

J.T. Rogers



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NEW DRAMATISTS RESIDENT PLAYWRIGHT SINCE 2007

J. T. Rogers's *The Overwhelming* premiered at London's National Theatre, toured the UK with *Out of Joint*, was heard on BBC radio, and had its American debut at the Roundabout Theatre in 2008. His play, *White People*, had a commercial run Off Broadway in 2009. His other plays include, *Madagascar*, *Blood and Gifts*, and *Murmuring in a Dead Tongue*. Rogers's works have been produced at the Tricycle Theatre, London; Habima Theatre, Tel Aviv; Studio 180, Ontario; the SPF Off Broadway Festival; Next Theatre, Chicago; Shakespeare & Co., the Berkshires; and in theaters throughout the United States. Recent awards include, NEA/TCG and NYFA fellowships, the Pinter Review Prize for Drama, the American Theatre Critics Association's Osborne Award, and the William Inge Center for the Arts' New Voices Award. His works are published in the US and UK by Faber and Faber and in acting editions by Dramatists Play Service. Rogers's essays have appeared in *American Theatre* and in London's *Independent* and *The New Statesman*. He is a member of both PEN and the Dramatists Guild, has been a guest lecturer at the Claremont-McKenna School of Economics, and holds an honorary doctorate from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

Scripts available through New Dramatists

THE OVERWHELMING

Two-act, Drama, 120 minutes 8M, 3W
Flexible set

When American academic Jack Exley arrives in Kigali, Rwanda, in early 1994 to write about his old college classmate Dr. Joseph Gasana and his work with children stricken by AIDS, Jack is unable to find anyone who even admits to knowing the doctor. Jack, his African-American second wife, Linda, and his teenage son, Geoffrey, become enmeshed in the politics, fear, and personal betrayals that mark the start of a genocidal war—a horror all can sense is coming but no one can comprehend or control.

World premiere: Royal National Theatre, London (2007). American premiere: Roundabout Theatre (2008). Finalist: South Bank Show Award for best play of the year (2006). Winner: William Inge Center for the Arts' New Voices award and the Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation's Theatre Vision award (both 2007). Subsequent productions through 2009: Hanger Theater, NY; Contemporary American Theater Festival, WV; Next Theatre, Chicago; Man Bites Dog Theater, NC; Theater 180, Ontario.

MADAGASCAR

Two-act Drama, 100 minutes 1M, 2W
Flexible set

The haunting story of a mysterious disappearance that changes three lives forever. At three different periods in time, three Ameri-

cans find themselves alone, in the same hotel room overlooking the Spanish Steps in Rome: June, a young woman who works as a tour guide of the city's ancient ruins; Lilian, her wealthy and elegant jet-setting mother; and Nathan, a rumpled university economist and the best friend of Lilian's famous deceased husband. They each tell their individual story of how and why they are here. Their relationship to each other, what this room means to them, and why they have been called to it slowly reveal themselves. Their stories spill out, weave back and forth—each contradicting, clarifying, deepening what the others say—becoming strands of one gripping and disquieting tale.

World Premiere: Salt Lake Acting Company (2004). Subsequent productions: Summer Play Festival (2005); the Adirondack Theatre Festival (2005); New Theatre, Miami (2005); and Northcoast Rep (2008). Winner: Pinter Review Prize, the American Theatre Critics Association's Osborne Award, and picked as best play of the Year by the *Miami Herald* and the *Miami New Times*.

WHITE PEOPLE

One-act Drama, 90 minutes 2M, 1W
Flexible Set

Now—right now—what does it mean to be a white American? What does it mean for any American to live in a country that is not the one you were promised? A darkly funny play about the lives of three ordinary Americans placed under the spotlight: Martin, a Brooklyn-born high powered attorney for a white-shoe law firm in St. Louis, MO; Mara Lynn, a housewife and former homecoming queen in Fayetteville, NC; and Alan, a young professor struggling to find his way in New York City. Through heart-wrenching confessions, they wrestle with guilt, prejudice, and the price they and their children must pay for their actions. *White People* is a candid, brutally honest meditation on race and language in our culture.

World Premiere: Philadelphia Theatre Company (2000). Subsequent productions: Salt Lake Acting Company (2000); New Theatre, Miami (2004); New Repertory Theatre, Boston (2007); Gift Theater, Chicago, and Trustus Theater, SC (both 2008). Revised play premiered Off Broadway and then ran at Shakespeare & Company, the Berkshires (both 2009). Nominated for best play of the year by the LA Drama Critics Circle, the Elliot Norton Awards of Boston, the Carbonell Awards of South Florida, and the Barrymore Awards of Philadelphia.

MURMURING IN A DEAD TONGUE

One-act Drama, 30 minutes 1M
Flexible set

A man sits before us in a chair, telling a fever-dream of a story: about a cocktail party he's just come back from that went disastrously wrong, about channel-surfing between a mesmerizing surgery and the world's strangest action movie—all while quoting his mysterious, enigmatic wife. Slowly a pattern begins to emerge

from his spiral of words, as his tale loops back on itself, stitching together seemingly random threads into a hypnotic whole. A bracingly funny and disquieting play about a man who keeps asking the question: "How do I live in a world in which I am doomed to die?"

World Premiere: Off Broadway with Epic Repertory Theatre Company (2003). Revised play debuted at The Source Theater Festival, DC (2008).