

Who We Are....



FirstStage is a non-profit organization dedicated to the development of new material for the stage and screen. The vitality of American theatre and film depends on the creativity of its writers. We are here to enrich writers and their work through our service and contribution.

Since being founded in 1983 by members of Robert Redford's Sundance Institute (including Peter Hay, Didi Conn, John Ethan Phillips and Virginia Morris), *FirstStage* has helped develop hundreds of stage plays and film scripts through its weekly series of rehearsed staged readings performed by professional actors under the supervision of skilled directors. *FirstStage's* large membership includes writers, actors, directors, dramaturgs and friends of the theatre. *FirstStage's* doors are open for any writer -- member or non-member, professional or novice -- to submit work for consideration. *FirstStage* has been the launching pad for many plays that have gone on to successful productions in theatres throughout the country. In 1998, our 15th Anniversary year, *FirstStage* was the proud recipient of the C. Bernard Jackson Award given by the Alliance of Los Angeles Playwrights. This award recognizes organizations that nurture, develop and support LA playwrights.

In addition to presenting new plays and screenplays weekly, *FirstStage* also offers writers workshops, director/actor workshops, special events, contests and networking opportunities.

Become a part of the important *FirstStage* process. Enjoy fascinating theatre and contribute to the shaping of dramatic art.

What We Offer...



Monday Night Staged Readings. 7PM.

FirstStage offers a rehearsed staged reading of a new play or screenplay for an audience. This is free for *FirstStage* members. A \$5 donation is requested from guests and the general public. At this event, the writer often gets to see his/her work performed for the first time in front of an audience. *FirstStage* Actor members play the roles under the guidance of a *FirstStage* director. Occasionally, we have guest directors and actors. After the reading, there is an in-depth discussion of the play where audience members are asked to give feedback to the writer. In this way, the audience becomes a vital part of the *FirstStage* experience, giving the authors valuable insights that help them refine their work. A videotape of the reading and discussion is always provided to the writer, so a writer who can't be there can still benefit from the event. **ATTENTION WRITERS: You DO NOT have to be a member of *FirstStage* to submit work for consideration for a Monday night reading.**

Writers Workshop. Tuesday, 7 PM.

Writers can bring their projects to this workshop and have them read in front of other attending members for feedback. Writers can bring sections of their work or entire pieces. Focus is on the writing, not the acting or directing. Non-members may audit this workshop twice before joining.

Wednesday or Thursday Workspace.

Available to members by booking. Writer members can use the space to further explore their works-in-progress by having full-length readings or inviting actors and directors to stage a portion of their material. Actor or director members can book the space

to work on audition pieces or *FirstStage* material or they may get together with other members to form their own "Actor/Director" type of workshop if they so desire.

Workshop Presentations.

Once or twice a year *FirstStage* sometimes produces a workshop presentation of a play. This is a continuation of the process that was started in the Writers Workshop, the Monday Night Reading Series or both. Audiences are invited and the presentation is advertised, but not reviewed. These can be with script in hand or off book.

Playwrights Express.

A gigantic fundraiser. Once a year. March/April. This is a marathon of 15 minute play readings done over the course of two weekends. Hundreds of volunteers stage readings of up to 130 short plays. Playwrights donate money to have a guaranteed performance of their work on one of the four festival days. The writer not only supports the free services *FirstStage* provides writers for the rest of the year, they get to see their work performed by professional actors in front of a live audience. It's an exciting and wonderful event. For more information, please call or email *FirstStage*, or visit www.firststagela.org.

One-Act Play Contest.

Annual. Each year, *FirstStage* sponsors this Nationwide writing contest, with cash prizes to the top three winners.

Special Events.

FirstStage has presented readings of works by famous writers, featuring well known actors, and off-book presentations of our own members plays as special events.

Membership is open to writers, actors, directors and friends of the theatre. Please pick a dues option:

Regular Membership:

\$200 annually OR

\$60 quarterly

Associate Membership for non-residents:

\$68 annually

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE# _____

E-MAIL _____

I would like to make a tax-deductible donation of:

\$50 \$25 \$10 \$ _____

Please mail this form to the address below. Thank you.

How to contact FirstStage...

Mailing Address: FirstStage, P.O. Box 38280
Los Angeles, CA 90038

Location: 6817 Franklin Ave. (at Highland),
Located inside the Hollywood
United Methodist Church.
Free Parking in the Church lot.

Phone: (323) 850-6271 **Fax:** (323) 850-6295

Website: www.firststagela.org

Email address: FirstStageLA@aol.com

HONORARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EDWARD ASNER - SYD FIELD - JULIE HARRIS

THEODORE MANN - PAUL NEWMAN

JOHN FORD NOONAN

JOSE QUINTERO (IN MEMORIAM)

LILY TOMLIN

Some works read at FirstStage that have then gone on to other success include:

★ CHAIM'S LOVE SONG by Marvin Chernoff
Developed entirely in our Writer's Workshop and went on to a very successful off-Broadway run in 1998

★ OLD WICKED SONGS by Jon Marans
Produced at the Walnut Theatre; the American Place Theatre; the Geffen Playhouse. A finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 1997.

★ LAKE BOAT by David Mamet
Read here and went on to its West Coast premiere at the Tiffany Theatre.

★ THE DAY ROOM by Don DeLillo
Read here and went on to a successful Off-Broadway run.

★ TEA by Valina Hasu Houston
Read here then produced at various theatres including the Manhattan Theatre Club and the Old Globe Theatre.

★ GREEN MOUNTAIN FEVER by John Ford Noonan
Read and workshopped here and went on to enjoy several productions.

★ DANNY AND THE DEEP BLUE SEA by John Patrick Shanley

★ STRAIGHTS! by Dennis Safren
Read, workshopped here, and then went on to several productions including The Trustus Theatre in South Carolina and The Bailiwick Theatre in Chicago.

Some of the many theatres which have produced works read at FirstStage include: *The Baltimore Center Stage, The Playwright's Center in Minneapolis, The Empty Space Theatre of Seattle, Houston's Alley Theatre, The Salt Lake City Acting Company, The California Repertory Company, The Abby Theatre in Dublin, Playwright's Horizons in New York, Chicago's Stage Two Theatre and scores of Los Angeles theatres including The Tamarind, Theatre of NOTE, Actors Alley, Hudson Theatre, Actors Art Theatre, Group Repertory Theatre, Cast Theatre, Fountain Theatre, East/West Players and Moving Arts Theatre.*

**24th Anniversary
1983 - 2007**

Dedicated to the Development of New Material for Stage and Screen