

THE NEW AMERICAN FRONTIER is the NEW AMERICAN  
Commissioning two plays in honor of JFK's Centennial (May 29, 2017)

We're modeling it on the Big Ten Theatre Consortium shared commission notion (the Big Ten Theatre Department Consortium have commissioned plays by women and are in the midst of producing the second of four plays around the country.) In our case, eight or more colleges/universities would share the commissioning fee for each play (at least one in each of our KCACTF regions) share rolling world premiere credit, have a hand in the development and/or expose their students to the process of developing and working on a new play.

The plays will have large casts of characters,  
They will be large in scale and in the scope of the ideas they're grappling with,  
They will have a significant number of substantial roles for women and students of color,  
and the vast majority of roles can be played by college students. In other words, the plays will deal with young people grappling and fighting and struggling for something.

The Kennedy Center is going to "theme" the whole celebration year with "The New American Frontier is the New American"- which is uplifting- to my mind- and particularly apt as the project straddles an election year and is happening in the midst of a lot of rhetoric about who is and who isn't an American. It's a bit audacious for the Kennedy Center...and very exciting. In addition to the requirements above, the playwrights will be asked to write in honor of the legacy of John F. Kennedy (not biography or history-based, necessarily) on themes of justice, courage, service, innovation, civil rights, discovery...

#### CALENDAR

##### **-a draft of the play early/mid fall 2016**

- workshop options summer (at the Kennedy Center and at one or two of the commissioning schools) and fall 2016 (at one or more of the commissioning schools)
- productions winter/spring 2017 or fall 2017

#### COSTS

- Kennedy Center will provide the first playwright payments of between \$5000-7500 to each playwright.
- Shared commission cost: \$600 per school, plus royalty of \$50 per performance to the playwright if a full production is mounted.
- If the school chooses not to mount a full production, but **chooses to** host and present a concert reading of the play, the royalty will be \$150.
- If a commissioning school chooses to enter a full production of the play in KCACTF, \$100 of an associate entry fee and \$150 of a participating entry fee will be subsidized by the Kennedy Center.
- Playwrights will Skype in to rehearsals as arranged.
- If the playwrights are invited to a campus during rehearsals or for production, the schools would cover per diem, lodging and travel. Playwrights will be available for one 90 minute workshop/class with students, but if they are asked for any kind of teaching beyond this, the hosting school will be expected to offer appropriate honoraria. Playwrights will be available for advance publicity and press.