

Front Row Theatre Company

University of Pennsylvania

<http://dolphin.upenn.edu/~ftc>

ftc@dolphin.upenn.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT:

Dr. Jennifer Snead, Director
Kelly Writers House
jsnead@writing.upenn.edu
215 573 9748

Charles Forster, Technical Director
Front Row Theatre Company
cforster@seas.upenn.edu
267 992 0693

New playwriting fellowship sponsored by Front Row Theatre Company, Kelly Writers House, and the Creative Writing Department.

Philadelphia, PA -- September 23, 2004 – For the first time, student playwrights at the University of Pennsylvania are getting the opportunity to have their work produced. Front Row Theatre Company, Kelly Writers House, and the Creative Writing Department are offering a playwriting fellowship to a student at The University to support the vibrant writing community. The fellowship will include a monetary reward, a workshop of the piece, and a final staged reading.

Plays are not meant to be read, but heard and seen. To truly develop new work, a playwright must have the opportunity to interact with the play's production. The winner of the playwriting fellowship sponsored by Front Row Theatre Company, Kelly Writers House, and the Creative Writing Department will receive a week long workshop. This includes a director, cast, and staff to develop the play and prepare a capstone staged reading. Almost every professionally produced play is workshopped at least once; it is a vital step in theatre production.

Submissions for the fellowship will be accepted before December 13th in the playwriting fellowship box at Kelly Writers House (KWH). The submissions will be reviewed by a panel of representatives from the three sponsors, and an award will be announced on January 21st. The workshop will commence on Sunday, February 13th, with an open reading at KWH where the community will be invited to offer advice and criticism. For the rest of the week, Monday, February 14th – Friday, February 18th, the company will rehearse the play each day, with the opportunity for the playwright to make revisions. Finally, on Saturday, February 19th, the community will be invited to a staged reading in The Heyer Space at Harrison College House.

The creative writing program at Penn offers writing workshops every semester in fiction, poetry, and non-fiction, as well as screenwriting, playwriting, and review. There are approximately 90-100 concentrators in any given year. (<http://writing.upenn.edu/cw/>)

Founded in 1995 by a group of students, faculty, staff and alumni, the Kelly Writers House is an actual 13-room house at 3805 Locust Walk on Penn's campus that serves as a center for writers of all kinds from Penn and the Philadelphia region at large. (<http://www.writing.upenn.edu/~wh/>)

Front Row Theatre Company is an entirely student run company at the University of Pennsylvania dedicated to cutting edge, socially relevant theater. The company is 12 years old, and has collaborated with a number of groups on and off campus to promote cultural awareness. Subscription tickets are available for their 2004-2005 season. (<http://dolphin.upenn.edu/~ftc/>).