

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 8, 2025

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Arena Stage Receives Edgerton Foundation New Play Award for *Fremont Ave.*

Part of 16 productions nationwide receiving funding to help extend the life of productions beyond their world premiere.

(Washington, DC) — Arena Stage announced it has received the **Edgerton Foundation New Play Award** for ***Fremont Ave.*** by **Reggie D. White**, directed by **Lili-Anne Brown**. The award provides support for additional rehearsal time with the full creative team prior to the world premiere, with the aim of extending the life of the work beyond its first run. *Fremont Ave.* received a two-week extension at Arena Stage following critical acclaim, playing its final performance yesterday, December 7. The play will have its West Coast premiere at South Coast Repertory in spring 2026, with performances scheduled to begin April 25.

“Each year, the Edgerton Foundation’s support sustains the heartbeat of new play development,” said TCG Co-Executive Director of National Engagement **LaTeshia Ellerson**. “By giving playwrights, directors, and their collaborators more time to experiment and refine, these awards ensure that the most daring and transformative stories can take root and thrive beyond their premieres.”

“Reggie D. White’s *Fremont Ave.* exemplifies the kind of layered, courageous storytelling that defines Arena’s commitment to new work,” said Arena Stage Artistic Director **Hana S. Sharif**. “The Edgerton Foundation’s support was crucial in building a story that is as tender as it is unflinching, as vulnerable as it is hilarious, and we’re thrilled for its resonance to expand beyond DC to the West Coast as we partner with our friend David Ivers and South Coast Repertory.”

As part of the **2025 Edgerton Foundation New Play Awards**, *Fremont Ave.* joins 15 other new works receiving support this year. The full list of recipients include:

Reconstruction

at Alabama Shakespeare Festival
by Robert Schenkkan

Dear Alien

at Alley Theatre
by Liz Duffy Adams

Fremont Ave.

at Arena Stage
by Reggie D. White

Cowboys and East Indians

at Denver Center Theatre Co
by Nina McConigley & Matthew Spangler

The Recipe

at La Jolla Playhouse
by Claudia Shear

Aztlan: a Journey Back to Homeland

at Magic Theatre
by Luis Alfaro

The Balusters

at Manhattan Theatre Club
by David Lindsay-Abaire

The Land of the Living

at National Theatre
by David Lan

Sylvia Sylvia Sylvia
at Geffen Playhouse
by Beth Hyland

Ashland Avenue
at Goodman Theatre
by Lee Kirk

Iceboy!
at Goodman Theatre
by Erin Quinn Purcell & Jay Reiss

The Heart
at La Jolla Playhouse
by Kait Kerrigan

My Joy is Heavy
at New York Theatre Workshop
by The Bengsons

The Woman Question
at People's Light
by Suli Holum

Giulia: The Poison Queen of Palermo
at Perelman Performing Arts Center
by Jennifer Nettles

The Monsters: A Sibling Love Story
at Two River Theater
by Ngozi Anyanwu

Over the last 19 years, the Edgerton Foundation has awarded **\$19,670,534 to 569 productions**, leading to nearly 1,600 subsequent productions at TCG Member Theatres following their world premieres. Forty-three have made it to Broadway, including three that had their world premiere or pre-Broadway development at Arena Stage: *Next to Normal*, *33 Variations*, and *Dear Evan Hansen*. Others include *Skeleton Crew*, *Paradise Square*, *Curtains*, *13*, *In the Next Room (or The Vibrator Play)*, *Time Stands Still*, *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*, *A Free Man of Color*, *Good People*, *Chinglish*, *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, *Bronx Bombers*, *Casa Valentina*, *Outside Mullingar*, *All the Way*, *Eclipsed*, *Bright Star*, *Hamilton*, *The Columnist*, *In Transit*, *A Doll's House Part 2*, *Indecent*, *Oslo*, *Escape to Margaritaville*, *The Prom*, *JUNK: The Golden Age of Debt*, *SUMMER: The Donna Summer Musical*, *Head Over Heels*, *Cost of Living*, *English*, *Prayer for the French Republic*, *McNeal*, and *The Constituent*.

Twenty-one plays have been nominated for Tony Awards, with *All the Way*, *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, *Hamilton*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, and *Oslo* winning Best Play or Best Musical. Sixteen plays have been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, with wins for *Primary Trust* (2024), *English* (2023), *The Hot Wing King* (2021), *Cost of Living* (2018), *Hamilton* (2016), *The Flick* (2014), *Water by the Spoonful* (2012), and *Next to Normal* (2010).

Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater, the first racially integrated theater in our nation's capital and a pioneer of the regional theater movement, Arena Stage was founded in 1950 in Washington, D.C. Today, under the leadership of Artistic Director Hana S. Sharif and Executive Producer Edgar Dobie, Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater is a national center dedicated to American voices and artists. We produce plays of all that is passionate, profound, deep, and dangerous in the American spirit, and present diverse and groundbreaking work from some of the best artists around the country. Consistently contributing to the American theatrical lexicon by commissioning and developing new plays, Arena Stage impacts the lives of over 10,000 students annually through its work in community engagement and serves a diverse annual audience of more than 300,000. arenastage.org

The Edgerton Foundation New Plays Program, directed by Brad and Louise Edgerton, was piloted in 2006 with Center Theatre Group in Los Angeles by offering two musicals in development an extended rehearsal period for the entire creative team, including the playwrights. The Edgertons launched the program nationally in 2007 and have supported 564 plays to date at over 50 different Art Theatres across the country.

Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for theatre, leads for a just and thriving theatre ecology. Since its founding in 1961, TCG's constituency has grown from a handful of groundbreaking theatres to over 750 organizations (including member theatres, affiliates, universities) and

over 3,000 individual members. Through its programs and services, TCG reaches over one million students, audience members, and theatre professionals each year. TCG offers networking and knowledge-building opportunities through research, communications, and events, including the annual TCG National Conference, one of the largest nationwide gatherings of theatre people; awards grants and scholarships to theatre companies and individual artists; advocates on the federal level; and through the Global Theater Initiative, TCG's partnership with the Laboratory for Global Performance and Politics, serves as the U.S. Center of the International Theatre Institute. TCG is North America's largest independent trade publisher of dramatic literature, with 21 Pulitzer Prizes for Drama on the TCG booklist. It also publishes the award-winning *American Theatre* magazine and ARTSEARCH®, the essential source for a career in the arts. TCG believes its vision of "a better world for theatre, and a better world because of theatre" can be achieved through individual and collective action, adaptive and responsive leadership, and equitable representation in all areas of practice. TCG is led by co-Executive Directors, Emily Cachapero, LaTeshia Ellerson, and Alisha Tonsic. www.tcg.org

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