MARISA WEGRZYN (2003) has had plays produced in Chicago at Steppenwolf Theatre Company, A Red Orchid Theatre, Theatre Seven of Chicago, Rivendell Theatre Ensemble and Chicago Dramatists, in New York Off-Broadway at Second Stage Theatre and Off-Beckett Productions, regionally at CenterStage in Baltimore, Mooie Theatre in San Diego, Victory Theatre Center in Los Angeles and HotCity Theatre in St. Louis. In 2009, Wegrzyn was recognized nationally when she won the prestigious Wendy Wasserstein Playwriting Award (a $25,000 award) for her play Hickory Dickory (which premiered at Washington University in 2006). She is currently writing for television, and her new series Mind Games recently premiered on ABC.

CAROLYN KRAS (2005) is a Chicago-based playwright who holds an MFA in dramatic writing from Carnegie Mellon University. She received the Visionary Playwright Award and Commission from Theatre Masters. Her plays have been developed or produced at Lookingglass Theatre, Centenary Stage Company, Pittsburgh Irish & Classical Theatre, Theatre Seven of Chicago, the Great Plains Theatre Conference, the Last Frontier Theatre Conference, ATHE New Play Development Workshop, Pittsburgh New Works Festival and Theatre Masters National MFA Playwrights Festival.

BRIAN GOLDEN (2004) is a Chicago-based playwright, essayist, screenwriter, curator and arts leader. He is the author of four full-length and eight short plays, which have been produced in Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, St. Louis and Philadelphia. Since 2006, he has been the artistic director of Theatre Seven of Chicago, a new works theater that won the coveted Emerging Theatre Award under his leadership.

After graduation, EIC (LIZ) CALVERT (2006) attended the prestigious New School for Drama in New York City, where she graduated with an MFA in playwriting. Her play The Bear won the Off-Off Broadway Short Play Festival and was published by Samuel French. Her one-woman show Testify! won the Audience Favorite Award at John Chatterton’s Short Play Festival. Calvert now lives in Chicago and has been commissioned to write a series of children’s plays: Calamity Jane Battles the Horrible HoopSNAKE (Lookingglass Theatre) and Sarazad and the Monster-King (The 1800).

DAN RUBIN (2004) has worked with a number of regional theaters around the country, including Goodman Theatre in Chicago, The Playwright’s Center in Minneapolis and Playwrights Foundation in San Francisco. Since 2008, he has worked at American Conservatory Theater (A.C.T.) in San Francisco as the managing editor for Words on Plays, A.C.T.’s dramaturgical magazine. Rubin’s plays have received productions in St. Louis, Chicago and San Francisco, and he won a NOTA Award in 2004 for his play for St. Louis for Demos (And Other Blunt Objects) (originally workshopped at Washington University’s A.E. Hotchner Playwriting Festival). Dan teaches playwriting at A.C.T.

ELIZABETH BIRKENMEIER (2008) received her MFA in dramatic writing at the Carnegie Mellon School of Drama in 2010. Her produced work includes One Extraordinary Darkness at Orbits Theatre, Sky and the Big Six off (Chicago), Barnaby (Brooklyn) and Plight of the Apothecary Off-Off Broadway at the Red Room Theatre (New York City). Her television pilot, Peep Song was nominated for the Humanitas Prize. She was commissioned by Shakespeare Festival St. Louis to write Othello in a Breath and Winning Judd as anti-bullying awareness pieces. Recently, her commissioned play There’s a Gun in Your Goodbye Bag premiered at Orbits Theatre in St. Louis, and she is working on a human-robot interaction piece called Sky Sky Sky, commissioned by the Washington University Performing Arts Department for 2015.
If you have a passion for playwriting, or even an active curiosity, Washington University has exceptional resources.

Among our unique playwriting opportunities:

• The A.E. Hotchner Playwriting Competition and Festival has produced many student-written, world premiere plays.
• WUSTL’s playwright-in-residence, guest dramaturgs and guest playwriters guide aspiring playwrights.
• Specially designed courses help students hone their craft.
• A semester playwriting course in New York gives students a close-up look at professional theater.

PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT

PLAYWRITING COURSES

Introduction to Playwriting: A hands-on class for beginning writers with little or no playwriting experience. In 2012 it was voted one of the top five “Don’t Miss” classes by the Student Life, the campus student newspaper.

Advanced Playwriting: This class moves toward a more complex view of the writing voice, utilizing collaborations within the class, with acting classes and with guest professional actors.

Playwrights Workshop: A group independent study for advanced writers who want to experiment and share their work with their playwriting peers.

Dramaturgical Workshop: This workshop explores the areas of the art of dramaturgy: new play development, classics and translations, institutional collaboration and devised theater.

