fulbright Scholar. Born in Kerava, Finland, he has been writing plays since he was accepted to the Theater Academy of Finland in 1997. Otso's play *Perillä (Arrived)* was published in Helsinki in 2009 and is currently being translated into English. Plays in English include: *The Finnish Mafia in the Bronx* (Poet's Den Theatre, 2010), *The Story of Martha and George's Son [As Told by a Chorus of Objects]* (Schapiro Theatre, 2010), *Snow Fleas* (Schapiro Studio, 2010), *Bleeding Radiators* (Schapiro Theatre, 2009), and *A Fanfare for the Common Man* (Schapiro Studio, 2009). Plays in Finnish include *Kahden puolen ikkunaa* (KOMteksti, 2002), and *Hamann eli vieraissa huoneissa* (TeaK, 1999). Devised work includes *Are We Here Yet?* (PS 122) with director Anna Brenner and ensemble. Otso has assisted Edward Albee and Sheila Callaghan. He is a member of The Finnish Dramatists' Union.

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## LINES IN CODE

by Samara Weiss  
Directed by Jen Wineman  
Mentored by Will Eno

April 14 at 2p  
April 16 at 7p  
April 17 at 2p



He holds out the bottle in the direction she left, and says, in the way you might say, "Here, kitty kitty!":

Ada! I have gin!

---

Charles Babbage and Ada Lovelace meet at a party. Hilarity, misery, and light bondage ensue; two people seduce each other with the irresistible temptation of understanding. The jokes are strange, but then, so are things in general.

### About the Playwright

Samara Weiss has studied theater at UCLA and the Sarojini Naidu School of the Performing Arts at the University of Hyderabad; currently, she lives and writes in New York. In 2010, her play *AK-47 Sing-Along* won critical acclaim in the New York International Fringe Festival. *The Kinsey Three*, her comic short musical, received the Peter Matz/Martin Sosin Award in Writing for the Musical Theater. Other works include *Seal Woman Story* (Lost in Customs Theatre), *Current-Caught* (Schapiro Theatre), *The Waking Edge* (Schapiro Theatre), *Forget This City* (Enthuse Theatre), and *Touch/tones*, an authorized adaptation of Douglas R. Hofstadter's book *Le Ton beau de Marot*. As of this writing, she's working with the NYU Humanities Initiative on *The Lucrece Project*.

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## HARLOWE

by Jenny Lane  
Directed by Jess K Smith  
Mentored by Sarah Ruhl

April 15 at 7p  
April 16 at 2p  
April 19 at 2p



Some people are strong and some people are not and strong people sometimes don't seem strong, while weak people sometimes do. I am a weak-seeming person who is secretly strong. He was a strong-seeming person who is secretly weak. I am much more powerful.

-From *Harlowe*

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After suffering a potent physical trauma, Harlowe loses her sense of touch. When her sister brings her home to convalesce, she retreats to the bathroom and spends hour after hour languishing in the tub. *Harlowe* is a story of sisters and bodies; it is a story of how we heal.

### About the Playwright

Jenny, a Sarah Lawrence graduate, is a Michigan-born playwright and fiction writer. Most recently, her play *Psychomachia* premiered at Theatre 54, starring Ashlie Atkinson, directed by Robin A. Paterson and produced by Artistic New Directions. Her short plays, *Uriel's Garden* (directed by Carin White) and *A Fever in the Feast* (directed by Anna Brenner), were workshopped with Anne Bogart. Her one-act *The Would-Be Room* enjoyed two runs, one in New York City at the Schapiro Theatre (directed by Greg Cicchino) and the other at Gorilla Tango Theatre in Chicago (directed by Jacob Miller). Last fall, Jenny participated in a generative piece based on the work of Franz Kafka with Jess K Smith and a number of other remarkable artists, creating a piece about the writer's tumultuous relationship with his art. Before starting at Columbia, her play *Does Anyone Know Sarah Paisner?* premiered at the Gene Frankel Theatre. Jenny has studied with such remarkable people as Chuck Mee, Kelly Stuart, Lucy Thurber, Sheila Callaghan, Anne Bogart, Frank Pugliese, Deborah Brevoort, Stuart Spencer, Cassandra Medley and Maria Mileaf. She is currently in her third and final year in the Columbia University School of the Arts MFA Playwriting program, and Sarah Ruhl is her mentor. For more information, please visit [www.jennifer-lane.net](http://www.jennifer-lane.net).

