

CHAUTAUQUA THEATER
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Vivienne Benesch & Ethan McSweeney artistic directors

CHAUTAUQUA THEATER COMPANY ANNOUNCES
2006 NEW PLAY WORKSHOP SELECTIONS
Be a vital part of creating great new American theater

"I came to Chautauqua with a still-straggly, up-to-the-last-minute draft and CTC provided a profoundly valuable step in the growth of my play."

- Rinne Groff, author of WHAT THEN (CTC/NPW '05, OBIE Award '06)

P. O. Box 1098
Chautauqua, NY 14722-1098
<http://theater.ciweb.org>

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For additional information contact:
Patrick Fagan
pjente@adelphia.net
716.560.1700

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Artistic Directors Vivienne Benesch and Ethan McSweeney are proud to announce the selection of *AUX COPS* by Quincy Long and *100 SAINTS YOU SHOULD KNOW* by Kate Fodor for CTC's New Play Workshop series in 2006. The two plays were chosen from among more than 85 submissions of original work. In a uniquely Chautauquan twist, the plays were chosen to reflect the Institution's celebrated Morning Lecture Platform, the weekly theme around which intellectual life at Chautauqua is organized.

This summer, *AUX COPS* complements the Week Three theme, "Applied Ethics: The Obligations of Citizenship," and runs July 13, 14, and 15. *100 SAINTS YOU SHOULD KNOW* will correspond to the Institution's Week Six exploration of "Belief in America" and runs August 3, 4, and 5. All performances are in the Bratton Theater and are immediately followed by post-show discussions with the author, director, and cast.

"We were thrilled with the number and quality of submissions this year," said Ms. Benesch, "but both of these works really stood out as being a perfect match for CTC."

AUX COPS is a whimsical comedy about a working class wannabe who dreams of becoming a big time detective but settles for being an auxiliary policeman – an unpaid volunteer for the NYPD. Frustrated by his wife, who just wants him to grow up and get a paying job, he leaves reality behind and goes unofficially undercover to help a fallen young woman. Will this civic-minded volunteer do more harm than good? Quincy Long is the author of *Horse Opera*, *Shaker Heights*, *The Lively Lad*, *People Be Heard*, *The Year of the Baby*, and *The Joy of Going Somewhere Definite*, which won a Fund for New American Plays Award and has been adapted for the screen for Mel Gibson's Icon Productions. His plays have been commissioned and produced by theaters throughout the United States and off-Broadway by Playwrights Horizons,

the Atlantic Theater Company, and Soho Rep. Mr. Long was a finalist for the Outer Circle Drama Critics Award, a runner up for the Kesselring Prize, and a winner of the ASCAP/Cole Porter prize for playwriting.

In *100 SAINTS YOU SHOULD KNOW* the lives of a priest questioning his vocation, two teenagers searching for meaningful connection, and a cleaning lady seeking revelation intersect in a lyric drama which explores the subjects of faith, longing, and human being's capacity for change. **Kate Fodor**, recently named one of "Eight to Watch" in the theater world by *The New York Times*, is one of America's most talented up-and-coming writers. Her first play, *Hannah and Martin*, won the Kennedy Center's Roger L. Stevens Award in 2002.

CTC/NPW introduces audiences to important new voices in the theater, to the staged reading as a thrilling theatrical event in its own right, and to the power of theater to directly and immediately engage contemporary issues.

Inaugurated last summer, CTC/NPW quickly proved to be a highlight of the season. Attendance exceeded expectations and the post-performance discussions were particularly popular with audiences and artists alike. "I was fortunate enough to find one of the only places in the country willing to do politically-engaged, potentially controversial work," David Zellnik, author of last summer's *ARIEL SHARON*... reported. "And I was impressed by the audiences as well: there was always respect and a free exchange of ideas."

Establishing the value of CTC's development process, Rinne Groff's *WHAT THEN*, the second workshop of the summer, went on to an Obie award-winning production at New York's Clubbed Thumb Theater Company this January. According to Ms. Groff, "I came to Chautauqua with a still straggly, up-to-the-last-minute draft and CTC provided a profoundly valuable step in the growth of my play."

Each staged reading rehearses for four days and presents three public performances in CTC's Bratton Theater. Actors retain scripts in their hands and the readings are lightly staged and receive limited technical support: a sketch of what the scenery, costumes, lighting and sound might be in a full production. "The staged reading leaves much of the theatricality in the audience's imaginations," says Mr. McSweeney, "but that is often the best possible place to see a play. I can't tell you the number of times someone has said in a talkback session, 'you should do it just like that.'"

AUX COPS, by Quincy Long, performs July 13 at 8 pm, July 14 at 4 pm, and July 15 at 2:15 pm.

100 SAINTS YOU SHOULD KNOW, by Kate Fodor, performs August 3 at 8 pm, August 4 at 4 pm, and August 5 at 2:15 pm.

Individual tickets for the New Play Workshops are \$10 and can be ordered online 24 hours a day at www.ciweb.org, by telephone at 716.357.6250 (M-F 9 AM to 4 PM), or at the Institution ticket offices in the Colonnade lobby, the Main Gate Welcome Center, and the Turner Community Center.



Deleted: A great success in 2005, Chautauqua Theater Company will once again present CTC/NPW: two new play workshops that in a uniquely Chautauquan twist correspond to the Institution's weekly lecture themes. Last summer's *What Then* by playwright Rinne Groff (winner of a 2006 Guggenheim Fellowship) went on to full production in New York this past January. CTC/NPW offers audiences the opportunity to be a vital part of the process of developing new American plays. ¶

¶ The summer's first new play offering, chosen to complement the Week Three Lecture Platform Theme: "Applied Ethics: The Obligations of Citizenship," will be *Aux Cops* by Quincy Long. The second new play, *100 Saints You Should Know* by Kate Fodor, will reflect Week Six's Theme: "Belief in America." Each staged reading rehearses for four days and performs for three in CTC's Bratton Theater. A discussion with the playwright, director, and actors follows each performance.¶

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A working class wannabe dreams of being a big time detective in this whimsical comedy about an auxiliary policeman – an unpaid volunteer for the NYPD -- who goes unofficially undercover to help a fallen young woman. Known for his unique and witty voice, author **Quincy Long's** plays have been commissioned and produced by theaters across the country and at Playwright's Horizons, the Atlantic, and Soho Rep in NYC. He is the author of *Horse Opera*, *Shaker Heights*, *The Lively Lad*, *People Be Heard*, *The Year of the Baby*, and *The Joy of Going Somewhere Definite*, which won a Fund for New American Plays Award and has been adapted for the screen for Mel Gibson's Icon Productions.¶

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