

## 50 to Watch

The Dramatists Guild wanted to recognize writers of exceptional merit and promise, so we asked nominators (some hundred writers, teachers, and producers across the country) to submit recommendations to the publications committee, which reviewed every nominee. It was difficult to narrow the vast field of submissions, but we are proud to present our first list of 50 dramatic writers (and writing teams) that theater professionals across the country believe are worth watching.



LUCY ALIBAR founded juiceboXXX dancetheater with choreographer Brian Maloney and director Zoe Aja Moore. Works: *Juicy and Delicious*, a bluegrass musical about sex, aurochs, and Southern food (The Tank, Collective Unconscious); *Friend of Dorothy*, about Judy Garland (European tour); *Gorgeous Raptors*, about girls and dinosaurs (YPI, Cherry Lane). Upcoming: *Mommy Says I'm Pretty on the Insides* at Williamstown Theater Festival.



WILL ARONSON is a writer-composer from Conn. who earned his BA in Music from Harvard Univ. (where he wrote for Hasty Pudding Theatricals) and recently earned his MFA in Musical Theatre Writing from the Tisch School at NYU. He's been the recipient of a Fulbright grant, an ASCAP Loewe scholarship, and a Baryshnikov Arts Center fellowship.



CHAD BECKIM plays include *'nami*, the forthcoming *Lights Rise on Grace*, and *...a matter of choice* (which he is currently adapting for the screen). He received his BFA from Utica College and is an MFA playwriting student at Brooklyn Coll. Chad is a co-founder and co-artistic director of Partial Comfort Productions.



BARTON BISHOP is author of *Up Up Down Down*, *bloodurstmudbones* (commissioned by Florida Stage), *Peaceful Easy, bliss*, *God's Daughter*, and *Still the River Runs*. His work has been read or produced in New York, Los Angeles, Montana, and Florida, where he was a three-time winner of the Florida Playwrights Process award. He received his MFA from NYU's Dramatic Writing department.



ZAYD DOHRN grew up underground and on communes across northern California. His plays have been seen at Alchemy Theater, Prop Thtr., Kitchen Dog, EST, Studio 42, and Boston Playwrights', where *Permanent Whole Life* won the IRNE for Best New Play. Zayd received his MFA from NYU, where he was Dean's Fellow and won the Goldberg Prize in Playwriting.



MARIANA ELDER is the bookwriter for *The Burnt Part Boys*, with lyricist Nathan Tysen and composer Chris Miller, which received a production at Barrington Stage in 2006 and is in development with Vineyard Theater. As librettist, she is writing two projects with composer Carmel Dean. Her awards

include the 2004 Ensemble Studio Theater Rusty Magee Fellowship and Daryl Roth Award.



MIKE FOLIE is a resident playwright at N.J. Rep, which has produced many of his plays, including *Panama*, *Lemonade*, *Slave Shack* and *The Adjustment*. His plays have been produced both Off- and Off-Off-B'way in NYC, regionally around the US, and internationally. His most recent play, *Alfred Kinsey: A Love Story*, was commissioned by producer George W. George.



COLETTE FREEDMAN is a playwright and actress with a BA from Haverford and MA from Colgate. Her *Sister Cities* will premiere in NY this Oct. at T. Schreiber Studio. Her other plays include *First to the Egg*; *Shosbanab's Shabbat*; *Finding Fred Mertz*; *Deconstructing the Torah*; *Bridesmaid #3*; *Rock, Paper, Scissors*; *Ellipses...*; and *Serial Killer Barbie*. [www.curtainrise.com](http://www.curtainrise.com).



MARCUS GARDLEY teaches at Columbia. His play *Love Is a Dream House in Lorin* was nominated for the Steinberg Award. Other plays: *dance of the holy ghost* (Yale) and *like sun fallin...* (Nat'l. Black Theater Fest.) He is recipient of the Gerbode, NAMT, ASCAP, and Mid-Atlantic Arts awards. He participates in the NEA/TCG playwriting residency, New Dramatists, and the Lark.



