

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## PLAYWRIGHTS LOCAL ANNOUNCES 2016 - 2017 SEASON

**Company's second year opens with *Objectively/Reasonable*, a documentary play on the Tamir Rice shooting written by the ensemble and directed by Terrence Spivey**

Cleveland, OH; July 5, 2016

Playwrights Local is pleased to announce its 2016-2017 season, its second as Cleveland's only home for all-new, locally written work. Highlights include three world premieres, two festivals, and more of the company's free workshops.

"Our first season allowed us to establish an identity and make connections with playwrights and other theater artists," notes David Todd, the company's artistic director. "Now, we're hoping to bring our style of playwright-driven theater to a wider audience. We have projects lined up that are relevant to the community and that stem from the playwrights' visions. We're excited about having both types of impact."

Featured playwrights include newcomers to the company Amy Schwabauer, Lisa Langford, Michael Oatman, and Mary E. Weems, Ph.D. Additional writers selected for readings and development projects will be announced as the season unfolds.

### **2016-2017 SEASON**

#### ***Objectively/Reasonable:***

#### ***A Community Response to the Shooting of Tamir Rice, 11/22/14***

Written by Playwrights Local

Directed by Terrence Spivey

Conception and dramaturgy by David Todd

August 18 - September 4, 2016

Creative Space at Waterloo Arts

A documentary play on the impact and aftermath of the Tamir Rice shooting, expressing unheard voices from the Cudell neighborhood and Greater Cleveland. This new work lets the people speak, with their fears, reservations, and hopes fueling monologues drawn from original interviews. Created by an ensemble of playwrights—Mike Geither, Tom Hayes, Lisa Langford, Michael Oatman, David Todd, and Mary E. Weems, Ph.D.—*Objectively/Reasonable* features direction by Terrence Spivey, former artistic director of Karamu House.

#### ***The 2nd Annual Cleveland Playwrights Festival***

November 4 - 6, 2016

Creative Space at Waterloo Arts

The second staging of what is intended to become an annual fixture for Playwrights Local. As with the 2015 debut, this year's festival features readings of plays, free workshops with award-winning instructors, audience feedback sessions, professional development seminars, and post-show gatherings. New for 2016 is a collaboration with The Manhattan Project - Cleveland Lab, which will be presenting its own unique showcase of short pieces.

***This is NOT About My Dead Dog***

Written by Amy Schwabauer

Directed by Dale Heinen

January/February 2017

Creative Space at Waterloo Arts

A comedic one-woman show in which playwright and performer Amy Schwabauer explores the lifespan of dogs, the behavior of aquatic life, the challenges of being a young adult who loves to party, and the struggles of leaving childhood behind. Developed with director Dale Heinen and dramaturg Arwen Mitchell as part of Playwrights Local's inaugural Play Lab series in 2016.

***The Mac Wellman Homecoming Festival***

March 23 - March 25, 2017

Drinko Hall, Cleveland State University

A three-day celebration of groundbreaking Cleveland-born playwright Mac Wellman, widely recognized as among the most influential figures of the Off-Off-Broadway era. Presented in partnership with Cleveland State University's Department of English and the NEOMFA Creative Writing Program, and including performances by convergence-continuum, Baldwin Wallace University Theatre & Dance, CSU Theatre & Dance, and Theater Ninjas. Also featured are Playwrights Local's production of *Bitter Bierce*, directed by Christopher Johnston; readings of new pieces by local playwrights inspired by Wellman's exercises; and the presence of the playwright himself! The Homecoming provides long-overdue recognition of Mac Wellman as an essential presence in the lineage of playwrights from Northeast Ohio.

***2017 Play Lab + Spring Workshops***

April 14 - 15, 2017

Creative Space at Waterloo Arts

A series of readings and classes presented at the conclusion of Playwrights Local's second annual new-play incubator. Over a period of four months, selected playwrights expand and revise works-in-progress with the help of assigned dramaturgs and directors, collaborating closely in private sessions. Toward the end of the sequence, these groups are joined by actors in preparation for public readings. Along with audience-response sessions and receptions, another set of Playwrights Local's free workshops round out the Play Lab's culminating event.

***Things as They Are***

Written by David Todd

Original score composed by Ben Chasny

Directed by Anjanette Hall

May 2017

Venue TBC

A play-with-music on the life and work of American poet and insurance executive Wallace Stevens (1879-1955). A collage of scenes, poems, movement, and original compositions, *Things as They Are* looks past the stock image of Stevens as an enigmatic attorney to find a striving son, an uncertain husband and father, a part-time comedian, and a full-time Modern giant. This production features an all-new score written and performed by Ben Chasny, who records for the Drag City label as Six Organs of Admittance. Rights to Stevens' original material are performed by arrangement with Alfred A. Knopf, a division of Penguin Random House.

Playwrights Local is a theater company based in Cleveland. Billed as a playwrights' center, the organization's goal is to provide a home for dramatic writing in Northeast Ohio. They offer classes and workshops, produce original plays, provide professional development opportunities, and engage the community through site-specific projects. Tax-deductible contributions to this 501(c)(3) group can be made at <http://playwrightslocal.org/donate/>.

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