



WE MAKE SPACE FOR ART

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 15, 2016

Contact: Patrick Landes
plandes@culturaldc.org



CulturalDC announces Source Festival 2017: “The Best of a Decade” and Open Call for 10-Minute Scripts

WASHINGTON, DC – CulturalDC is pleased to announce plans for the 10th Anniversary of Source Festival. The 2017 Festival is a celebration of some of the best plays debuted at the Festival over the last decade. Running June 9 – July 2, 2017, it will feature:

- A new production of Topher Payne’s smash-hit from 2013, ***PERFECT ARRANGEMENT***
- Development workshops and public readings of three brand-new plays
- Revivals of six “Best of...” 10-Minute Plays
- Six new 10-Minute Plays based on the theme of *PERFECT ARRANGEMENT* (see below)
- Three new Artistic Blind Dates (interdisciplinary collaborations)

PERFECT ARRANGEMENT debuted at Source Festival 2013. Since then, the play received the 2014 Osborn Award from the American Theatre Critics Association and an off-Broadway production at Primary Stages. The script was published by Samuel French in 2016.

Playwrights are invited to submit 10-Minute scripts **specifically related** to **COVERT CATALYSTS**, a theme derived from ***PERFECT ARRANGEMENT***.

- **COVERT CATALYSTS:** We are looking for plays that examine an instant of revolution (on a macro or micro level) in an unexpected way. We encourage the playwrights to find a surprising method or action in which to invoke change. Expose and explore tension in a subterranean, surprising, humorous or clever way.
- **The deadline for submissions is January 6, 2017 at 5PM EST. The six 10-Minute Plays chosen for production will be announced in March 2017. For submission instructions and eligibility guidelines, please visit <http://www.sourcefestival.org/opportunities.html>**

***PERFECT ARRANGEMENT* by Topher Payne**

In a 1950’s Georgetown duplex, Bob and Millie live next door to Norma and Jim, in what appears to be a perfect arrangement. The twist is that all four are gay and have cultivated fake identities outside of their homes, in order to live truthfully inside. The cultural shift of the 1950s brings about a moment of change when their carefully crafted falsehood is thrown into chaos. Topher Payne’s play (based on the

historical events of The Lavender Scare) explores this shifting landscape with humor, energy, farce and surprising honesty.

Topher Payne

In 2014, The American Theatre Critics Association awarded Topher Payne's play **PERFECT ARRANGEMENT** (originally produced by Source Festival) the M. Elizabeth Osborn Prize for Best Play by An Emerging Playwright. The play went on to be produced Off-Broadway in 2015 by Primary Stages and MARS Theatricals. His other works for the stage include **EVELYN IN PURGATORY**, **SWELL PARTY**, **THE ONLY LIGHT IN RENO**, and **ANGRY FAGS**. In 2016, he scripted two films for The Hallmark Channel, **MY SUMMER PRINCE** and **BROADCASTING CHRISTMAS**.

Topher is a two-time winner of The Gene-Gabriel Moore Playwriting Award. He has been named Atlanta's Best Local Playwright by readers of *Creative Loafing* six times, and received the 2016 Suzi Bass Award for Outstanding World Premiere for the holiday comedy **LET NOTHING YOU DISMAY**. His latest, **GREETINGS FRIEND YOUR KIND ASSISTANCE IS REQUIRED** - an adventure comedy inspired by spam emails - premieres in January 2017 at Georgia Ensemble Theatre. He lives in Atlanta with his fella Daniel and their devoted beagle Daisy.

ABOUT SOURCE FESTIVAL

Driven by creativity, collaboration and invention, Source Festival brings together artists from across the nation to present new works—Full-Length Plays, 10-Minute Plays and Artistic Blind Dates—over three weeks in June. The relationships built here lay the path for the next generation of outstanding performing artists.

Now in its 10th year, Source Festival has built a reputation as a vital launching pad for new work and a proving ground for rising talents and established artists, directors and designers. Emily Schwend's play **SPLINTERS**, which premiered at the 2010 Source Festival, was selected as one of six finalists for the American Theatre Critic Association's 2011 Steinberg Award. Topher Payne's **PERFECT ARRANGEMENT** (Source Festival 2013) won 2013 Steinberg Award and was recently produced off-Broadway at Primary Stages. **COLLAPSING SILENCE**, an Artistic Blind Date that debuted at the 2011 Festival, inspired the launch of Washington's interdisciplinary arts organization Force/Collision. Nathan Alan Davis' **DONTRELL WHO KISSED THE SEA** and Steve Yockey's **THE THRUSH & THE WOODPECKER**, both produced as Source Festival 2014, have gone to the National New Play Networks' Rolling World Premiere Program. Davis also won a Steinberg Citation from the American Critic Theatre Association for **DONTRELL**.

Support for Source Festival 2016, a CulturalDC project, was generously provided by: DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Daimler, Washington Gas, AT&T, Bozzuto, Torti Gallas and Partners, Susan and Dixon Butler, Phyllis and Barry Caldwell, Pete Miller and Sara Cormeny, Avery Ash, Connie Carter and Gordon Dale, Ronald and Adrienne Childs, Michelle and John Green, Bill and Leslie Kirk, Debra Kraft and Rob Liberatore, Katie and Dick Snowden. Additional support is provided by: The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, Busboys and Poets/Mulebone, Lockheed Martin, Menkiti Group, VOA & Associates.

Visit the CulturalDC website at culturaldc.org and follow CulturalDC on social media ([Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/culturaldc), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/culturaldc), and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/culturaldc)) for updates on this and all of our exciting projects.

#WeMakeSpaceForArt

CulturalDC • 916 G St, NW • Washington, DC 20001
General: 202.315.1305 • **Fax:** 202.315.1303 • **Email:** plandes@culturaldc.org

###