KIRSTEN A. GUENTHER is a book-writer, lyricist, and former journalist in Paris, where she wrote the weekly column *The Sexy Expat*. Her work includes book and lyrics for *Little Miss Fix-It* at NYU and book for *Alive at 10*, which was selected for this year's ASCAP workshop and will be workshopped at Carnegie Mellon-Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera this October.



ADAM GWON is a composer-lyricist whose musicals include *Ordinary Days*, *Ethan Frome*, and *Lulu*. He was a 2006-07 Dramatists Guild musical theater fellow and is a graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. This summer, he's working on a new musical with playwright Julia Jordan and director Joe Calarco and

penning music for Williamstown Theater Festival. Visit [www.adamgwon.com](http://www.adamgwon.com).



JON HALLER studied writing at Columbia. His plays include the ACTF National 10-Min. Play finalists *Lusona* (seen at Bailiwick, Chicago), *Duel* and *Pentimento* (at State Theater, Olympia, Wash.); *In the Arboretum*, published in *Monologues for Men by Men*; *The Warp and the Weft* (at Stage Left, Chicago); and *The Sound of Silence*. He's currently writing *Anti-Prom*, a musical.



IKE ISAAC HOLTER recently earned his BFA from DePaul, where his play *Good Worker* premiered, after a workshop at Playwrights Center in Minneapolis. He was co-winner of this year's ACTF Lorraine Hansberry Award, and his work has been seen at *Mixed Blood* in Minneapolis, *Push-Push* in Atlanta, and O'Neill Playwrights Conference.



KATHY HSIEH is an award-winning actor, director, and writer. She is also a founder, producer, creator, writer and actor with SIS Productions' episodic show *Sex in Seattle*. By day she works at the Mayor's Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs for the City of Seattle.



GEORGE HUNKA is a playwright and the founder of theatre minima ([www.theatreminima.org](http://www.theatreminima.org)). He has maintained the prominent theater blog *Superfluties* ([ghunka.blogspot.com](http://ghunka.blogspot.com)) since 2003 and has written about theater for *The New York Times*. George is the recipient of a 2007 Edward Albee fellowship. His plays include *Sustaining*, *In Private*, *In Public*, *Bridal Suite*, and *States of Exception*.



JOE ICONIS (pictured) and ROBERT MADDOCK's rock musical *The Black Suits* will open at MCC this season. Other joint projects include *Triumphant Baby!* and *Plastic! The Musical*. Joe's projects as composer-lyricist include *Things to Ruin* (Joe's Pub) and a musical for Theatreworks/USA. Both won Backstage

Bistro, Daryl Roth, and (separately) Jonathan Larson awards. Joe received a 2007 Kleban Award.



MICHAEL R. JACKSON holds an MFA in Musical Theater Writing from the Tisch School of the Arts Musical Theater Writing Program. He wrote lyrics for a new musical entitled *Menu* and book and lyrics for a new musical entitled *Only Children*, performed most recently as part of the Lincoln Center Director's Lab.

AARON JAFFERIS wrote book and lyrics for *Kingdom* at NY Musical Theater Fest. His solo *No Lie* was seen at Long Wharf, Nuyorican Poets, HERE, Passage Theater, and schools across the country. Theaterworks (Palo Alto) commissioned *Shakespeare: The Remix* (music by Gihieh Lee), on tour for the past three years.



RACHEL JETT is a bookwriter-lyricist who graduated from NYU's MFA program. She's taught at O'Neill Center's National Theater Institute since 1998 and NY State Summer Arts School since 2004. She was a Baryshnikov fellow in 2006. Her writing includes librettos for *Hameko and Lulu* with composer Eric Day and *Sophia Venetia Voyager* with Shoshana Greenberg and composer Moon Hee Park.



DEBBIE JONES' plays include *The Breezeway* and *Jeremy Rudge*. She is director-writer for the independent feature *The Last Christmas Party* and *Butterfly Suicide*, selected for the 2007 Solo Nova festival at P.S. 122, produced by her company Dora Mae Productions. Recipient of the Berilla Kerr Award, Jones has been playwright-in-residence at New Voice, Mint Theater, MCC, and Circle Rep. [www.doramae.com](http://www.doramae.com).



