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Playwrights Bypass The Traditional Theater Model And Produce Their Own Plays

For Immediate Release

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If you're a playwright in Boston, it is extremely difficult to get a new, full-length play produced. Because theaters are concerned with the bottom line, they are unwilling to take a chance on an undiscovered playwright. Boston Public Works Theater Company (www.bostonpublicworks.org) is a company of playwrights who, in true entrepreneurial fashion, have banded together to take control of their artistic lives and circumvent the traditional route to production by producing their own plays.

The BPW playwrights are, in the order of their productions, John Greiner-Ferris, Cassie M. Seinuk, Emily Kaye Lazzaro, Jess Foster, Kevin Mullins, Jim Dalglish, and Laura Neubauer.

BPW's first season consists of *Turtles*, by John Greiner-Ferris, *From The Deep*, by Cassie M. Seinuk, and *Three*, by Emily Kaye Lazzaro. The entire season will be produced at the Boston Center for the Arts.

Boston Public Works was founded by John Greiner-Ferris and Kevin Mullins. BPW used the model 13P (www.13P.org) established in New York City as a departure point. The playwrights are creating their own opportunities, leading by example, and have banded together to:

- Produce one play by each member of Boston Public Works, thereby increasing the number of new plays in Boston and acquainting Boston audiences to new local work
- Learn self-production as part of the journey
- Employ Boston theater artists of all stripes for their skills and talents to break new ground
- Leave a roadmap for other playwrights to follow because it's so much easier once someone else has led the way.

BPW's ultimate goal is to give Boston a nationwide reputation for being a hotbed for new plays.



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"Self-production is very difficult work," said Greiner-Ferris. "But it's a lot easier to do once others have broken ground. Boston Public Works is all about proving that playwrights can circumvent the traditional route to production and do it themselves, at the same time achieving some incredible intellectual gains and artistic experience along the way."

"With the number of playwrights in Boston, you should be seeing a lot more new, full-length plays by local playwrights," said Greiner-Ferris. "New plays and local playwrights are a neglected asset to the city of Boston."

"Boston Public Works wants to change the way new plays are done in Boston," Mullins said. "We want playwrights to have full control over the artistic life of their plays, and in taking that control we hope to make Boston a hotbed of new work "

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