

ALAP'S DIVERSITY FELLOWSHIPS FOR 2018

The Alliance of Los Angeles Playwrights (ALAP) is the service and support organization for playwrights in Southern California, though we now have members in 15 states, the District of Columbia, and even New Zealand! We feel it's important our membership be as inclusive as possible, and we believe that both our current members and new members can benefit from interacting with each other. Which is why, for the second year in a row, ALAP is offering up to 10 Fellowships to young playwrights and playwrights of color: each Fellowship consists of a full year of membership in the organization and invitations to all ALAP events.

The only "requirement" in return is that each new member attend at least two ALAP events, or participate in two ALAP programs, during the course of the Fellowship year.

ALAP hosts a number of programs and events throughout the year, including the monthly Salo(o)ns, which are partly social but which also include a discussion of a topic of interest; professional symposiums and workshops – as one example, in 2018, we will be partnering with the Dramatists Guild Foundation to host a Traveling Master program in LA; social and networking events, such as the Summer Picnic and Spring Cocktail Party; and submission opportunities, including the annual bicoastal Play Reading Festival, which takes place in both Los Angeles and New York, and the *In Our Own Voices* reading series. Hopefully new members will want to participate in more than just two!

While many of our events and programs are open to the public, some are restricted to members. For example, only members may list their work in the website's Script Catalogue, which reaches a worldwide audience; can enter their bios and credits in "Meet Our Members" also on the website; can submit to our New Works Lab (in which a theatre company selects a new play and gives it a table read followed by a discussion), the Annual Reading Festival (in which short plays are given rehearsed readings in both Los Angeles and New York), and the *In Our Own Voices* reading series; and may participate in programs such as the Producer/ Director/ Playwright Exchange, which has led to productions, readings, and paying work for many participants, and the Playwright's Playpen, in which playwrights get to explore their work with a group of actors hired by ALAP.

In 2017, we also created a program – *Other Voices, Our Voices* – specifically for the Diversity Fellows to be able to present work at ALAP's fall event; we will do a similar program in 2018.

If you're a young playwright, or a playwright of color, who would be interested in such a Fellowship – or if you know someone you can recommend – please contact Co-Chair Dan Berkowitz by writing DanB@LAPlaywrights.org.

"ALAP has given me a community of people who understand my journey as a writer. The resources for actors to utilize in our development and news of opportunities are immense. I especially like the saloons because we not only get together to discuss a topic, but most of all we can eat, chat and hang out and enjoy each other's company. I don't feel so alone in ALAP, and as a person of color, I feel confident in the stories I want to tell because of my difference and the support I gain from my peers in ALAP."

– Chris Belen Aguilar, 2017 ALAP Diversity Fellow