RAJIV JOSEPH's plays have been produced in New York and Los Angeles. He is a former Dramatists Guild and Lark fellow. His most recent work, *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*, has been translated into Spanish and produced as a staged reading in Mexico City.



LA'CHRIS JORDAN is a Seattle playwright, poet, and actress whose latest full-length, *Haram (Forbidden)*, was seen at Seattle Dramatists' 2007 Fest. Her one-acts include *Impressions*, *A Moment of Love*, *Piney Ridge* (which won Actor's Theater of Santa Cruz Eight Tens Fest) and her latest, *The Source*, to be seen at Manhattan Rep's 2007 Summer Fest.



ROBERT KERR graduated from Macalester Coll., St. Paul, Minn., and was a playwright-in-residence at Juilliard. His work includes *The Potato Creek Chair of Death*, *The End of the Road*, and *The Living Section*. He was also a Playwrights' Center Jerome fellow, a Lark fellow, and a founding member of Bedlam Theater in Minneapolis.



TINE LEAR and ELISE FORIER exploded on the children's theater scene with their musical *Cathy's Creek* at the Bonderman Symposium in 2003. Since then, Lear finished her MFA in Musical Theatre Writing at NYU. Forier honed her book-writing skills at O'Neill Center's National Playwriting Conference. Their forthcoming play, *Valerie and the Bear*, will be read in New York this October.



ROBERT LEE and LEON KO are a bookwriter-lyricist and composer team whose musicals include *Journey to the West*, *Heading East* (Rodgers Award), and *Chinese Hell*, developed with Margo Lion and San Francisco's ACT. They're currently writing a musical based on *Please Don't Eat the Daisies* for East of Doheny. They are alumni of NYU's Tisch Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program.

KEN LIN's plays have been developed at South Coast Rep, Wilma Theater, and Flea Theater. He received his B.A. from Cornell and MFA from Yale, where he won the ASCAP Cole Porter Prize, and is a former Fulbright scholar, traveling to study Asian theater. He will be in residence at New Dramatists this year.



DANO MADDEN, a recent Rutgers MFA graduate, won the Kennedy Center's 2007 National Student Playwriting Award for *In the Sawtooths*. Plays include: *Beautiful American Soldier*, second place winner, Univ. of Tulsa's New Works for Women; *The New* at Actors Theater of Louisville; *The Save* at Mile Square Theater; and *Drop* (Samuel French), winner of the KC/ACTF National Short Play Award.



MONA MANSOUR's plays include *Girl Scouts of America* (with Andrea Berloff) at N.Y. Fringe, *Others*, and *Me* and the SLA. A former *Sunday Show* member of The Groundlings, Mona has written for television, with episodes of the CBS series *Queens Supreme* and Showtime's cult hit *Dead Like Me*. She teaches improv and curated (with Lisa Kron) *'Nuff Said* at DTW.



SAM MARKS' plays include *The Joke*, *Nelson*, *The Imprisonment of the Eye*, *The Real Deal*, *Monster Yellow Couch*, *The Bigger Man*, and *Craft*, developed into a HBO series. He's taught playwriting at Harvard and Brown, where he received his MFA. A member of Partial Comfort, Sam is working on an MTV pilot based on his Internet hit *Fuck New York*.

MELANIE MARNICH's plays include *Quake*, *Blur* (Primus Prize), *Tallgrass Gothic*, *Calling All*, *Cradle of Man* (Blackburn finalist, Weissberger nominee), and *These Shining Lives*, which have been seen at NY's Public Theater, London's Royal Court, Guthrie Theater, Arena Stage, and Denver Center, among others. She is a member of Playwrights Center and New Dramatists.



ROSE MARTULA earned a BFA in fiction writing from Columbia Coll. Chicago and an MFA in playwriting from UCLA. Winner of two Audrey Skirball awards, Martula was also a Young Playwrights finalist. Her plays include *A Heavenly Blast*, *Drink Up Baby*, *Ran Wild*, and *Brooklyn*. *Salsa Saved the Girls* opens this fall in London at the Old Red Lion.



