

Call for Applications
THE CASA AWARD

A collaboration between the Playwrights Guild of Canada Women's Caucus
and the African Women Playwrights Network

Deadline August 23rd, 2018

This award will support and mentor a woman-identified playwright living in South Africa who has demonstrated a commitment to playwriting and would benefit from dramaturgical and financial support (\$5000 Canadian dollars).

This award evolved after a group of Canadian playwrights attended the 2015 Women Playwrights International Conference in Cape Town. While in Cape Town, the Canadians were struck by how few African women playwrights were represented at the conference. However, the women playwrights who did attend were extraordinary, with unique and important stories to tell. This award promotes the idea that theatre is an imperative and vital voice, advocating for change as it responds to and reflects the world we live in. Through this award, we aim to support women's playwriting in South Africa while cultivating meaningful artistic connections between Canadian and South African women playwrights.

The CASA Award will go to a female playwright who:

- Will be based in Cape Town or Johannesburg** for a period of a least three months between January 2019 and June 2019;
- Would benefit from vigorous dramaturgical support. This will entail the playwright being in regular contact through email or Skype with a Senior Canadian playwright-mentor. The playwright-mentor will give written or verbal feedback on the play, providing constructive criticism that supports the intentions of the playwright. This feedback should help the playwright grow as a writer and create a better draft of the play. The playwright applicant should be open to this process;
- Is writing a specific project and has already completed a first draft or a multi-page outline for a play. The play should require no more than five actors. The play can include multiple languages, but must be written predominantly in English. The mentee's project must be a play that is written/scripted rather than a devised or collectively created piece. That said, we are not interested in imposing regulations for a European/Western writing style, rather, we are open to other aesthetic forms. No one-person plays or musicals, please;
- Is willing to commit to this project, full time, for a period of three months;

- Has solid playwriting experience: including at least one produced play, defined as a piece of theatre based on a written script, performed in front of a paying audience.

****NOTE:** while our connections are in Johannesburg and Cape Town, we are also open to the winner working out of her own community as long as there is a suitable, professional theatre company that is willing to be a host. If this is the case for you, please let us know on your application.

The winning applicant will receive:

- A space to write, at either the Theatre Arts Admin Collective in Cape Town or The Hillbrow Theatre in Johannesburg for a period of three months;
- Regular dramaturgical feedback (in English) from a senior woman Canadian playwright-mentor via email or Skype;
- A collection of contemporary plays by Canadian women playwrights;
- \$5000 (Canadian) to be used as subsistence for *full time writing* for a period of three to four months. The funds will be issued in three installments. **Note: we do not provide a place to live or additional funds for travel, however, the funds the winner receives can be applied towards accommodation and/or travel.**
- A workshop/ reading of the completed work led by a senior South African woman director-mentor.

The winning applicant will be expected to:

- Sign an agreement that sets out the terms of the award;
- Share aspects of her residency experience in a blog or newsletter, to be shared with both the African Women Playwrights Network (AWPN) and Playwrights Guild of Canada (PGC) Women's Caucus members;
- Have some creative interaction within the space she is working at: this could be a public reading, conducting a workshop, talking to students and/or attending shows;
- Be in regular contact with the Canadian dramaturge, South African mentor and residency sponsor;
- Submit a short report on the value of the award, due within one month of finishing the residency.

How to Apply

Please send the following information, in one PDF document, with your name and full contact details on the first page:

- A CV/resume or bio – no more than two pages;
- A synopsis (no more than 250 words) of the play you are working on;
- A 250-word statement about the play and why you want to write it. Why is it important to write this play? What does it say about the world we live in? Address the development of the play. Where did the idea come from? What stage is the writing at (outline/first draft...)?
- A 250-word description on why you should get this award. Do you have financial need? Why do you want this award now? How will it help your work as a playwright? What do you hope to accomplish during the residency?
- A note where you want to be based, preferably Cape Town or Johannesburg, but you may make a case for a residency elsewhere.
- An outline and/or scene sample from the script you are proposing to work on. This should be no less than 10 and not more than 15 pages. The play should require no more than five actors. The play can include multiple languages, but must be written predominantly in English.

Women-identified playwrights from all backgrounds are invited to apply. We particularly encourage women of colour to submit an application.

The selection committee includes South African theatre artists Amy Jephta, Sara Matchett and Jennie Reznik, as well as Canadian chair: Marcia Johnson.

Please email (subject line: “CASA Application 2018”) your complete application as one PDF attachment to: thecasaaward@gmail.com by August 23, 2018. The winner will be announced in mid-November. The residency will take place in the first half of 2019.



Questions: please email thecasaaward@gmail.com