



# THE Z SPACE STUDIO

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**THE Z SPACE STUDIO**  
in conjunction with  
**CUTTING BALL THEATRE and the PLAYWRIGHTS FOUNDATION**  
invite Bay Area theater companies and individuals  
to participate in the  
**SIMULTANEOUS NATIONWIDE WORLD PREMIERE of**  
**SUZAN-LORI PARKS' 365 DAYS/365 PLAYS**

YEAR-LONG PRESENTATION WILL CREATE THE LARGEST THEATER COLLABORATION IN US HISTORY

August 30, 2006 – **The Z Space Studio's** director of new play development **Lisa Steindler**, in conjunction with the **Playwrights Foundation** and **Cutting Ball Theatre**, are pleased to invite the Bay Area's theater companies to participate in the year-long production of **Suzan-Lori Parks' 365 Days/365 Plays**.

For more information or to apply, please visit [www.zspace.org/365plays.htm](http://www.zspace.org/365plays.htm).

In November 2002, the Pulitzer prize-winning Suzan-Lori Parks sat down and committed to writing a play a day for the next 365 days. The world premiere of this play cycle will be performed as a yearlong national festival simultaneously in major cities and communities around the country. From November 13, 2006 to November 12, 2007, over 600 theaters in New York, Atlanta, Los Angeles, Denver, Seattle, San Francisco, Austin, Washington D.C., Chicago, Minneapolis, the Carolinas, Mississippi River towns, and university campuses will create **the largest theater collaboration in U.S. history**.

The Z Space Studio, in conjunction with the Bay Area Playwrights Foundation and Cutting Ball Theater, will spearhead the San Francisco component *365 Days/365 Plays* by gathering together a widely diverse cross-section of city's theater companies to participate in this project. Throughout the year, the selected theaters - curated by the Z Space Studio and the *365 Days/365 Plays* Project - will perform these brief, brilliant snapshots from the imagination of one of America's leading playwrights in numerous locations throughout the city.

To capture the rich theatrical and cultural landscape of San Francisco, the Z Space Studio and the *365 Days/365 Plays* Project are now seeking applications from eligible theater partners throughout the five boroughs to participate in the staging of *365 Days/365 Plays*. In order to apply, applicants must be based in the greater Bay Area (including San Jose) from the following groups: producing organizations, presenting organizations, theater companies and independent artists with a track record for self-producing. Each of the 52 participants will be responsible for producing one week (seven plays) in the *365 Days/365 Plays* cycle. Participants can produce their work in traditional theater spaces or site-specific locations. They can be staged readings or fully produced – but all must be in the spirit of celebrating the vibrancy of San Francisco's theater tradition with audiences and artists from every corner of the city.

*"365 Days/365 Plays is something that could only have sprung from the imagination of Suzan-Lori Parks, one of America's greatest dramatists. Suzan-Lori Parks wrote a play every day for a year, and the results bear testimony to the devotional discipline of her work. Each of the plays is a tiny, brilliant jewel, written with imaginative joy and theatrical invention."* — Oskar Eustis, Artistic Director, Public Theater (New York)

*"One day Bonnie Metzgar asked me 'What's up with those 365 plays?' 'I've done them,' I said. 'Yeah, but now you've got to do them,' Bonnie said. And together we created a production model which would speak to the spirit of my plays: a simultaneous and shared world premiere involving hundreds of theatres around the country."*— Suzan-Lori Parks