TARELL ALVIN MCCRANEY, originally from Miami, earned his BFA in acting from DePaul Univ. and his MFA in playwriting at Yale School of Drama in 2007. Plays include *Without/Sin: A Trilogy* (*The Brothers Size*, *In the Red and Brown Water*, and *Marcus or The Secret of Sweet*) and *Wig Out!*

SCOTT MURPHY and NATHAN CHRISTENSEN are a composer and bookwriter-lyricist who recently graduated from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. They have won Larsen and Rodgers awards and have new work being done at Theaterworks USA and a commission from Old Globe, including *Broadcast* and *The Giver*.



BRETT NEVEU, born in Calif. and raised in Iowa, now lives in Chicago. His recent plays include *The Earl* at A Red Orchid Theater, *Harmless* at TimeLine Theater, and *Eric LaRue* at London's RSC. He's received two commissions from Steppenwolf Theater and the Emerging Artist Award from League of Chicago Theater.

RALPH PAPE wrote *Say Goodnight, Gracie*, which he adapted for TV, and more recently *Hearts Beating Faster*. His other plays include *Beyond Your Command*, *Girls We Have Known*, *Soap Opera*, and *Warm and Tender Love*.



BENJ PASEK and JUSTIN PAUL are recent college grads, but their first musical, *Edges*, has already been produced by dozens of colleges and professional theaters across the country and can be licensed through MTI. They're also writers for Disney Channel's *Johnny and the Sprites* and, at 21, won the 2007 Jonathan Larson Foundation Award, the youngest winners to do so.



LYNN ROSEN's *Back from the Front* was produced by Working Theater this spring. Other plays: *Progress in Flying* (2007 Humana finalist, EST/Sloan commission); *Apple Cove* (Todd Mountain Theater Project, Lark BareBones); *Nighthawks* (Willow



Cabin, NY; Studio Theater, Washington; Samuel French pub.); *Washed up on the Potomac* (EST's 2003 Marathon). Writer-in-residence at New Harmony Project 2007, where she developed *Puddy Tat*.

JOE RUDY is a San Francisco-based playwright whose work includes *Bed* and *Does Dancer Equal Dumb*.



MARK SCHULTZ holds an MFA from Columbia. He won the 2006 Kesselring and 2005 Oppenheimer for *Everything Will Be Different*. His other plays include *Polar Bear*, *Deathbed*, *The Gingerbread House*, *Gift*, and *Magic Kingdom*. He is a founding member and artistic associate of Theater Mitu, member of Rising Phoenix Rep, and coordinator of MCC's Playwrights' Coalition.



PAUL SLADE SMITH began writing after fifteen years as an actor in Chicago, where his credits include the Goodman, Steppenwolf, and Chicago Shakespeare. His second play, *Unnecessary Farce*, premiered at Michigan's BoarsHead Theater last fall and has since garnered two more productions, the first opening this month at Peninsula Players in Wis. He's currently in the national tour of *Wicked*.



VICTORIA STEWART is a professional stage manager turned playwright. Her work has been seen at NYSF Public Theater, Seattle Rep, Donmar Warehouse, South Coast Rep, SPF, Guthrie Theater, and Actors Theatre of Louisville, among others. Her plays include *Live Girls*, *800 Words*, *Hardball*, *Leitmotif*, and *The Bostonians*. She is a core member of Playwrights' Center in Minneapolis.



LYDIA STRYK's plays (including *Monte Carlo*, *The House of Lily*, *The Glamour House*, *Lady Lay*, *Safe House*, *On Clarion*, *American Têt*, and *Ghost Mall*) have been part of festivals across the country and produced at, among others, Denver Center, Perseverance, Steppenwolf, Victory Gardens, HB Studio, The

Contemporary American Theater Festival, and in Germany at Schauspiel Essen and Theaterhaus Stuttgart.



