

# The Playwrights' Center 2005 Annual Report

## From the desk of Polly K. Carl, Producing Artistic Director

### Vision

The Playwrights' Center is poised to become the nation's new play clearinghouse and America's premier resource for playwrights.

### The Playwrights' Center National Advisory Board

*Edward Albee*

*Lee Blessing*

*Anne Bogart*

*Carlyle Brown*

*Laurie Carlos*

*Gordon Davidson*

*Joe Dowling*

*Oskar Eustis*

*Zelda Fichandler*

*Barbara Field*

*Jeffrey Hatcher*

*James Houghton*

*David Henry Hwang*

*Naomi Iizuka*

*Morgan Jenness*

*Jon Jory*

*Craig Lucas*

*Emily Mann*

*Charles Mee*

*Marsha Norman*

*Kira Obolensky*

*John Olive*

*Paula Vogel*

*Mac Wellman*

*Chay Yew*

*Suzan Zeder*

### Mission Statement

The mission of The Playwrights' Center is to fuel the theater by providing services that support playwrights and playwriting. The Playwrights' Center is committed to the following core values: nurturing artistic excellence and new visions of theater, fostering playwright initiative and leadership, practicing cultural pluralism, discovering emerging artists, advocating for playwrights and their work, connecting playwrights with audiences and developing a community for new work.

### Program Update: Fellowships

The Playwrights' Center remains one of the nation's top playwright granting organizations. Funds for writer programs this year topped half a million dollars, over \$200,000 of which were direct monies in the form of McKnight and Jerome Foundation fellowships to 19 writers at all levels of accomplishment.

### Program Update: PlayLabs Festival

This year's PlayLabs Festival brought eleven top writers together with over 100 theater artists cramming 165 hours into two productive weeks of rehearsal room dramaturgy, resulting in 8 public Twin Cities readings of some of the nation's most exciting scripts-in-progress. This year, PlayLabs was dubbed "one of the nation's most prestigious developmental events." Longtime playwrights often call PlayLabs "the most productive two weeks" of their careers. An astonishing 74% of PlayLabs Festival plays go on to receive productions or professional development opportunities elsewhere.

### Program Update: Lab Services

Our Core Membership program is a newly national program. Our 30-40 Core Members now represent a cross-section of the nation's most important emerging and professional dramatists including Ruth Margraff, Elaine Romero, Kira Obolensky, Melanie Marnich, Jeffrey Hatcher, and Lisa D'Amour, who fly to Minnesota in order to participate in our lab. The Lab's exit surveys show 100% satisfaction and rave reviews of a process that is fast becoming a national model for comprehensive, artist-driven, process-oriented play development.

### Program Update: Other General Member Programs

In order to maximize its usefulness to playwrights and theaters across the U.S., The Center deepened existing programs this year, and unveiled powerful new web services that make our resources more accessible than ever. We launched new web tools (New Play Gallery and Playwright Profiles at [www.pwcenter.org](http://www.pwcenter.org)), new educational partnerships (with the Loft Literary Center and Hennepin Theatre Trust) and new programs (New Plays On Campus). These expansions deepen our impact on the field, serve writers better, reach more people with learning opportunities, and connect us to the theater in new ways. The Center remains, in former Jerome fellow August Wilson's words, "a beacon for playwrights everywhere."

### Who we're attracting (and from where)

Besides announcing the formation of a new National Advisory Board (see list at left), our general member population too is now more geographically diverse than ever. Membership grew 64% last year, to over 500 members in 30 states. Writers are flying from both coasts to take advantage of some of our most basic benefits. The Center is quickly becoming one of the nation's most important playwriting hubs.

## The Playwrights' Center Board of Directors

Mary McGreevy, *President*  
*Community Activist*

Peter Quale, *Vice President*  
*IT Director, Ciceron, Inc.*

Trista Baldwin, *Secretary*  
*Playwright*

Thomas C. Proehl, *Treasurer*  
*Managing Director*  
*Guthrie Theater*

Polly K. Carl, *ex officio*  
*Producing Artistic Director*  
*The Playwrights' Center*

Peter Brosius  
*Artistic Director*  
*The Children's Theatre Co.*

Carlyle Brown  
*Playwright*

Diane Connor  
*Community Activist*

Michael Bigelow Dixon  
*Literary Director*  
*Guthrie Theater*

Barbara Field  
*Playwright*

Mark Steven Jensen  
*Playwright*

Miriam Kelen  
*Consultant*

Jeffrey J. Keyes  
*Attorney, Briggs & Morgan*

Sarah Mc Nerney  
*Creative Director*  
*KNOCK, Inc.*

Faye M. Price  
*Co-Artistic Producing Director*  
*Pillsbury House Theatre*

Sue Remes  
*Owner, Oxul, INC.*

Marcia Stout  
*Consultant*

Carolyn Ziegler  
*Attorney, Community Activist*

Waring Jones, *Honorary*

### How the books look

The Playwrights' Center is happy to report that the fiscal year ended on June 30, 2005 with a \$24,363 surplus. This was due in part to significant growth (64%) in playwright membership. Earned revenue increased overall by about 15%, an important step in strengthening the Center's fiscal stability. After financing long-term liabilities the net surplus for the year is \$4,439, which will be used to create a Board Restricted Operating Reserve. Fundraising expenses hover below 3% of our overall budget, while the total for program services in support of playwrights was over a half million dollars, or 82% of our expenses—an increase of \$39,711 over the previous year. As programs and priorities are refined or refocused over time the underlying fiscal health of the Center remains strong.

### Financial Position 2005

CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash	553,142
Pledges and Prepaid Expenses	514,060
Property/Equipment	948,277
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>2,015,479</b>
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
LONG-TERM DEBT	87,592
NET ASSETS	1,886,125
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES/ASSETS</b>	<b>2,015,479</b>
SUPPORT	
REVENUE	1,034,260
TOTAL SUPPORT/REVENUE	78,572
	<b>1,112,832</b>
PROGRAM SERVICES	
Fellowship Programs	245,886
PlayLabs	89,004
Playwright Development Service	66,989
Other Programs	192,613
	<b>594,492</b>
SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES	
Management	109,643
Fundraising	20,033
	<b>129,676</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>724,168</b>
Change in Net Assets	388,664

*Figures provided by the independent auditing firm of Olsen Thielen & Co., Ltd.*