

FY2012
Playwriting
Panelist Biographies

Tom Evans

In the late 80's and early 90's Tom Evans was a staff director for the Shenandoah International Playwrights Retreat outside Staunton, VA. Over eleven summer seasons he directed staged readings of at least two full length new plays and participated in dramaturgical response to four or five other new works. During a 32 year tenure teaching theatre at Hanover College in Indiana, Mr. Evans directed some 160 plays, 17 of which were new works. Productions of two of these new plays--written by his student, Jim Leonard--were invited to the Kennedy Center in D.C. for American College Theatre Festival performances—"And They Dance Real Slow In Jackson" in 1980 and "The Diviners" in 1981. The latter won the National Student Playwriting Prize for Leonard. He then directed professional stagings of both works--"And They Dance Real Slow In Jackson" at New Playwrights in D.C. and "The Diviners" at Circle Rep in New York. Currently, Tom is the director of record for annual winners of the Reva Shiner New Comedy Award at the Bloomington Playwrights Project.

Lorraine Heidekat

Lorraine Heidekat is an Adjunct Associate Professor for Pittsburgh Filmmakers, Pittsburgh, PA. She also is an Emmy-winning freelance writer/producer whose projects have included everything from a documentary about adopting disabled children to a comedy set in a funeral home. Her writing experience covers newspaper reporting, copywriting, playwriting and scripting. She received her B.A. from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA.