



5900 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 800, Los Angeles, CA 90036
1825 Three Kings Dr., Park City, UT 84060
321 W 44th Street, Suite 805, New York, NY 10036

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 7, 2019

Media Contact:
Spencer Alcorn
310.360.1981

spencer.alcorn@sundance.org

Sundance Institute Playwrights & Composers Retreat at Ucross Foundation: Seven Theater Makers Convene

Artist-Centered Residency Supports Theatrical Writing in Development

New York, NY — Seven theatre artists have gathered for the twentieth annual Sundance Institute Playwrights & Composers Retreat at Ucross Foundation in Wyoming, currently underway from February 4 to February 22, 2019. The residency is dedicated to uninhibited creativity, professional growth and peer mentorship.

At the residency, blocks of solo creative time are augmented with organic, collaborative conversations where participants reflect on process and the world in which they are creating new stories.

“Supporting theatrical writing in its earliest stages is crucial,” said Philip Himberg, Artistic Director of Sundance Institute’s Theatre Program. “Dedicated creative time, without distraction and amidst a natural landscape provides a rare opportunity to work deeply. This year’s Fellows are not all strictly traditional playwrights, but also include spoken word artists and poets.”

The retreat is one of 25 residency Labs the Institute hosts each year for independent artists in theatre, film, new media and episodic content, and is made possible through the generosity of Ucross. Over 90 artists have benefitted from time at Ucross with the Theatre Program in the last nineteen years, including Charlayne Woodard, Jeanine Tesori, Doug Wright, Annie Baker, Adam Guettel, Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, Branden Jacobs-Jenkins and Tanya Saracho.

The 2019 Sundance Institute Playwrights and Composers Retreat at Ucross is dedicated to the memory of Ucross founder Raymond Plank.

The 2019 Sundance Institute Retreat at Ucross Foundation artists are:



Nathan Alan Davis is a playwright from Rockford, IL, now living and working in New York. His plays include *Nat Turner in Jerusalem* (New York Theatre Workshop; New York Magazine Critic’s Pick), *Dontrell Who Kissed the Sea* (NNPN Rolling World Premiere; Steinberg/ATCA New Play Citation, Los Angeles Times Critic’s Choice) and *The Wind and the Breeze* (Cygnet Theatre; Blue Ink Award; Lorraine Hansberry Award). He received a Whiting Award in Drama in 2018 and the Stavis Playwright Award in 2017. Recent development includes The Public Theater, McCarter Theatre, Arena Stage, Williamstown Theatre Festival and The Lark. He is a Lecturer in Theater at Princeton University. Artist Diploma: Juilliard. MFA: Indiana University.



Carmel Dean is an Australian-born composer, musical director and arranger. Her compositional debut, *Renascence* (with a book by Tony Award-nominee Dick Scanlan), about the jazz-age poet Edna St. Vincent Millay, was recently produced by the acclaimed Off-Broadway theatre company Transport Group. As a Broadway musical director and/or arranger her credits include: *If/Then*; *Hands on a Hardbody*; *American Idiot* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Other roles include vocal arranger for jam-band Phish (Madison Square Garden and MGM Las Vegas); performer with Green Day on the 52nd Annual Grammy Awards; and former musical director for Broadway legend Chita Rivera. Carmel is a Fulbright Scholar, holds an MFA from New York University's Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program, and is a current member of the BMI Lehman Engel Writing Workshop. She currently resides in New York City. www.carmeldean.com.



