

# ARENA STAGE MEDIA RELEASE

Molly Smith Artistic Director Edgar Dobie Executive Producer Zelda Fichandler Founding Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Greta Hays/Kirstin Franko  
[press@arenastage.org](mailto:press@arenastage.org), 202-600-4056

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## ARENA STAGE SEEKS PARTICIPANTS FOR 2016/17 KOGOD CRADLE SERIES AS PART OF THE AMERICAN VOICES NEW PLAY INSTITUTE

**\*\*\* Proposals from interested companies, ensembles and artists due July 15, 2016 \*\*\***

(Washington, D.C.) Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater is seeking proposals from theater companies, ensembles and individual artists interested in participating in the **2016/17 Kogod Cradle Series** as part of the American Voices New Play Institute. Now in its fifth season, the Kogod Cradle Series supports the exploration and development of new and emerging work in the theater's intimate 200-seat Arlene and Robert Kogod Cradle.

The application is available at [arenastage.org/artistic-development/new-play-institute/the-cradle-series/index.shtml](http://arenastage.org/artistic-development/new-play-institute/the-cradle-series/index.shtml), and proposals are due July 15, 2016 for consideration for the 2016/17 season.

Focused on the development of new plays and devised work, this series of readings and workshops invites artists and audiences to actively explore the development process. The series also supports the development of local artists and seeks to further cultivate the local talent pool of playwrights, actors and directors in the Greater D.C. area.

Applicants should propose exciting new work that has a sense of inquiry in form and process, including works-in-progress, workshop productions and open rehearsals. Current available date options for those applying include December 13-18, 2016 and January 3-8 and April 18-23, 2017, with public performances Friday-Sunday.

Arena Stage will provide selected projects, artists and companies with access to space in the Mead Center with no rental fee, some technical support, a listing of the production on the Arena Stage website, the necessary staff support to reserve tickets and manage attendance of the public presentations and dramaturgical support from the artistic development department and American Voices New Play Institute.

Previous installments of the Kogod Cradle Series have helped birth a variety of new projects, including a musical play about the life of Tennessee Williams, an epic poem for the stage, a contemporary opera, a cabaret act featuring performers Eleasha Gamble and Nicholas Rodriguez, classic theater presented with a Commedia dell'Arte spin, a devised dance/theater project and special presentation of a new play from performer and writer Ann Randolph on finding humor in loss.

The series has also featured participation from local companies banished? productions, dog & pony dc, Faction of Fools, force/collision and UrbanArias and showcased the work of playwrights Kevin Armento, Samuel D. Hunter, Rocco Natale and Obie Award winner Caridad Svich and Playwrights' Arena members Norman Allen, Randy Baker, Steven Butler, Patricia Davis, Joshua Ford, Jacqueline E. Lawton, Heather McDonald, Liz Maestri, David Mitchell Robinson, Danielle Mohlman and Shawn Northrip.

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For more information on the Kogod Cradle Series visit [arenastage.org/artistic-development/new-play-institute/the-cradle-series/index.shtml](http://arenastage.org/artistic-development/new-play-institute/the-cradle-series/index.shtml).

For more information on the American Voices New Play Institute at Arena Stage visit [arenastage.org/artistic-development/new-play-institute](http://arenastage.org/artistic-development/new-play-institute).

**The Kogod Cradle Series is generously sponsored by Arlene and Robert Kogod.**

***Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater***, under the leadership of Artistic Director Molly Smith and Executive Producer Edgar Dobie, is a national center dedicated to American voices and artists. Arena Stage produces plays of all that is passionate, profound, deep and dangerous in the American spirit, and presents diverse and ground-breaking work from some of the best artists around the country. Arena Stage is committed to commissioning and developing new plays through the American Voices New Play Institute. Arena Stage impacts the lives of over 10,000 students annually through its work in community engagement. Now in its seventh decade, Arena Stage serves a diverse annual audience of more than 300,000. [arenastage.org](http://arenastage.org).

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