

## WOMEN PLAYWRIGHTS SERIES 2004

Now entering its eleventh year, the WPS is proud of a mission to provide a forum for the unique voice of women writing for the theatre today. Through a playwright residency and workshop program sponsored in part by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, each year WPS showcases new works by women playwrights from around the country in a developmental program that offers the playwright the opportunity to work for a short, intense rehearsal period with professional directors, actors and staff, mounting and rewriting the play for a public forum. CSC is proud to also develop new works about our own regional history and culture through the WPS, as in the 2-year-long development of The Tillie Project by Jeanne Murray Walker, which involved collaborations with organizations such as the Historical Society and the Chamber of Commerce, as well as active contributions from the community in the development of the story. Past WPS playwright residents have included a wonderful array of talented writers, including Wendy Hammond, NJSCA Fellow Dominique Cieri, Christina DeLancie, NEA fellow Jeanne Murray Walker, Television, film and theatre writer, Darrah Cloud, *Tony n' Tina's Wedding* co-author, Judy Sheehan, and Jerome Fellows Colin Denby Swanson and Allison Moore. Swanson & Moore have recently been awarded McKnight Continuation Grants in recognition of their work. WPS playwrights' works have gone on to appear on the stages of New York, Louisville's Humana Festival, Chicago's Goodman Theatre, Carnegie Mellon and many more. In 2002, WPS playwright Darrah Cloud was named by Disney as one of the exciting new emerging writers to develop works for Broadway.

### **The Six that Fell** by Laura Henry

Wednesday, April 14 at 7:30 PM

The fertility dance takes on a whole new sheen in this contemporary comedy about six very different women with *one* driving determination! Join this wacky "Babies or Bust" support group for an evening of hilarious antics.



#### **About the playwright:**

**LAURA HENRY** (*The Six That Fell*) has had plays produced Off-Off-Broadway, regionally, and in Canada and the United Kingdom. Her play *The Game* has been produced several times, most notably at the Tennessee Williams Theatre Festival in Memphis, Tennessee. It has also been included in *The Best Stage Scenes of 1998* (Smith & Kraus). Laura's other plays include *Peritonitis Killed The Great Houdini* (Cleveland Public Theatre's New Play Festival - reading at Rattlestick Playwright's Theatre), *Tied Up in Chains* (Peter's Park Repertory Theatre), *The Perseverance of Plenitude* (UCDS's Baldwin New Play Festival and winner of Chameleon Theatre Circle's new play contest), and *There's No Bayville in Texas* (UCDS's Baldwin New Play Festival). . Laura is a recent graduate of the MFA playwrighting program at the University of California, San Diego.

## **The Dew Point** by Nina Beber

Wednesday, April 21 at 7:30 PM

Art historian, Mimi tries to navigate the modern rules of career, relationships, and commitment while her friend Jack tries to break them. Love, integrity and deception in the modern world. A play that goes to the heart of the values that are worth saving in a: What is true, what is fake, what is pure.

### **About the playwright:**

**NEENA BEBER** plays include *Jump/Cut*, *Hard Feelings*, *The Dew Point*, *A Common Vision*, *Tomorrowland*, *The Brief but Exemplary Life of the Living Goddess*, and *Failure to Thrive*. Some of the theatres that have premiered her work: Woolly Mammoth, Theatre J, The Magic Theatre, The Women's Project, New Georges, Padua Hills Playwrights Festival. She has received an A.S.K. Exchange to The Royal Court Theatre in London, an L. Arnold Weissberger Award for Playwriting, a MacDowell Colony Fellowships, grants from AT&T and the NEA, and commissions from Playwrights Horizon, Otterbein College, and The Magic Theater. *Misreadings*, a ten-minute play commissioned and produced by Actors Theatre of Louisville's Humana Festival, was published in *The Best American Short Plays 1996-1997 (Applause)*; it has been produced at numerous theatres across the country. Other one-acts include *Departures*, *Sensations*, and *Adaptive Ruse*, all produced at HB Playwrights Foundation, with subsequent productions at HERE and Circle Rep's West Coast theatre, among other places. *Food* was included in the anthology *Facing Forward* (Broadway Play Publishing) and adapted for the screen (*Bad Dates*, dir. Des McAnuff). Other theatres that have developed Neena's plays through readings and workshops include The Public Theatre, Seattle's ACT, A.S.K. Theatre Projects, New York Theatre Workshop (Just Add Water Festival), MTC, MCC, GeVa Theatre, Circle Rep and Circle Rep Lab, Ensemble Studio Theatre, South Coast Rep, Primary Stages, Lincoln Center Directors' Lab, Echo Theater, and The Playwrights' Center's Midwest PlayLabs. She is a member of New Dramatists, The New York Playwrights Lab, HB Playwrights Unit, and The Women's Project. Neena has contributed articles to *American Theatre*, *Theatre*, and *Performing Arts Journal*, and her fiction has been published in *The Sun*. She has worked with children in theatre programs at SUNY-Purchase and The 52nd Street Project; she has also taught at Padua Hills Playwrights Festival. Her children's television writing has garnered Emmy and Ace Award nominations, including Head Writer of *Clarissa Explains it All* (Nickelodeon) and *Little Bear* (Nick Jr.), which she adapted for television from the Maurice Sendak/Elsa Minarek book series; she also adapted Erica Jong's feminist version of *Rip Van Winkle* for HBO's *Happily Ever After* series, and scripted the award-winning animated shorts *Girl With Her Head Coming Off* (animator Emily Hubbley). B.A. magna cum laude Harvard University, specializing in Latin American Literature; M.F.A. N.Y.U.'s Tisch School of the Arts, where she was a Paulette Goddard Fellow and recipient of a Distinguished Alumni Award.

## **Remember Me** by Ruth Kirschner

Wednesday, April 28 at 7:30 PM

When Violet loses twenty years of her memory in a mysterious accident, it is her old friend Gray that she calls in the middle of the night. A reunited friendship rescues both women in this moving new play.

### **About the playwright:**



**Ruth Kirschner** playwright, author, composer, artist, began writing for the theater in 1998 in an attempt to catalog, transform, and transcend catastrophic loss.

Her plays *Fifteen Notes*, *Wabi Sabi*, and *Nightlight*, have been produced in New York (Ensemble Studio Theatre), San Francisco (Phoenix Theatre, Actors Theatre), and Los Angeles (West Coast Repertory). In another lifetime under the name Ruth Young, she

wrote/illustrated 17 books for young children, and animated Miss Piggy, Fozzie Bear, Gonzo, and Kermit the Frog. Her work in fine art has been exhibited at

the Richard Ebert Gallery in San Francisco. In addition, she owns three t-shirts, given to her by friends, bearing the words "Grand Finalist" (O'Neill, Humana, Headlands).

She lives in San Francisco with one great teenage daughter Lucy Young, their cats, dog, and 12 year old goldfish.