

# THE NEW WORKS LAB

The New Works Lab is the play development program of the Alliance of Los Angeles Playwrights (ALAP), a support and service organization for Southern California playwrights. By partnering with L.A. theatres, the Lab produces readings that help playwrights to take their plays from page to stage. Through these partnerships, the Lab fosters relationships between Los Angeles-area playwrights and theatres. By promoting its partner theatres and moderating post-reading discussions, the Lab also cultivates a thoughtful, engaged audience for L.A. theatre.

The Lab and its partner theatres have produced bimonthly readings of new plays since 2002. The Lab has been hosted by a number of Los Angeles theatre companies that specialize in the production of original work, including Alliance Repertory Company, Company of Angels, the Coop Theatre Company, Ensemble Studio Theatre - LA, Greenway Arts Alliance, Met Theatre, Moving Arts, Pacific Resident Theatre, Powerhouse Theatre, Rogue Machine Theatre, Secret Rose Theatre, Theatre 40, Theater Unleashed, Three Roses Players, Theatre Neo, Vox Humana Theatre Company, and WriteAct Repertory Theatre.

New Works Lab is for the playwright's benefit. In addition to hearing the play read by professional actors under the guidance of a professional director, the playwright works with a dramaturge to identify questions about and goals for the play. After the reading, the playwright participates in an in-depth discussion moderated by the dramaturge. To keep this discussion focused on the playwright's needs, only theatre professionals from the participating theatre and ALAP members may attend the reading. The playwrights may invite guests whom they believe will provide thoughtful feedback. Attendees are expected to participate in the post-play discussion. The Labs are not open to the public. At the playwright's request, the New Works Lab will provide a closed reading without an audience.

Writers who have been through the Lab process report that they benefited greatly from the readings, and received helpful feedback which spurred them on to significant improvements in their plays. Several plays have gone on to public staged readings, full productions, and significant awards. Many writers have established warm and lasting relationships with their host theatres.

The New Works Lab was founded, coordinated, and moderated by Isabel Storey from 2002 to 2009. In 2010, Teri Graves took on the role of New Works Lab Coordinator. In January 2012, Alison Hills became the Lab Coordinator.

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. The Lab accepts submissions of full-length plays, or one-act plays longer than 30 pages. Submissions must be *UNPRODUCED*. You may submit one play at a time. If your play is not selected, you may submit the same play again up to three times within one calendar year.

2. Electronic submissions are preferred. Please e-mail submissions to [newworks@laplaywrights.org](mailto:newworks@laplaywrights.org). We strongly advise submitting your play as a PDF.

Hard copy submission may be sent to:

New Works Lab  
Alliance of Los Angeles Playwrights  
7510 Sunset Blvd. #1050  
Los Angeles, California 90046

3. Submissions must be received electronically or postmarked by the deadline - usually the 15th of every other month. Please consult the latest issue of the ALAP newsletter for the current deadline. Electronic submissions will be acknowledged by an email from the Lab Coordinator. For hard copy acknowledgements, please send a self-addressed stamped postcard with your submission. New Works Lab does not return submissions.

4. Only current members of ALAP are eligible to submit to the New Works Lab. If your play is the work of more than one author, all authors must be ALAP members. Membership must be valid through the date of the New Works Lab to be considered for a reading. (Readings are held two months after the submission month.) If you are not a member, a dues check of \$40 (\$20 for current full-time students) must accompany your submission. If you are unsure of your membership status, please write Co-Chair Dan Berkowitz at [DanB@LAPlaywrights.org](mailto:DanB@LAPlaywrights.org).

5. Playwrights whose plays are selected must agree to attend the New Works Lab reading and post-play discussion.

6. Play selections are made by host theatres, not ALAP. If your play is selected, you will be notified within two months after the submission deadline.

If you have questions about the New Works Lab, or the submission procedure, please contact New Works Lab Coordinator Alison Hills at [AHills@LAPlaywrights.org](mailto:AHills@LAPlaywrights.org).

Revised November 2011