

About the 2009-2012 Playwrights, Directors & Plays



Leegrid Stevens (Steven Gridley) (Playwright-in-Residence) plays have been seen

in downtown New York theatres such as Lark Theatre, Here Arts Center, Ontological-Hysteric Theatre, Theatre for the New City, Urban Stages, and Ensemble Studio Theatre as well as several theaters across the US and Europe. Stevens was named as one of the "People of the Year" by nytheatre.com saying, "*Indisputably one of the smartest and most innovative young playwright/directors working in New York's Indie theatre scene.*" His plays have been published by Playscripts, Brooklyn Publishers, Stage Tribes, Smith & Kraus, and by The New York Theatre Experience. As 2009-2012 Playwright-in-Residence at the Blue Theatre, new works development and directorial/playwriting mentoring collaboration on selected plays includes: Full Staged Productions of *Post-Oedipus*, *The Dudleys!: A Family Game*, and *The Twelfth Labor*, SecondStage Production of *Albatross At Sea*, and two staged readings of *Leda's Swan* and *Echo's Longing* through the New Plays Series for plays in development. Stevens graduated from Columbia's School of the Arts with an MFA in Playwriting. He won the John Golden Playwriting Award while being mentored by John Guare.



Spencer Driggers & Zenobia Taylor (Directors-in-Residence) (co-artistic founders

of the Getalong Gang Performance Group) were coming off their project, the Austin Critics' Table-nominated *Arthuriosis*‡, when asked to co-direct the Southwest Premiere of Leegrid's *Post-Oedipus*. *Post-Oedipus* went on to earn *Top 10 Most Memorable Locally Produced Live Performance Offerings in 2010*, marking the beginnings of theLAB Multi Arts Collective at the Blue Theatre. As Co-Artistic Directors of GGPG, for whom Driggers wrote *We Have Separation* (which premiered at the Brown/Trinity Consortium, under the direction of Heath Cullens and on the Blue Theatre Mainstage), Driggers also had a hand in writing: *Arthuriosis*‡, *Dolly Would*, and *Ben Franklin: A Rock Opera*. Driggers and Taylor hold B.F.A Degrees from Meadows School of the Arts, Southern Methodist University in Theatre Studies and Dance. Driggers directs Leegrid's *Echo's Longing* August 2012, as part of the New Plays Series.



Jenny Gravenstein (Director-in-Residence) is an actor, director, producer with an extensive

background in movement forms and dance. She works across artistic mediums (often wearing a variety of hats from creative to administrative) and has earned recognition in both acting (2x B. Iden Payne Nominee and 1x Austin Critic's Award Winner for *Featured Supporting Actress*) and for executive producing (*The Dudley's: A Family Game* which earned eight 2011 B. Iden Payne Awards). She received her B.F.A. in Acting from The Meadows School of the Arts at Southern Methodist University and continues her studies with Master Teacher Wynn Handman while in New York. Jenny co-produced *Post-Oedipus*, directs *Ambatross at Sea* May 2012 on Blue Theatre SecondStage, and serves as Executive Producer for the Austin Premieres' of *The Dudleys!: A Family Game* and *The Twelfth Labor*.



Gary Jaffe (Director-in-Residence) received his B.A. *cum laude* with Distinction in Theater

Studies from Yale University in May 2010. Yale directing credits include: world premiere of *Beautiful Little Fools* by Tessa Leigh Williams, Sondheim's *Passion*, Stoppard's *The Real Thing*, Ibsen's *Ghosts*, *L'enfant et les sortilèges* an opera by Maurice Ravel, Vogel's *The Baltimore Waltz* and *The Long Christmas Ride Home*, and his own translation of Lorca's *Once Five Years Pass*. In 2011, Jaffe directs Leegrid's *The Dudley's: A Family Game* and due to the efforts of the 2009-12 Blue Theatre New Works Development and Mentoring Artists Collaborative Program, Jaffe was appointed Artistic Director of Austin's Award Winning Tutto Theatre Company. Jaffe directs Leegrid's *The Twelfth Labor* as part of the Blue Theatre's Young Artists Initiative Program, in collaboration with the Tutto Theatre Company August 2012.

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