

NEW DRAMATISTS
VAN LIER PLAYWRITING FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION

INTRODUCTION

New Dramatists is now accepting applications for the 2010-2011 round of the Van Lier Playwriting Fellowship Program. The two-year program was established to help young, economically disadvantaged playwrights living in New York City develop their talent and become involved in the professional theatre community. Fellowship recipients are provided with a fellowship grant, a mentor (New Dramatists resident playwright) and opportunities to workshop their plays with professional actors and directors.

Three two-year fellowships of \$10,000 (\$5,000 a year) will be awarded to playwrights 30 years old or younger who are not enrolled in college or graduate school.

The Van Lier program at New Dramatists is a way for young playwrights to become immersed in the professional world. In addition to receiving the cash grant, each Fellow is mentored by a New Dramatists resident playwright. The Fellows meet regularly with their mentors to discuss artistic and career considerations, and they have the chance to develop their work through readings and limited workshops. The Fellows are welcomed as participants in the life of the community of playwrights at New Dramatists, which has a full schedule of play and musical readings, workshops, guest artist residencies, special seminars, meetings, and events. Lastly, the Fellows' scripts are included in the New Dramatists library and in the Play and Playwrights' Catalogue.

Eligible playwrights include U.S. citizens who are Asian-American, African-American, Arab-American, Native American or Latino. The fellowship period is from February 15, 2010 to August 15, 2011. Past Van Lier Fellows have included Robert O'Hara, Carmen Rivera, Steven Sapp, alumni Diana Son, Lynn Nottage, and Eisa Davis.

NEW DRAMATISTS INC.

New Dramatists is a nonprofit organization dedicated to finding gifted playwrights and giving them the time, space and tools to develop their craft so they may fulfill their potential and make lasting contributions to the theatre.

Michaela O'Hara, along with a committee of prominent theatre professionals, including Howard Lindsay, Russel Crouse, Moss Hart, Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II, founded the organization in 1949 and served as mentors to young playwrights admitted to the group. New Dramatists members and alumni have won Pulitzer Prizes, Tony Awards, Obie Awards, Susan Smith Blackburn Awards, Drama Desk Awards, and MacArthur Awards. Members have included James Baldwin, Mac Wellman, Emily Mann, August Wilson, Maria Irene Fornes, John Patrick Shanley, Suzan-Lori Parks, Paula Vogel, Ed Bullins, Lanford Wilson, David Lindsay-Abaire, Lynn Nottage, and John Guare.

The Van Lier Playwriting Fellowship Program is made possible by a grant from the Edward and Sally Van Lier Fund of the New York Community Trust.

FORMAL GUIDELINES FOR NEW DRAMATISTS' 2010-2011 VAN LIER FELLOWSHIP

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Individual Playwrights
- Age 30 or under
- Post-college/ Post-formal training
- Economically Disadvantaged
- U.S. citizens who are Asian-American, Arab-American, African-American, Native American or Latino
- Residents of New York City
- Previous or current recipients of Van Lier Fellowships are ineligible.
- Undergraduate or Graduate students who are, or plan to be, matriculating in any degree program from the years 2009 through 2011, and New Dramatists playwrights, board members and staff are INELIGIBLE.
- The post-college/ post-formal training requirement clarifies our intention to assist writers who have achieved a significant level of skill/expertise and commitment to the theatre, but who have not yet made the transition into a professional career. A college degree is not mandatory.
- The economically disadvantaged requirement reflects our intention to support writers who are not financially privileged; i.e., who would otherwise not have access to funds required to pursue their artistic endeavors. Finalists may be asked to offer some documentation of economic status such as a Family Financial Statement (FFS) or a Federal Tax Return.

CRITERIA BY WHICH APPLICATIONS ARE REVIEWED

- Artistic and Creative Talent
- Potential to succeed as a professional playwright
- Extent to which the Fellowship will advance the writer's goals and career

TIMETABLE OF FELLOWSHIP ADJUDICATION PROCESS

- Deadline to Apply December 15, 2009 (NOT A POST-MARK DEADLINE)
- Awards Announced January 15, 2009
- Fellowship Period February 15, 2010 to August 15, 2011

*Up to three Fellowships may be awarded for the 2010-2011 Fellowship, at the discretion of the committee.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants are required to submit:

- APPLICATION FORM (4 copies)
- ONE LETTER OF REFERENCE (4 copies)
- RESUME – LIMIT TO ONE PAGE (4 copies)
- 1 FULL LENGTH PLAY
- SASE (if you'd like your work returned)

The application form, letter of reference, resume, and work sample must be received by New Dramatists by **December 15, 2009**. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted. Address your application to:

Van Lier Playwriting Fellowship Program
New Dramatists
424 West 44th Street
New York, NY 10036

NEW DRAMATISTS
VAN LIER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
2010-2011 APPLICATION

Please type or print neatly.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Social Security# _____

Date of Birth _____

Telephone - Day () _____

Telephone - Evening () _____

Email address (if applicable): _____

On a separate sheet, please describe your artistic/ aesthetic interest and goals, and how would you make use of the Fellowship to advance your career as a playwright. (Attach separate sheet.)

PLAY INFORMATION

Title: _____

My signature below certifies that I have reviewed and meet the Van Lier Fellowship eligibility requirements, and that the information provided in this application is true to the best of my knowledge. I acknowledge that New Dramatists is not liable for damage or loss of material and work sample submitted.

Signature of Applicant

Date

NEW DRAMATISTS
VAN LIER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
FINAL CHECKLIST

- 4 COPIES of the APPLICATION FORM
- 4 COPIES of YOUR LETTER OF REFERENCE
- 4 COPIES of YOUR 1 PAGE RESUME
- 1 COPY OF YOUR PLAY (Labeled With Your Name and Address and Title – DO NOT SEND ORIGINALS, PLEASE)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 15, 2009

To receive additional information or assistance with your application call New Dramatists at (212) 757-6960, and ask for the Van Lier Fellowship Coordinator, extension 23.