A.E. HOTCHNER PLAYWRITING COMPETITION AND FESTIVAL

The Competition

Every January the Performing Arts Department sponsors the A.E. Hotchner Playwriting Competition and accepts submissions of full-length, one-act or 10-minute plays by any student currently enrolled at Washington University. The submissions are read and adjudicated by a committee of arts professors and outside professionals. Between three to five plays are chosen for workshop development in the fall festival.

The Festival

In September a professional guest dramaturg is brought to campus for two weeks to conduct workshops of all selected plays, with faculty directors and student casts. The plays are presented in a script-in-hand format over the festival weekend. The presentations are followed by post-show discussions with the director, dramaturg, writer and audience.

Guest Dramaturgs

Our dramaturgs are selected from the best in the field and have been in residence at the McCarter Theatre, the Humana Festival of New American Plays, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Geva Theatre Center, the Guthrie Theater, Denver Center Theatre and top universities around the country. A sample of past dramaturgs: Liz Engelmar, Michele Volansky, Michael Bigelow Dixon, Marge Betley, Naomi Iizuka, Allison Horlsey, K.C. Davis and Julie Jensen.

CARTER W. LEWIS, PLAYWRIGHT-IN-RESIDENCE, is an award-winning playwright who has had more than 150 productions of his plays nationwide. Since his arrival at Washington University in 2000, in addition to his national work, he has had several local world premieres; four commissioned works by Washington University: American Storm, Kid Peculiar; Civil Disobedience and Camden & Lily; four at the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis: Women Who Steal, Men on the Take, Ordinary Nation and Evie’s Waltz; and two for OnSite Theatre Company: Hit-Story and Prayer for the Gun Bug.

SARAH RUHL (2012)

STEVEN SATER (2012)

NAOMI IIZUKA (2014)

The A.E. Hotchner Festival participants. Some recent student world premieres: Telegraph by Willi Jacobs, If I Were You and Other Elvis Presley Songs by Leah Barsanti, The Stroke, Scriptures by Chris Kammerer, Candlestick Park by Elizabeth Birkenmeier, Highways by Carolyn Kras, Six Seconds in Charleby Brian Golden, Killing Women by Marisa Wegryn and Caught in Carnation by Peter Hanrahan. Other world premieres that recently have been part of the main stage season were The Awakening by Professor Henry Schvey, Sky Sky Sky by alumna Elizabeth Birkenmeier, Hickory Dickory Dock by alumna Marisa Wegryn.

PAD WORLD PREMIERES

In alternate years, a student world premiere is part of the Performing Arts Department main stage season. The play is selected from the A.E. Hotchner Festival participants. Some recent student world premieres: Telegraph by Willi Jacobs, If I Were You and Other Elvis Presley Songs by Leah Barsanti, The Stroke, Scriptures by Chris Kammerer, Candlestick Park by Elizabeth Birkenmeier, Highways by Carolyn Kras, Six Seconds in Charleby Brian Golden, Killing Women by Marisa Wegryn and Caught in Carnation by Peter Hanrahan. Other world premieres that recently have been part of the main stage season were The Awakening by Professor Henry Schvey, Sky Sky Sky by alumna Elizabeth Birkenmeier, Hickory Dickory Dock by alumna Marisa Wegryn.

The hand-written dialogues on the cover are the opening lines of the 19 Performing Arts Department world premieres in the last decade.

PS(NYC)

Washington University’s playwriting semester at the prestigious new works theater Primary Stages in New York City will inaugurate in 2015. This is an invaluable opportunity for writers to explore their craft under the mentorship of professional playwrights, directors, dramaturgs and producers. Beyond the craft of writing, students will become familiar with the “business of playwriting” as they are exposed to agents, producers and the thriving arts scene in New York. Scholarships are available.

STUDENT-SPONSORED PLAYWRITING EVENTS

Day O’ Shame: This is a 24-hour playwriting slam. Writers, actors and directors converge on a Friday night and by Saturday night they fully produce six short world premieres.

Ten-Minute Play Festival: Five or six selected writers receive full productions of their short pieces.

Site-Specific Work: Writers are commissioned to write for locations around campus. Some of those locations: a loading dock, an underground tunnel, a parking garage, a student apartment and, yes, even a men’s restroom.

Full-Length World Premieres: These plays are usually the result of a student-run competition where a play is chosen, developed and produced for an on-campus venue.

For tickets, call 314-935-6543. A.E. Hotchner Studio Theatre April 28, 29 & 30, 2011 at 8 p.m. Directed by William Whitaker by Chris Kammerer. Scripts are available. The hand-written dialogues on the cover are the opening lines of the 19 Performing Arts Department world premieres in the last decade.