



VICTORY GARDENS THEATER

Since its founding in 1974, VG has produced more world premieres than any other Chicago theater, many of which have gone on to be produced nationally and internationally. VG has a solid track record of amplifying the voices of underrepresented playwrights and elevating them to the national stage.

THE PLAYWRIGHTS ENSEMBLE

comprises a company of writers who reflect the diversity of Chicago and of the nation: Artistic Associate Luis Alfaro, Phillip Dawkins, Marcus Gardley, Ike Holter, Samuel D. Hunter, Naomi Iizuka, Tanya Saracho and Laura Schellhardt. VG's commitment to its Ensemble is evident in the body of their work that it has produced. Under Chay's artistic leadership, the list includes a world premiere by Dawkins (*Failure: A Love Story*), four plays by Gardley (*A Wonder in My Soul*, *The House That Will Not Stand*, *An Issue of Blood*, *The Gospel of Loving Kindness*), two by Hunter (*Rest*, *The Whale*), three by Alfaro (*St. Jude*, *Oedipus El Rey*, *Mojada*), and one by Saracho (*Fade*). Premiering this fall 2018, *Rightlynd* by Ike Holter (*Sender*/2014 IGNITION, *The Wolf At The End Of The Block*) is the 12th play by our Playwrights Ensemble that VG has produced since 2012.

Queen by Madhuri Shekar (VG world premiere 2017) was at the Astoria Performing Arts Center this winter. It will be featured in Geva Theatre's upcoming 2019/20 season: along with *Where Did We Sit on The Bus?* written and performed by Brian Quijada (VG-Teatro Vista co-world premiere 2016/IGNITION 2014), to be directed by Chay Yew. Brian won a [Joseph Jefferson Award](#) for Performance in 2016, and has since performed his tour de force solo piece at Ensemble Studio Theatre, City Theatre, Boise Rep, and Mosaic Theater Company.

RENEWING THE AMERICAN THEATER

SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST TEN YEARS

- Hillary and Clinton* by Lucas Hnath (VG world premiere 2016, directed by Chay Yew) begins previews March 16, 2019 at the Golden Theatre on Broadway under the direction of Joe Mantello.
- Mojada* by Luis Alfaro (VG world premiere 2013, directed by Chay Yew) has its New York premiere at The Public Theater, starts performances July 2, 2019, with Chay Yew directing. It had its West Coast premiere in 2015 at the Getty Theater in Los Angeles and was produced at Oregon Shakespeare Festival (OSF) in 2017. ([Joseph Jefferson Award for Best New Play](#).)
- Oedipus el Rey* by Luis Alfaro (VG Midwest premiere 2012, directed by Chay Yew) has had numerous productions from coast to coast, including at The Public in Fall 2017 with Chay Yew again directing.
- A Wonder in My Soul* by Marcus Gardley (VG Chicago Play Cycle commission and world premiere 2017) performed at Baltimore Center Stage in late 2018. Marcus' *The Gospel of Loving Kindness* (VG world premiere 2014) performed at Mosaic Theater in 2018).
- Appropriate* by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins (VG world premiere 2013) had its East Coast premiere at the Signature Theater in 2014 and West Coast premiere at the Mark Taper Forum (2015), among at least a dozen full productions across the country. It debuts at London's Donmar Warehouse in summer 2019. ([Obie Award for Best New Play](#))
- We Are Proud to Present a Presentation...* by Jackie Sibblies Drury (VG world premiere 2012) just returned to Chicago for a run with Steppenwolf for Young Adults. In the intervening years it has performed from coast to coast—from Soho Rep in NYC to the Matrix Theatre in L.A., The Guthrie in Minneapolis to Stages Rep in Houston—as well as the Bush Theatre, London.
- Failure: A Love Story* by Phillip Dawkins (VG world premiere 2012) has had more than 100 productions, including at Center Theater Group, Marin Theatre and Azuka Theater.
- The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity* by Kristoffer Diaz (VG world premiere 2009) also had a homecoming this year with its production at Chicago's Red Theater. It has had at least 18 productions across the country since 2009. (2010 Pulitzer Prize finalist; [Obie Award for New American Play](#))

CURRENT AND COMING UP

- Cambodian Rock Band* by Lauren Yee (*Samsara*, VG world premiere 2015; [Horton Foote Prize 2018](#); [Steinberg/ATCA New Play Award](#)) opened at VG in April 2019, with Marti Lyons directing. Chay Yew brought this play to us, after directing its premiere at South Coast Repertory in 2018. Our production will head to City Theatre in Pittsburgh and then to Merrimack Theatre in Lowell, MA (home to the second largest Cambodian refugee population in the U.S.) with Marti Lyons directing; while Chay is set to direct it at, OSF, Portland Center Stage and La Jolla Playhouse, later taking it to New York.
- How to Defend Yourself* by Lily Padilla is slated for its co-world premiere here at VG in 2020 following its 2019 run at Actors Theater of Louisville, with Marti Lyons directing both productions.