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## I AM A MOON

by Zhu Yi  
Directed by Henning Hegland  
Mentored by Chay Yew

April 20 at 2p  
April 21 at 7p  
April 24 at 7p



I am a giant stone  
full of craters;

I am a body covered  
by hickeys;

I am an apple  
with a wound.

---

Everyone is a moon—  
a beautiful bright ball  
isolated in the sky.  
But as you come closer,  
the craters appear.

Voyeurism, sexual passion,  
jealousy, and the ever  
present search for  
connection and love.  
Following the stories of  
six characters as they  
navigate the complexities  
of their longings, the play  
weaves a poetic and darkly  
humorous journey into the  
beauty of our ugly side.

### About the Playwright

Zhu Yi is a bilingual playwright and an independent documentary filmmaker, originally from Shanghai, China.

The “One-Child-Policy” in her motherland resulted in a lonely childhood. The way she figured out how to cheer up was by creating stories and talking to herself, which surprisingly turned out to be the starting point of her career. She finished her BA in Literature of Film & Drama at Nanjing University and Acting with Masks at Oslo University College in 2008. Currently she is attending Columbia University School of the Arts as an MFA candidate in playwriting.

Previous credits include *Evolutionism or Dammit*, *We Took the Shortcut!* (Schapiro Theatre & Manhattan Repertory Theatre, 2010), *Lifetime Fairytale* (Columbia Stages, Riverside Theatre, 2009), *Wedding* (Schapiro Theatre, 2009), *Jacques or Obedience* (Oslo University College, Oslo, 2007), *Promising* (Down-Stream Garage, Shanghai, 2006), and the documentary film *Scrape* (The 3rd Beijing Independent Film Festival, 2008).

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## THE MAIN ATTRACTION

by Doug Weidner  
Directed by Anna Brenner  
Mentored by Martin Epstein

April 21 at 2p  
April 23 at 7p  
April 24 at 2p



### Sasquatch

Age and sex indeterminable,  
but probably male, probably  
pretty old (not the actor but  
the character).

### People /Extras/Supernumeraries

Hopefully about 20 people ranging  
in age/sex. Maybe 40?

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*The Main Attraction* is a  
congenital low-grade  
comedy about love,  
betrayal...a Sasquatch.  
Human and absurd in  
its style and storytelling  
with untamed theatricality,  
dance and music.

### About the Playwright

John Douglas Weidner is an MFA candidate in Playwriting at Columbia University School of the Arts. His plays produced at Columbia include *signal-through-the-flames*, *Clytemnestra*, *Rain Machine*, *look away* and *Screaming with Maria*. Mr. Weidner is a graduate of NYU's Dramatic Writing Program. He is extremely thrilled to be working on this production of *The Main Attraction* with such an amazing group of collaborators.

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## SURVIVED BY

by Erin Moughon  
Directed by Julie Congress  
and Ryan Emmons  
Mentored by John Logan

April 22 at 7p  
April 23 at 2p  
April 26 at 2p



### Father

(not hearing Emily) I don't want us to be late. It doesn't look right.

### Emily

Neither does leaving a dead body hanging from the ceiling.

---

On the morning of her brother Caleb's military funeral, Emily wakes up to find her brother Gavin's body hanging from the ceiling. Now if only their ghosts and everyone else would just leave her alone...

### About the Playwright

Erin Moughon was born outside of Savannah, Georgia and has lived all over the country thanks to her Army brat roots. She currently resides in NYC where she is an MFA candidate in Playwriting at Columbia University School of the Arts and seventh grade math teacher in the South Bronx. Because it's normal to have degrees in both math and playwriting.

She has written several full-length plays including *Pretend That You Owe Me...* and *Slip Her a Mickey*, both of which received productions at the Schapiro Theatre (Columbia University). This past summer, she wrote and produced *A Night of Neil: Four Short Plays Adapted From/Inspired by the works of Neil Gaiman* at the Schapiro Studio. Erin's work has also been featured internationally. In July 2007, *Slip Her a Mickey* received a reading in Townsville, Australia as a part of World Interplay, where Erin was one of three US playwrights selected to participate. In August 2010, she wrote for *The Arden Project*, a transatlantic showcase of new work produced by Old Vic New Voices. The showcase was watched by live audiences at 3LD (US) and the Warner Brothers Theatre (UK), in a shared theatrical space created by video feed. The production was also streamed live on [www.ideastap.com](http://www.ideastap.com) to a global audience.

