



Grove Theater Center

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Kevin Cochran, Artistic Director

Charles Johanson, Executive Director



Grove Theater Center
New Play Initiative

The GTC New Play Initiative

**NPI Production
Winners 2005-2009**

Blake...da Musical
by Rick Batalla &
Henry Phillips
*Winner of the 2005 LA
Ovation Award for Best
New Musical
(4 nominations total)*

**A Brief History
of Penguins &
Promiscuity
and Dusk**
both by James
McLindon
*Both "Recommended"
by the LA Times*

Film Chinois
by Damon Chua
*Winner of the 2007 LA
Ovation Award for Best
New Play
(3 nominations total)*

R.R.R.E.D.
by Katie Thompson,
Patrick Livingston &
Adam Jackman
*Four 2008 LA Weekly
Award Nominations*

Eternal Equinox
by Joyce Sachs
*One 2009 LA Ovation
Award Nomination*

**Deadline:
June 15, 2010**

Changes in 2010 include no entry fee and electronic submissions!

The GTC New Play Initiative (NPI) is an intensive play development program in contest form. We are looking for exciting new plays and musicals in any style that are practical for mid-sized theaters to produce.

Since our founding in 1994, Grove Theater Center has worked extensively with playwrights to develop new work (even our inaugural season included two world premieres). In this process, we've used many of the traditional tools including dramaturgical support, informal readings, staged readings, workshops, and full productions. The GTC New Play Initiative codifies all of these play development tools into a single, cohesive, program.

Each program cycle, we choose a minimum of four *Reading Winners*, two *Workshop Winners* and one *Production Winner*. The readings, workshops, and the final production are all directed by GTC Artistic Director Kevin Cochran. Selection of the scripts is done by Cochran, Executive Director Charles Johanson, NPI Literary Manager Sondi Kroeger Foley, GTC Board Member Ruth Seigle and other theater professionals.

Each *Reading Winner* receives a reading of the play with a professional cast and a \$50 royalty award. The readings are informal readings with no staging in front of a small audience with a moderated discussion afterward. Preparation includes several discussions with the director beforehand and about 6 hours rehearsal with the director, cast, and playwright. The playwright and director also meet after the reading for further discussion.

A minimum of two *Workshop Winners* will be chosen from the *Reading Winners*. Each receives a workshop production with an audience and a moderated discussion afterwards and an additional \$100 royalty award. The workshop productions are presented "on their feet" with actors carrying scripts. Basic suggestions of set, costumes, props, and other technical needs will be provided as needed to tell the story. These readings rehearse for one week (about 32 hours) with cast, director and playwright. Acceptance of the Workshop Winner award includes granting GTC an option for producing the play if it goes on to be a Production Winner. All rights revert back to the playwright if the play is not selected.

Finally, one *Production Winner* is chosen from the *Workshop Winners*. This play receives a full production at Grove Theater Center's home theater in Burbank, California plus an additional \$150 royalty award.



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What We're Looking for...

Full-length, original plays or musicals (translations and adaptations are acceptable as long as the playwright clearly has the rights to the source material). By full-length, we mean any script with a running time over 80 minutes that is able to stand on its own as an evening of theater.

- ◆ The script must be unencumbered (no contractual or verbal commitments to producers, theaters, directors or actors at this time).
- ◆ We prefer scripts that have had no previous professional productions (amateur productions, readings, and previous workshops are fine), but will accept any script as long as it hasn't been previously produced in New York at a Broadway or Off-Broadway level or regionally at a LORT A, B, or C level. The key is that the playwright wants to continue working on the script.
- ◆ The play must be practical for a mid-sized professional theater to produce. While we're not setting any specific limits, this does mean a manageable cast size is a plus (anything over 8 starts to become an issue); a production concept which either is fairly simple (one naturalistic set) or easily conceptualized (forty locations identified by sound); and no next to impossible casting requirements (the lead character absolutely must be played by a concert level pianist who can also juggle flaming torches and speak fluent Lithuanian).
- ◆ Playwrights must be able to be present for rehearsals and readings. We don't currently have funding to cover travel stipends, so the writers must either live in Southern California or be able to travel to the area for rehearsals.



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The Procedure

The deadline for submitting a script to the 2010 GTC New Play Initiative is June 15, 2010.

(We begin evaluating scripts as soon as they come in, so one or two *Reading Winners* may be announced before the April 30 deadline.)

E-mail your entry to: NPI@GTC.org

Please make sure to include the following (either as one document or as separate attachments):

The Script as a PDF file.

Any standard play format is fine. Make sure to include a title page with your name, e-mail, mailing address, and phone number(s).

A Cast Breakdown including age range and short descriptions (and any notes on doubling if appropriate).

Development History of the play (if any). Please include the dates and the names of the theaters where any production, workshop or reading of the script has been done.

Your Bio and/or Resume.

If the work is a musical,

A demo CD or tape

should be sent to:

GTC NPI

PO Box 2090

Long Beach, CA 90801

Important Note: Only one submission per playwright is allowed each year (so pick your best play for GTC and send it in!).