Mashuq Mushtaq Deen is a resident playwright at New Dramatists (class of 2022). His full-length plays include *The Betterment Society*, *The Shaking Earth*, *Draw the Circle* (productions: PlayMakers Rep, Mosaic Theatre, Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre; published: Dramatists Play Service), and *Tank & Horse* (world premiere at the Berkshire Fringe Festival). Deen's work has been presented/developed/supported by a number of institutions including New Dramatists, The Public Theater, NYTW, Blue Mountain Center, MacDowell Colony, Bogliasco Foundation, Helene Wurlitzer Foundation, New Harmony Project, Chesley/Bumbalo Foundation, Arch and Bruce Brown Foundation, New York Foundation for the Arts, InterAct Theatre, Page73, Ma-Yi, Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics, Georgetown University, BEAT Festival, PACE University, Hampshire College, Averett University, Dixon Place, Passage Theatre, Queens Theatre in the Park, Tofte Lake Center, and the Berkshire Fringe Festival. He has also received a 2017 Kilroy's List Honorable Mention, was named to the 2018 Steppenwolf "Mix List," was a Jerome New York Fellowship finalist (twice), O'Neill Conference semifinalist, Weissberger Award nomination, Playwrights Center Core Writers Finalist, James Baldwin Award, Dennis Johnston Playwriting Prize honorable mention. He is a member of the NYTW Usual Suspects, Ma-Yi Writers Lab, Public Theater Alumni Writers Group, and the Dramatists Guild. He earned his MFA from the Actors Studio Drama School/New School for Drama. He is represented by the Gurman Agency LLC. In his spare time, Deen is also a participating citizen (#farebkny) and a man of many hobbies.



Tasmania's own **Hannah Gadsby** has come to the world's attention through her multi-award winning stand up show *Nanette* which played to sold out houses across Australia, London, Edinburgh, New York and Los Angeles before launching on Netflix in June and stopping the comedy world in its tracks. The overnight success of Hannah Gadsby was more than ten years in the making, with her award winning stand up shows a sell out fixture in festivals across Australia and the UK. She played a character called Hannah on the TV series *Please Like Me* and has hosted three art documentaries, inspired by comedy art lectures she created to accompany collections at major galleries.



Matthew Dean Marsh is a New York City based composer, writer, and performer. His compositions have sounded at Madison Square Garden, Barclays Center, Lincoln Center, the Michigan Opera House, BAM, the Goodman Theatre, MASS MoCA, and the White House in Washington, DC. Recent composition credits: *We're Only Alive For A Short Amount of Time* (Goodman Theatre), *Romeo & Juliet* (Lincoln Center Education, Wellfleet Harbor Actor Theater, Nantucket's White Heron Theater), *Mother Courage* (American Academy of Dramatic Arts), *12th Night* (USC), & *Love Letters* (Sleep No More). Recent arranging credits: *Nasha America* (Alchemation at CCM). Recent music directing credits: *Sing Out for Cynthia Nixon* (Cutting Room.) *Encores Lobby Series* (City Center). *The Reality Show* (NYU), *Hurricane Diane* (Two River Theater), *Rimbaud in NY* (BAM & Civilians), MD asst. on *Beetlejuice* (Warner Bros.); cabaret shows for Ato Blankson-Wood, Jo Lampert, David Cale, Max Jenkins/Tom Hennes, and Salty Brine. Accompanying credits include Joseph Keckler (at Centre Pompidou in Paris), Todd Almond, Erin Markey, Taylor Mac, Michael Musto, Denis O'Hare, Sandra Bernhard, Michael Cavadias, Shaina Taub, and Sherie Rene Scott. His song and music video *Lost Boys* was a finalist at the Los Angeles 2016 Music Video Awards, a semi-finalist in the 2017 International MV Awards in Paris, and a contender in the 2017 Portland MV Festival. His film scores have been showcased by Glamour magazine and the TriBeCa Film Festival. He is a Johnny Mercer Songwriter's and Sundance Institute Theater Lab Alum.



Yasmina Reggad is an independent curator, writer, researcher and, at times, performer and choreographer. She works between Athens, Algiers and London. She holds an MA in Medieval History from the Sorbonne University and is presently curator at aria (artist residency in algiers). Reggad was previously guest curator of Art Dubai International Commissions 2016 and 2017, and exhibitions and projects manager at Delfina Foundation. Her research focuses on the politics of futurity and explores performative methodologies inspired by dance and performance notations. She is currently working on *We dreamt of utopia and we woke up screaming*, a long-term research project and durational performance about the 'radio of movements of liberation' in Algeria in the 60s and 70s. Recent projects include a series of performances and scores based on unconventional archives and visual corpora that act as an alternative to the practice of essay



writing. *she refused to be what she was told she was* is a site-specific performance that activates the work *Shoot the Women First* by Navine G. Khan-Dossos; *IF – THEN GOTO*, a homage to Emirati artist Hassan Sharif, is a score written as an algorithm and coding composition performed through dance movements.



