

WOMEN PLAYWRIGHTS SERIES 2009

CSC Stages Festival This Year
For Women Playwrights Series – April 22-26

Schedule of Events

Initial Performance – *The Mastodon Project*

Wed., April 22 at 7:30pm

The Mastodon Project Wed., April 22 at 7:30pm

A discussion of the historical discovery of the family of mastodons in Great Meadows; Series of 10-minute plays on the theme.

Play Readings

April 23, 24, 25, and 26, 2009

Thurs., April 23 at 7:30pm – *St. Louie Dreamer* By Kate Lyn Reiter

Fri., April 24 at 7:30pm – *Real Girls Can't Win* By Merri Beichler

Sat., April 25 at 7:30pm – *Posthumous Democrat* By Darrah Cloud

Sun., April 26 at 2:30pm – *The Retirement Years* By Emily Bentley

'Dine and 'Dish'' With the Playwrights (includes dinner)

Fri., April 24 at 5:30-7:00pm

Free Writing Workshop

Sat., April 25 at 10am-12:30pm

It's NOT just for women!

Family drama, a college comedy, and a mystery about a missing family member make up just some of the dramatic action at the Spring 2009 Women Playwrights Festival at the Centenary Stage Company, April 22-26 in Hackettstown.

Women writers from around the country will converge in Hackettstown for the five-day event, which will include dramatic workshop-presentations of 4 new full-length plays by women writers, a 10-minute play competition based on the discovery of the "Harvard Mastodon" in the great swamp north of Hackettstown in the mid-19th century, a writing class, and a panel discussion on the nature of writing for the theatre and the state of the art for women playwrights.

Festival Events

Initial performance- *The Mastodon Project*

Performances will open on Wed., April 22 at 7:30pm with *The Mastodon Project* which will feature a discussion of the historical discovery of the family of mastodons in Great Meadows, the remains of which now reside in the Harvard Museum, followed by a series of 10-minute plays on the theme.

Play Readings

***St. Louie Dreamer* By Kate Lyn Reiter**

Thurs., April 23 at 7:30pm

Featured full length plays will begin with *St. Louie Dreamer* by Yale alumna and stand-up comedian Kate Lyn Reiter on Thurs., April 23 at 7:30pm. In this blues-infused play with music, scientist Susan comes face to face with her libidinous, red-haired alter-ego in a struggle to exorcise her inner W.A.S.P.

Reiter graduated of the Yale School of Drama and a member of Actors' Equity Association & The Dramatists Guild. Kate Lyn teaches acting, directing, playwriting, and general theatre. Kate Lyn wrote and performed character comedy and stand-up comedy in New York City for several years. Her comedy performances included appearances on Comedy Central, Fox Network and New York City clubs, and earned a NYC Backstage Bistro Award for Comedy Performance and a nomination for Manhattan Association of Cabarets' MAC Award. Locally, Kate Lyn directs frequently at the Centenary Stage Company and the Black River Playhouse in Chester.

***Real Girls Can't Win* By Merri Biechler**

Fri., April 24 at 7:30pm

With themes exploring modern technology, body image and popularity for millennials, Ohio playwright Merri Biechler's *Real Girls Can't Win* is a contemporary look at the challenges facing young women today. In *Real Girls...*, college freshman Katie considers herself a 'real girl,' but when beauty queen Dakota announces she's running for 'Miss Freshman B Dorm,' Katie joins the race in the name of 'Real Girls' everywhere. But in an age of Internet images and instant fame, how does a girl stay real?

Biechler was a founding member the Edge Theatre with fellow North Carolina School of the Arts classmates Peter Hedges, Mary-Louise Parker, and Joe Mantello, and acted in more than a dozen new plays with the company. As an actor, Biechler appeared Off-Broadway in Tony 'n Tina's Wedding, has been seen in the films *He Said, She Said*, *Man of the Year*, and *The Thing Called Love*, and guest starring parts on TV in *E.R.*, *Judging Amy*, *Murphy Brown*, and *Love and War*. She has written for the Kennedy Center/White House Historical Assoc., and is a recipient of the Jane Chambers Playwriting Award, among others. "Real Girls..." will be performed on Fri., April 24 at 7:30pm.

***Posthumous Democrat* by Darrah Cloud**

Sat., April 25 at 7:30pm

Veteran television, film and stage author playwright Darrah Cloud returns to CSC with her new play *Posthumous Democrat* on Sat., April 25 at 7:30pm. In this family drama full of unpredictable twists and turns, Catherine begins the task of settling her father's estate when a surprising mystery about her father begins to unravel, including a lost brother, and a series of inexplicable phone calls from her dead father's apartment.

Cloud's stage plays, among many, include the adaptation of Willa Cather's "O'Pioneers," which was performed by John Houseman's Acting Company and televised for Public Television, "The Stick Wife," "Heartland," and "Dreamhouse," which was performed at CSC. Cloud had written more than a dozen movies for NBC and CBS, including "The Haunted," which still airs on the Sci Fi network, and "A Holiday Romance" with Gerald McRaney, Naomi Judd and Andy Griffith.

***The Retirement Years* by Emily Bentley**

Sun., April 26 at 2:30pm

In Emily Bentley's new play, *The Retirement Years*, Marge and Charlie are happily ensconced in the quiet daily schedule of easy retirement when Charlie's ex-wife suddenly appears on the scene, complete with an unexpected

demand. The confrontation reveals a whole new side of Charlie to the bewildered Marge, who decides upon action of her own.

Bentley hails from Washington, D.C. where her work has been performed in the Page to Stage Festival at the Kennedy Center. The playwright's arrival on the Centenary Stage is a tribute to the alma mater of her mother, a graduate of Centenary College some 50 years earlier. *The Retirement Year* will be performed on Sun., April 26 at 2:30pm.