In Good Company

If you’re a dedicated reader of atPlay, you may remember our announcement in the 2017 newsletter of brand new partnerships between DPS and some of the best theater organizations in the country: The Lilly Awards, co-creators of The Count, an annual data-based report of gender disparity on American stages, and the only major theater organization presenting exclusively to women theater artists; the esteemed new play development organization The Lark; and Waterwell, an incredible theater-education and production company that presents innovative professional work and runs the drama program at the Professional Performing Arts School in New York City.

The 9th–annual Lilly Awards were presented May 21st, 2018, at the Minetta Lane Theatre, with social media takeovers by the crack DPS marketing team! Presenters included Lilly Awards founder and DPS playwright Julia Jordan, Ira Glass, Sarah Ruhl, Mandy Greenfield, Celia Keenan-Bolger, David Cromer, and Cusi Cram. We were overjoyed to watch the incomparable Eve Ensler win the You’ve Changed the World Award, and DPS family member Jocelyn Bioh win Williamstown Theatre Festival’s With the Females Award.

In November 2018, The Lark held their annual Playwrights’ Week, a week-long reading series of five plays-in-progress. 2018’s plays were selected through a rigorous blind-read process of over 1,200 submissions. Playwrights’ Week kicks off annually with a Meet the Writers event sponsored by DPS. We heartily congratulate Erin Buckley, Charly Evon Simpson, Franky D. Gonzales, Stacey Rose, and Juliana Taveras for being 2018’s five chosen writers, and for presenting excerpts from such beautiful, personal, and thematically varied plays.

Waterwell’s moving and prescient docu-drama THE COURTROOM was created from verbatim courtroom transcripts of the trial and appeal hearing of a Filipina immigrant married to a US citizen, who inadvertently registered to vote when applying for her driver’s license at an Illinois DMV and was threatened with deportation for election fraud. Transcripts were edited and arranged by Waterwell co-founder Arian Moayed, and the site-specific production premiered in February 2019 at the Thurgood Marshall Courthouse in New York City. THE COURTROOM as well as Arian Moayed and co-founder Tom Ridgely’s bilingual Persian/English HAMLET are forthcoming from DPS.

INSIDE: 2018/2019 Grand Entrances

13 bold playwrights new to the catalogue
At fifteen years old Kelechi left Nigeria for the United States, leaving her family and her culture behind. Years later, she is now a best-selling novelist and must return to Nigeria to care for her ailing father. After being absent for over a decade, she must collide with her culture, traumatic past, regrets, and the deep-seated love that she thought would always be out of reach. (2 men, 6 women)

Also by Anyanwu: GOOD GRIEF.

In 1960, a Yale senior finds himself helping Stanley Milgram pilot his soon-to-be controversial “obedience experiments.” Another Yale senior is forced to confront his role in a recent scandal, and mirroring the experimental work that his classmate is undertaking, comes to understand the ways in which conformity can push us to act against our conscience. (7 men, 1 woman)

Winner of the 2019 Pulitzer Prize in Drama. At the Frasier household, preparations for Grandma’s birthday party are under way. Beverly is holding on to her sanity by a thread to make sure this party is perfect, but her sister can’t be bothered to help, her husband doesn’t seem to listen, her brother is MIA, her daughter is a teenager, and maybe nothing is what it seems in the first place…! FAIRVIEW is a searing examination of families, drama, family dramas, and the insidiousness of white supremacy. (3 men, 5 women)

Also by Sibblies Drury: REALLY.

On a plantation somewhere down south, a mystical tree reaches up toward heaven. Generations of slaves have been hanged on this tree. But James is going to be different, as long as he keeps his head down and practices his reading. Moreover, as the Civil War rages on, the possibility of freedom looms closer than ever. When a stranger arrives on the plantation, a striking romance emerges, inviting the couple and those around them into uncharted territory. (2 men, 3 women)

Also by Lew: TIGER STYLE!; microcrisis.

Inside every adolescent brain, 86 billion neurons connect and collide to produce the most frustrating, chaotic, and exhilarating changes that happen to human bodies. BRAINSTORM is a theatrical investigation into how teenagers’ brains work, and why they’re designed by evolution to be the way they are. Created in collaboration with neuroscientists, the play is a blueprint for a company of teenagers to create by drawing directly on their personal experiences. (flexible casting)

Also by Love: FIREFLIES.
Gus Marcantonio, a retired longshoreman, summons his sister and his three children to a most unusual family reunion in their Brooklyn brownstone. With humor and passion, the play examines the importance of connectedness and belonging—to a family, a community, a group, an ideology, a marriage—and what happens when those connections are lost.

**The Hard Problem**

Hilary, a young psychology researcher at the Krohl Institute for Brain Science, is nursing a private sorrow. She needs a miracle, and prays daily for deliverance from a secret regret. Meanwhile, she and the other researchers at the institute are grappling with the troubling “hard problem,” which asks: If there is nothing but matter, what is consciousness? For Hilary, the possibility of genuine human altruism, without a hidden Darwinian self-interest, depends on the answer.

**Intelligent Homosexual’s Guide to Capitalism and Socialism with a Key to the Scriptures, or iHo**

In the summer of 2007, Gus Marcantonio, a retired longshoreman, summons his sister and his three children to a most unusual family reunion in their Brooklyn brownstone. With humor and passion, the play examines the importance of connectedness and belonging—to a family, a community, a group, an ideology, a marriage—and what happens when those connections are lost.
DPS on Broadway: These DPS plays made their Broadway debut in the 2018–2019 season

- CHOIR BOY by Tarell Alvin McCraney
- STRAIGHT WHITE MEN by Young Jean Lee
- HILLARY AND CLINTON by Lucas Hnath

Check out the Play Service’s new plays from past years’ emerging playwrights:

- YOU ON THE MOORS NOW by Jaclyn Backhaus
- THE GENTLEMAN CALLER and THE BURN by Philip Dawkins
- KILL MOVE PARADISE by James Ijames
- ANOTHER MEDEA and SQUEAMISH by Aaron Mark
- GOD SAID THIS by Leah Nanako Winkler

Meet these writers and the rest of past years’ classes on our atPlay Newsletter page at www.dramatists.com (under About DPS).