Raquel Salas Rivera is the 2018-19 Poet Laureate of Philadelphia. Their work has appeared in journals such as the *Journal of the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture* (*Revista del Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña*), *Apogee*, *PEN Poetry Series* and *McSweeney's*. From 2016-2018, they were co-editor of *The Wanderer* and co-editor of *Puerto Rico en mi corazón*, a collection of bilingual broadsides of contemporary Puerto Rican poets. In summer 2018, they worked alongside Raena Shirali, Kirwyn Sutherland, and Ashley Davis organizing a festival called *We (Too) Are Philly*, inspired by Langston Hughes' poem, "I, Too." They are the first recipient of the Ambroggio Prize from the Academy of American Poets for their dual-language book *x/ex/exis*. They have authored six chapbooks as well as four full-length poetry books. Their book, *lo terciario/the tertiary*, which confronts the PROMESA bill, was on the 2018 National Book Award Longlist, and was selected by Publishers Weekly as one of the best poetry books of 2018. In 2019, Birds, LLC will publish their fifth book *while they sleep (under the bed is another country)*, which will include images created by the Puerto Rican artist Mariana Ramos Ortiz.

The Sundance Institute Theatre Program is supported by an endowment from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, with generous additional support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; Time Warner Foundation; Perry and Martin Granoff; Luma Foundation; National Endowment for the Arts; Wendy vanden Heuvel; John and Marcia Price Family Foundation; The Shubert Foundation, Inc.; The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust; Wyncote Foundation - Leonard Haas; Richenthal Foundation; The Carrie Louise Hamilton Foundation; and Francena T. Harrison Foundation.

Sundance Institute

Founded in 1981 by Robert Redford, Sundance Institute is a nonprofit organization that provides and preserves the space for artists in film, theatre, and new media to create and thrive. The Institute's signature Labs, granting, and mentorship programs, dedicated to developing new work, take place throughout the year in the U.S. and internationally. The Sundance Film Festival and other public programs connect audiences to artists in igniting new ideas, discovering original voices, and building a community dedicated to independent storytelling. Sundance Institute has supported such projects as *Boyhood*, *Swiss Army Man*, *Manchester By the Sea*, *Brooklyn*, *Little Miss Sunshine*, *Life*, *Animated*, *Sonita*, *20 Feet From Stardom*, *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, *Fruitvale Station*, *Sin Nombre*, *Spring Awakening*, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* and *Fun Home*. Join [Sundance Institute](#) on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

Ucross Foundation

Founded in 1981 by Raymond Plank, Ucross is a nonprofit organization that fosters the creative spirit of deeply committed artists and groups by providing uninterrupted time, studio space, living accommodations and the experience of the majestic High Plains, while serving as a good steward of its historic 20,000-acre ranch. Residencies are awarded to nearly 100 artists each year. Ucross has provided



over 2,000 residencies to writers, visual artists, composers and choreographers, including such distinguished Fellows as Annie Proulx, Tayari Jones, Terry Tempest Williams, Colson Whitehead, Ann Patchett, Elizabeth Gilbert, Ricky Ian Gordon, Theaster Gates, and Sigrid Nunez. A number of residents have won recognition such as the Pulitzer Prize, Academy Award, Tony Award, National Book Award, MacArthur Fellowship, Guggenheim Fellowship, USA Artist Fellowship and many other honors. Other national partners include the Herb Alpert Award in the Arts and the PEN Hemingway Award for a Debut Novel. Learn more at ucross.org, and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

###