

**YOUR WORLD  
ON STAGE**

**VICTORY  
GARDENS  
THEATER**

## HISTORY & VISION

Launched in 2008, The IGNITION Festival of New Plays is VG's signature platform for developing and showcasing new, unproduced plays that are being considered for production at VG. Each year we select 5-7 works from about 200 submissions by exceptional emerging and established playwrights who speak to contemporary America's ethnic, social, religious, generational and economic diversity. The weeklong summer workshop culminates in a public reading attended by fans of new plays, artists, and theater decision-makers from across the country.

## LATEST NEWS

In 2018 we celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> year of IGNITION; our best attended and most ambitious Festival to date. We hosted nearly 1,100 artists and guests. Among the plays we developed in IGNITION this year are new works by Robert Askins (*Hand to God*) and Lauren Yee (*Samsara, Cambodian Rock Band*). Two of the six plays featured in the 2018 Festival will get their world premieres in our 2019/20 season: *The First Deep Breath* by Lee Edward Colton II opening in November 2019; and Lily Padilla's *How to Defend Yourself* in a co-world premiere with Actors Theater of Louisville, opening here in April 2020.

### Project Leader

Skyler Gray, Director of New Play Development

WEBSITE:

<https://victorygardens.org/also-playing/ignition-2018/>

# IGNITION

## FESTIVAL OF NEW PLAYS

### HIGHLIGHTS

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Over the years IGNITION has developed such notable plays as Kristoffer Diaz' Pulitzer-finalist and OBIE Award-winning *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity* (IGNITION 2008, premiere 2009); Jackie Sibbles Drury's *We Are Proud to Present a Presentation...* (IGNITION 2010, premiere 2012); and MacArthur Fellow Brandon Jacobs-Jenkins' *Appropriate* (IGNITION 2012, premiere 2013). Brian Quijada's *Where Did We Sit on the Bus?* (2014), Julia Cho's *Office Hour* (2015), and James Ijames' *Kill Move Paradise* (2016) also found a platform here in lead up to their world premieres. We have had particular cause for celebration in the Festival's 10<sup>th</sup> year, as we welcomed *Chad Deity* and *We Are Proud to Present ...* back to Chicago this season for productions at Red Theater Chicago and Steppenwolf, respectively. We also look forward to the Broadway debut in Summer 2019 of Lucas Hnath's *Hillary and Clinton* (IGNITION 2014; VG world premiere 2016).

### ACHIEVEMENTS

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#### Elevating writers to the national stage

Kristoffer Diaz, Samuel D. Hunter, Brandon Jacobs-Jenkins, Jackie Sibbles Drury and Marcus Gardley.

#### Connecting to theaters and audiences across the country

Plays developed in IGNITION have gone on to productions at South Coast Repertory, The Public Theater, Second Stage, Trinity Rep, Signature, Woolly Mammoth, Geffen Playhouse, Mixed Blood, National Black Theatre, and others.

#### Representing historically muted voices

Featured writers to date comprise 73% ALAANA (African, Latinx, Asian, Arab, Native American) artists; 51% woman-identifying including 1 trans woman

### TO DATE

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- 48 new plays developed
- 45 playwright collaborations
- 24 plays advanced to full productions
- 13 plays premiered by VG
- 1 Broadway debut