

FY2016 Playwriting Panelist Biographies

Greg Mehrten is an award-winning actor, director, writer and designer who has worked in New York theater since 1975. He received an Obie award for his performance in *Lear* (1990). A former member and co-Artistic Director of Mabou Mines, he is currently an associate member of the Wooster Group. As an actor, he has worked with many directors over the years and has performed in over 100 venues around the world.

Lee Nowell began her career at Hedgerow Theatre (PA), the country's oldest resident repertory theatre company, where she trained to be a director with Obie award winner, Lou Lippa. She focused on new play development and workshopped world premiere productions. After two seasons at Hedgerow, she was nominated for the New York Drama League's Directors Lab. She attended Kenyon College (Gambier, OH), where she graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree in Drama.

Her plays have been workshopped and produced by Theatre in the Square (*Urban Fairytale*), Metropolitan Theatre Alliance (*Preacher from the Black Lagoon*), Actor's Express (*Albatross*, *Paper House*, *Obsession*), Ex Somnium (*How to Survive Being Human*), Horizon Theatre (*Blue Angels Weekend*), and Play West (*The Commission*, *Blue Angels Weekend*).

She is the recipient of an Inverness Playwriting Award, two Turner New Voices in the Works Grants (*Paper House*, *Obsession*), an NEA Grant (*Beyond Reasonable Doubt: The Troy Davis Project*) and has been nominated for The List (*Paper House*), a Jennie Award (*Urban Fairytale*), a Suzi Bass Award (*Albatross*), and an NEA Distinguished New Play Development Award (*Paper House*). *Albatross* was nominated for "Best Play of the Year" by Atlanta Theatre Fans. *Beyond Reasonable Doubt: The Troy Davis Project*, based on a controversial trial in Savannah, GA, was commissioned by Synchronicity Theatre (Atlanta, GA) and will premiere in Spring 2016.