She is thrilled to be currently working with John Logan on her thesis play *Survived By*.

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## THE FANTASY ARTISTS

by James Ryan Caldwell  
Directed by Javierantonio González  
Mentored by Christopher Durang

April 27 at 2p  
April 28 at 7p  
May 1 at 7p



### Mare

If a dream sneaks into my head, I bite my lip-hard. I do anything to distract myself. I starve myself in a way. Our callers' fantasies are primary. It's better for us not to have any fantasies at all so that when we connect with them we disappear-and their appetite becomes ours.

---

Estranged sisters Parry and Mare are living the lives of their dreams. When they reunite after years apart, their dreams threaten to turn each other's lives into nightmares. *The Fantasy Artists* is a new comedy about assumptions, deceptions, condescension, and sacrifice; or rather, what it means to be a sister.

### About the Playwright

James Ryan Caldwell is a playwright and actor. His plays include: *The Bird Stories* (The Tank @ Collective Unconscious), *The Centaur Play* (Theatre Masters Aspen, CO and Walkerspace, NYC), *Babyfat or Skinnybaby* (Dixon Place Hot Festival), *Salvador Dali's Six and a Half Secrets*, *The Private Life of Inga Snyder*, and *The Unveiling*.

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## RELATIVE VALUE

by Jesse Longman  
Directed by Meghan Finn  
Mentored by Kevin Cunningham

April 28 at 2p  
April 30 at 7p  
May 1 at 2p



men  
cannot be changed  
miriam  
it is  
perhaps  
endearing of you  
to think that your influence  
amounts to more  
than a come-on  
but truly  
it is an appeal  
only  
to our distraction  
momentary  
illiterate & inept

---

*Relative Value* is a story about family, love and the comparative value of those we cherish—those we are most concerned with defining. What are the limitations of thinking of people as desk clocks, for instance—explicit subjects of function and design? How do we know if we are useful, relevant in the world? An absurd fantasy of life around objects, the play follows a strict logic of value and hierarchy to its ultimate and irreverent end.

### About the Playwright

Jesse Longman is a New York-based writer and theatremaker. She received her BA in Poetry from the College of Santa Fe in 2007, studying primarily with Dana Levin, and spent two years prior to that studying philosophy at St. John's College. Trained at the School of American Ballet, Jesse performed routinely as a dancer with the New York City Ballet, traveling extensively and performing with many dance companies around the world.

Jesse has worked in myriad capacities in theatrical production and development, as poet, playwright, dancer, dramaturg, actor, director, and most recently as assistant stage manager, sound technician and crew with Hotel Savant on their production of *Men Go Down*. In 2006, Jesse received an individual artist commission from the Santa Fe Drug Rehabilitation Center with support from the Mayoral counsel to develop and produce her first play, *Junk Sick Dawn* whose story focused on the life of a methamphetamine addict living in the Southwest. Her plays include *Don't Fix Your Stare*, *Shibboleth & Sundry*, *The January House* and many short plays, including *Century Egg*, written for Katie Meister, which premiered at Schapiro Theatre in December, 2010.

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## DE SOUS

by Camila Le-Bert  
Directed by Lucille Cashion  
Mentored by Adam Rapp

April 29 at 7p  
April 30 at 2p  
May 2 at 2p



Written by a Latin American woman, *De Sous* gives a South American perspective to a US issue, which assures a fresh take on a theme as old as the country itself.

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*De Sous* is a play that explores the question: What does it mean to be a “Latino”? Through a limited number of historical examples it intends to question the validity of this concept as a North American creation. Through historical figures, such as Carmen Miranda, and fictional ones, such as Banana, the play rediscovers models of representation of the “Latino” and presents less prominent figures in US popular culture such as the Latin American elite class.

