



Theatre  
Communications  
Group

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 18, 2016

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## Edgerton Foundation New Play Awards Announce 2016 Recipients

NEW YORK, NY – Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for theatre, is pleased to announce the recipients of the first round of the 2016 Edgerton Foundation New Play Awards. The awards, totaling \$580,000, allow 15 productions extra time in the development and rehearsal of new plays with the entire creative team, helping to extend the life of the play after its first run. Two more rounds of recipients will be announced later this year.

Over the last ten years, the Edgerton Foundation has awarded \$8,644,900 to 297 TCG Member Theatre productions, enabling many plays to schedule subsequent productions following their world premieres. Eighteen have made it to Broadway, including: *Curtains*, *13*, *Next to Normal*, *33 Variations*, *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*, and *Hamilton*. Eleven plays were nominated for Tony Awards, with *All the Way*, *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, and *Hamilton* winning the best play or musical awards. Nine plays were nominated for the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, with wins for *Hamilton* (2016), *The Flick* (2014), *Water by the Spoonful* (2012) and *Next to Normal* (2010).

“Over their ten-year history, the Edgerton Foundation New Play Awards have helped expand the theatrical canon in powerful ways,” said Teresa Eyring, executive director of TCG. “Through their support of an extended rehearsal process for contemporary classics like *Hamilton*, *Eclipsed*, *The Flick*, *Next to Normal*, and *Water by the Spoonful*, the Edgertons have left an indelible mark on our field and culture.”

“The Edgerton Grant has been critical to the realization of this project. The funds allowed us to do two things: to conduct a one week workshop with the entire creative team focused on the text; and to add a week of rehearsal before opening the play in September,” said Tony Taccone, Artistic Director and Co-Adaptor of *It Can't Happen Here* at Berkeley Repertory Theatre. “The grant propelled us forward, giving us the resources and the time to shape our ideas, and the confidence to create a play that has the potential to make a difference.”

The first round of the 2016 Edgerton Foundation New Play Awards were presented to:

### *The Prom*

book by Chad Beguelin and Bob Martin  
lyrics by Chad Beguelin  
at Alliance Theatre

### *A Thousand Splendid Suns*

by Ursula Rani Sarma  
based on the book by Khaled Hosseini  
at American Conservatory Theater

### *It Can't Happen Here*

by Tony Tacconne & Bennett Cohen  
based on a novel by Sinclair Lewis  
at Berkeley Repertory Theatre

### *Value Over Replacement*

by Ruben Grijalva  
at PlayGround

### *The Fundamentals*

by Erika Sheffer  
at Steppenwolf Theatre Company

### *Queen*

by Madhuri Shekar  
at Victory Gardens Theater

### *Cost of Living*

by Martyna Majok

Way of the World  
by Theresa Rebeck  
at Dorset Theatre Festival

JUNK: The Golden Age of Debt  
by Ayad Akhtar  
at La Jolla Playhouse

Bathing in Moonlight  
by Nilo Cruz  
at McCarter Theatre Center

Sunset at the Villa Thalia  
by Alexi Kaye Campbell  
at National Theater

Faceless  
by Selina Fillinger  
at Northlight Theatre

at Williamstown Theatre Festival

Romance Novels for Dummies  
by Boo Killebrew  
at Williamstown Theatre Festival

Poster Boy  
by Craig Carnelia & Joe Tracz  
at Williamstown Theatre Festival

Scenes from Court Life (or The Whipping Boy and his Prince)  
by Sarah Ruhl  
at Yale Repertory Theatre

TCG Member Theatres with a strong and consistent track record of producing new work are invited by the foundation to submit letters of inquiry to [plays@edgertonfoundation.org](mailto:plays@edgertonfoundation.org). A panel of readers reviews the plays and one-time grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$75,000 are awarded.

**The Edgerton Foundation New Plays Program**, directed by Brad and Louise Edgerton, was piloted in 2006 with the 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 297 plays to date at over 50 different Art Theatres across the country. The Edgerton Foundation received the 2011 TCG National Funder Award in June in Los Angeles.

For over 50 years, **Theatre Communications Group (TCG)**, the national organization for U.S. theatre, has existed to strengthen, nurture, and promote the professional not-for-profit theatre. TCG's constituency has grown from a handful of groundbreaking theatres to nearly 700 member theatres and affiliate organizations and more than 11,000 individuals nationwide. TCG offers its members networking and knowledge-building opportunities through conferences, events, research and communications; awards grants, approximately \$2 million per year, to theatre companies and individual artists; advocates on the federal level; and serves as the U.S. Center of the International Theatre Institute, connecting its constituents to the global theatre community. TCG is North America's largest independent publisher of dramatic literature, with 14 Pulitzer Prizes for Best Play on the TCG booklist. It also publishes the award-winning *American Theatre* magazine and ARTSEARCH®, the essential source for a career in the arts. In all of its endeavors, TCG seeks to increase the organizational efficiency of its member theatres, cultivate and celebrate the artistic talent and achievements of the field and promote a larger public understanding of, and appreciation for, the theatre. [www.tcg.org](http://www.tcg.org).

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