**SUZAN-LORI PARKS** is a playwright, screenwriter and novelist whose plays include *Topdog/Underdog* (Public Theater), *Fucking A* (Public Theater), *Imperceptible Mutabilities in the Third Kingdom* (1990 Obie Award for Best New American Play), *The American Play* (Public Theater), *Venus* (Public Theater, 1996 Obie Award), *The Death Of The Last Black Man in the Whole Entire World*, and *In The Blood* (Public Theater, 2002 Pulitzer Prize finalist), among others. Her work is the subject of the PBS Film "The Topdog/Underdog Diaries." She is an alumnae of New Dramatists, and has been awarded grants by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the New York State Council on the Arts and the New York Foundation for the Arts. She was also the recipient of a Lila-Wallace Reader's Digest Award, a CalArts/Alpert Award in the Arts (Drama) for 1996 and a Guggenheim Foundation Grant. Her work for film and television includes "Girl 6" (directed by Spike Lee) and the adaptation of Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, for Oprah Winfrey Presents, which premiered in 2005 on ABC. Her first novel, *Getting Mother's Body*, is published by Random House. She is currently writing the book for the Ray Charles musical (for the film producers of "Ray"). A recipient of a MacArthur Foundation "Genius" Award, Parks received the 2002 Pulitzer Prize for Drama for her play *Topdog/Underdog*.

**Z PLAYS** is a program of the Z Space Studio. Under Artistic Director Lisa Steindler, this program supports hundreds of artists, playwrights, and ensembles through its substantial commissioning programs. Currently, Z Plays has over thirty works in the development pipeline, including works administered through the Z Space Studio's Western Presenters Commissioning Initiative and the New Works Initiative. Z Plays has over twenty-five plays under commission each year, and over 85% of its completed commissions go on to full production in the Bay Area and beyond. Works developed by Z Plays have included *The People's Temple* (Glickman Award), Josh Kornbluth's *Love & Taxes*, *Ben Franklin: Unplugged*, and *Citizen Josh*, and *R. Buckminster Fuller: The History (and Mystery) of the Universe*.

**THE Z SPACE STUDIO** supports a culturally and aesthetically diverse community of theater artists working together to develop Bay Area theatre and theatre audiences. It is comprised of three programs: Z Plays, Word for Word, and Youth Arts. Founded in 1993 by David Dower, the Z Space Studio has become one of the nation's leading laboratories for the development of new voices, new works and new directions in American theater. By creating a space where all types of artistic development can occur side by side, the Z Space Studio has become what Berkeley Repertory Theatre's Artistic Director Tony Taccone describes as "a virtual bastion of creativity, a bubbling cauldron of new work, and a safe haven for unfettered creative expression." The Z Space Studio employs hundreds of artists each year in the process of developing new works. The programs developed under the Z umbrella are enjoyed by over 30,000 people each year and can be found in schools, libraries, and theaters throughout Northern California and the country. Since the founding of the Z Space Studio in 1993, the Studio and the Bay Area artists we serve have racked up an impressive list of awards and other notable achievements, including the Helen Hayes Award, the Kesselring Prize, the MacArthur Award, and two Pulitzer nominations. Two Z-commissioned works, *Haiku Tunnel* and *Red Diaper Baby*, have become major

motion pictures. In 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003, Z-produced projects have landed in the San Francisco Chronicle's "10 Best Theater Events of the Year" list. The Z Space is also responsible for the four years of development that ultimately became the smash hit *The People's Temple*, currently touring the country.

**PLAYWRIGHTS FOUNDATION**, now in its 29th year, is dedicated to discovering and supporting emerging local and national American playwrights in the inception and development of new plays that speak to and from an increasingly diverse society. Founded on a deeply held belief that the relevance and vitality of American theater depends upon a continual infusion of new work, Playwrights Foundation sustains a commitment to the playwright who we regard as the creative wellspring of theater. Through its programs the Foundation actively fosters the creative process and the dissemination of new works to national theater producers.

**THE CUTTING BALL THEATER**'s mission is to develop productions of experimental new plays and revised classics with an emphasis on language and images. The Cutting Ball's vision is to produce plays that reveal a poetic truth as opposed to a naturalistic or realistic one. We are committed to finding performance strategies that best releases the poetry of the plays we produce. Cutting Ball was founded by Rob Melrose and Paige Rogers.

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*365 Days/365 Plays Project* is a grassroots national theater festival conceived by Suzan-Lori Parks and Bonnie Metzgar which seeks to create a new geography for artistic production in the Internet age. Linking artists locally, nationally and internationally in simultaneous production over the course of an entire year, this project will map the rich diversity of the American theatrical landscape in new and surprising ways for audiences both live and online.

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