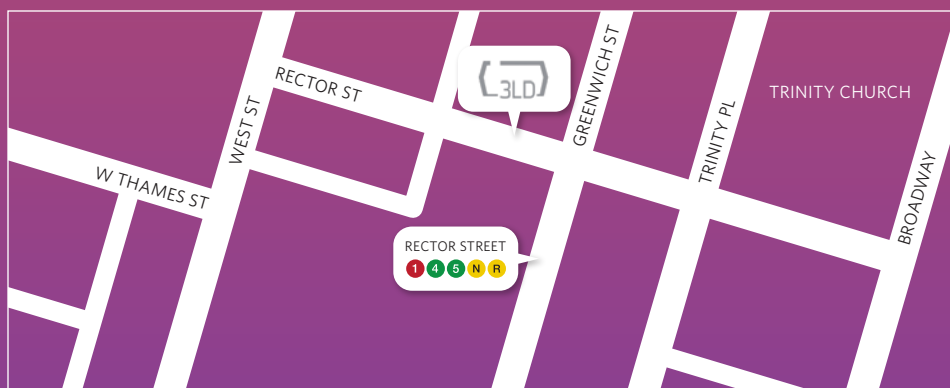
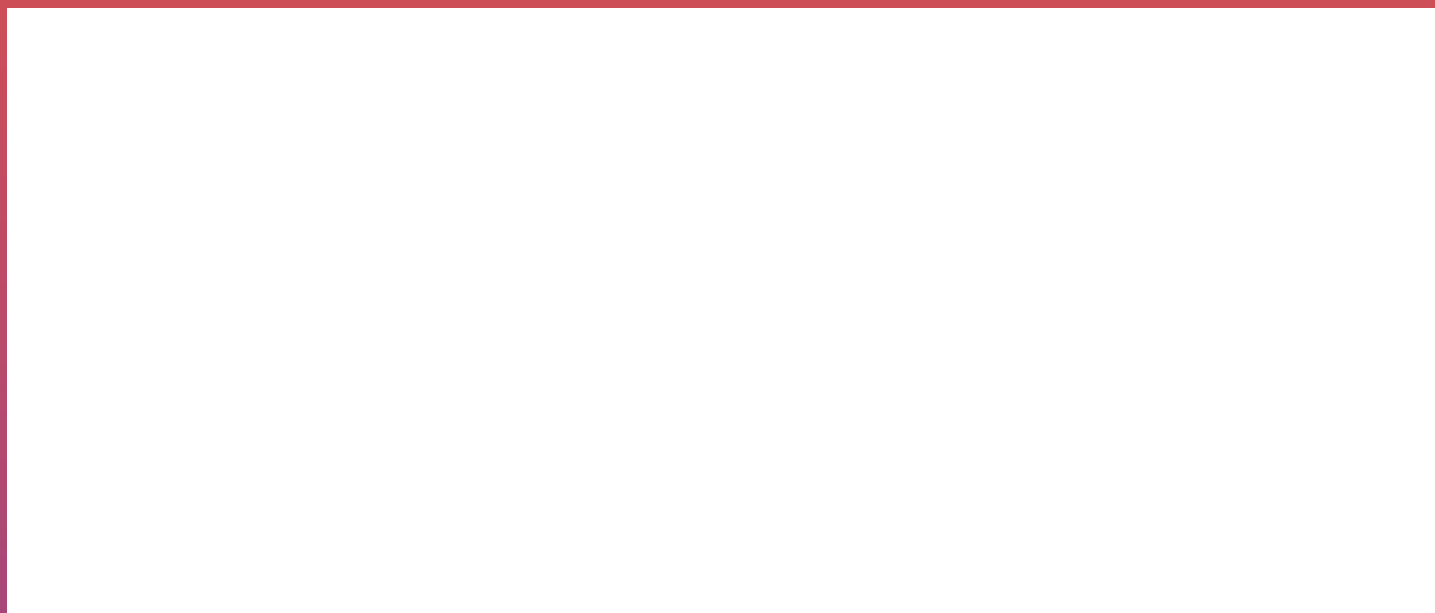
### About the Playwright

Camila Le-Bert is a Chilean actor, playwright and director. She has received the Victor Jara Playwriting Award (Chile) for *Betamax*, the Playwriting Award at the 8 Festival for New Directors (Chile) for *My Three Sisters* and played the lead in the feature film *You Think You're The Prettiest... [But You're The Sluttiest]* (Toulouse Film Festival, Festival de Cine de Valdivia). Her translation of Caryl Churchill's *Far Away*, produced in 2010 by Teatro del Carmen, received two successful runs at the Matucana 100 and GAM theatres in Santiago.

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**School Of The Arts**  
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