LLOYD SUH was a Dramatists Guild fellow and Lark workshop member, where he developed *American Hwangap* (coming to both New York Stage & Film and Ojai this summer) and *The Children of Vonderly*, to be produced by Ma-Yi Theater Company this fall. He is co-director of the Ma-Yi Writers Lab, the largest resident company of Asian-American playwrights ever assembled.



SARAH TREEM's *Empty Sky*, *Against the Wall*, *Mirror, Mirror*, and *Human Voices* have been developed at Bloomington Playwrights, South Coast Rep, Portland Center Stage, Playwrights Horizons, Primary Stages, and MTC. In 2007-08, *A Feminine Ending* will be produced at Playwrights Horizons, South Coast Rep, and Portland Center Stage. Sarah also teaches at Yale and writes for HBO's *In Treatment*.



NATHAN TYSEN and CHRIS MILLER are a young songwriting team whose musicals include *The Burnt Part Boys* and *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick* (both slated for production in 2007-08). They've won the Larson Award, Rodgers Award, and Vineyard's Hart Award. They also have a commission for a new musical from Lincoln Center Theater.



ED VALENTINE has had plays produced in NYC and across the US. He's twice won Best Full-Length Play (Northeast Region) from ACTF (for *Lizzie* and *Betsy Ross Lies!*). He's a founder of En Avant Playwrights and Cardium Mechanicum, a former Dramatists Guild fellow, and recent NYU MFA grad. His play *Scout's Honor!* premieres in the NY Fringe Festival this summer.



VANDA is psychologist turned playwright. *Still Photos* (previous title: *Why'd Ya Make Me Wear This, Joe?*) was a Blackburn nominee; winner, Ashland New Plays Series; finalist, Reva Shiner, Panowski Award, Playwrights' Center Play Labs, O'Neill Conference, Cherry Lane Alternative Mentor Program. Her play *Vile Affections* was performed in the 2006 NY Intl. Fringe Festival. She is an Edward Albee Fellow.



BEN VERSCHOOR's *The Tragedy of the Brothers Lafferty*, a five-act in iambic pentameter, was recently read by Ensemble Studio Theater in L.A. His other plays include *Pop Will Drink Itself*. Ben is a longtime resident of McCall, Idaho, and, having finished his core studies at Southwestern Oregon Community Coll., will attend Albertson Coll. of Idaho this fall.

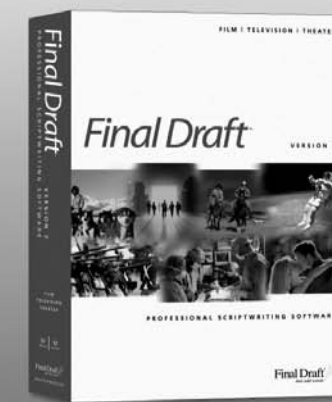


LAUREN WILSON began writing as an ensemble member with Dell'Arte Company. Productions include: *The Golden State*, *The Rag and Bone Shop*, *In the Land of the Grasshopper Song*, and *Bluff* (Dell'Arte); *Chemical Imbalance* (Exit Theater); *Dr. Jeekyll and Mr. Hyde* (Bloomsburg Ensemble); and *Wedding Duet* (Samuel French Festival). Her newest play is *The Slow and Painful Death of Henry Boyle*.



JONATHAN YUKICH's plays have been seen in Canada, Australia, and England, as well as US cities from Anchorage, Alaska, to Buffalo, N.Y. He's received the ACTF Paula Vogel Award, and his *American Midget* premiered this year at the Met Theater, L.A., after development at the Seven Devils Playwrights Conference, where his new play *Girl* will be seen this year. ♦

## Read... Write.



### Read the Industry's Premier Scriptwriting Magazine

*Script* magazine combines practical advice and tips from working writers with a celebration of the scriptwriter's lifestyle. *Script* is now part of the Final Draft, Inc. family of products.

### Write with the Industry Standard Professional Scriptwriting Software

*Final Draft* is the number-one selling word processor specifically designed for writing movie scripts, television episodics and stage plays.

**Dramatist Guild members are entitled to a 25% discount on all products.**

▶ Call (800) 231-4055 for details.