



PLAYWRIGHTS'
CENTER

**Network of Ensemble Theaters and Playwrights' Center
Award 2017 Ensemble/Playwright Collaboration Grant
to One Year Lease and playwright Jason Gray Platt**

PORTLAND, OR & MINNEAPOLIS, MN -- [Network of Ensemble Theaters](#) (NET) and [Playwrights' Center](#) (PWC) are pleased to award the **2017 Ensemble/Playwright Collaboration Grant to One Year Lease** (Brooklyn, NY) and playwright **Jason Gray Platt** (Los Angeles, CA). Together, the artists of One Year Lease and Platt will collaborate on an exploration of online media and the rise of “alternative facts.” The annual award is designed to support creative exchange and dialogue between ensembles and playwrights.

For the past six years, NET and the Playwrights' Center have partnered to support projects between NET ensemble members and members of the Playwrights' Center's Core Writer Program through the Ensemble/Playwright Collaboration Grant. One grant of \$4,000 is awarded each year to support collaborative activities resulting in a final presentation. Past recipients include: [Theater Grottesco](#) and [Andy Bragen](#) (2011); [Theatre Novi Most](#) and [Cory Hinkle](#) (2012); [Live Action Set](#) and [John Olive](#) (2013); [Team Sunshine Performance Corporation](#) and [Jenny Connell Davis](#) (2014); [The Satori Group](#) and [Susan Stanton](#) (2015); and [SITI Company](#) and [Kate Tarker](#) (2016).

ABOUT THE COLLABORATION

One Year Lease Theater Company is known for their examination of the modern day chorus in their work. They are excited to use forms of collective and non-linear storytelling to explore the effect of online media on the dissemination of information. In the piece they will develop with Jason Gray Platt, a chorus of people with different perspectives search for the truth following a devastating event.

The ensemble's three-stage development process began this past summer, and will continue through January 2018. The first stage took place in August, bringing the playwright and ensemble together in New York City for a series of exercises generated by the actors and directors. Platt observed these exercises, which were based on preliminary discussions about subject matter, to help inform his work as he started to generate text for the project. The second development stage this fall will include more written work to be read, discussed, and incorporated into movement work and exercises. For the third stage in January 2018 Platt will deliver a full first

draft of the play. Activities during this stage will move away from movement exercises and towards rehearsal and script development, and will include an open public reading or rehearsal.

GRANTEE BIOS:

One Year Lease

One Year Lease Theater Company (OYL) creates and premieres bold new works of theater. OYL uses physically powerful, ensemble-based theater to create experiences that are raw, poetic, and visceral. OYL's work has been critically acclaimed as "first rate young actors" (*The New York Times*), "theatrical witchcraft" (*New York Magazine*), "riveting theater" (Boston's *NPR*), "playfully poisonous" (*Boston Globe*), "a gleaming portrait of our collective contemporary existence" (*American Theater Web*), and "a celebration of theatrical energy" (*The Stage*). In 2016, OYL received a Drama Desk nomination in NYC, as well as a Stage Award at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. OYL commissions new work from playwrights around the globe and runs LeaseLab, a program in which the company invites playwrights to work collaboratively with the OYL artistic ensemble in the creation of new work. OYL also runs a summer education program annually in northern Greece for students from across the U.S.

www.oneyearlease.org

Jason Gray Platt

Jason Gray Platt's work has been produced and developed around the country by the American Repertory Theater, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Denver Center Theatre Company, The Flea, Round House Theater, TheatreWorks, The Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston, The Playwrights Realm, Prelude NYC, Page 73, and Red Bull Theater, and through residencies at MacDowell and Yaddo. He received a Helen Hayes Nomination for The Charles MacArthur Award for Outstanding New Play in 2013. Originally from Arizona, Jason now lives in Los Angeles, and is a member of Woodshed Collective. BA: Vassar; MFA: Columbia.

www.jasonplatt.com

ABOUT NETWORK OF ENSEMBLE THEATERS

A national coalition of ensembles created by and for artists, the Network of Ensemble Theaters (NET) exists to propel ensemble theater practice to the forefront of culture and society. NET links a diverse array of ensembles and practitioners to one another and the performing arts field, encouraging collaborations and knowledge building/dissemination. NET is committed to the advancement of the ensemble form and strives to bring about change in the world beyond ourselves through the transformative power of collaborative theater.

We support bold artistic and civic experiments and aim to heighten the impact and excellence of ensemble theater. For more information: www.ensembletheaters.net

ABOUT PLAYWRIGHTS' CENTER

The Playwrights' Center champions playwrights and new plays to build upon a living theater that demands new and innovative works. In addition to awarding some of the most generous fellowships for playwrights and theater artists in the United States, the Center is an industry leader in playwright-led development of new work, theater partnerships with substance, and online and onsite resources serving 2,000 member playwrights around the world. For more information: www.pwcenter.org

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