Women Artists at the 36th Annual Bay Area Playwrights Festival

The Playwrights Foundation, helmed by Artistic Director Amy Mueller, has always had a strong track record of developing the work of female playwrights in equal measure to that of male playwrights. Speaking as a former Literary Manager and Associate Artistic Director (2000-2006), I can remember many conversations during play selection processes about diversity, inclusion and the need to adequately represent women’s voices onstage.

This year’s Bay Area Playwrights Festival lineup stands out for many reasons, but the one that excites me most is that 5 out of 6 playwrights are women! You won’t see those statistics represented in too many theatrical venues this summer. There are also a number of fabulous women actors and directors participating in the festival as well. The year’s BAPF plays include:

*Before & After* by Erin Bregman: Grapples with memory and afterlife in a metaphysical journey

*The Brothers Paranormal* by Prince Gomolvilas: Serves up real and imagined Ghosts, in a Thai style sci-fi mystery

*FSM* by Joan Holden: a play about the Free Speech Movement – a partnership with Stagebridge Theatre

*brownsville song (b-side for tray)* by Kimber Lee: A poetic, dreamlike, and tragic meditation on the cost of inner city violence
Hannah and the Dread Gazebo by Jiehae Park: North vs. South Korea can’t stop the wild beast of the DMZ

The Comparables by Laura Schellhardt: A ballsy satire between three women at the top of their game

Supporters of gender parity in theater should check out all the plays, but have two opportunities to do so in the company of other fabulous feminist theater-makers.

- **Sun 7/21 @ 12pm**: join the Yeah, I Said Feminist Theatre Salon crew at the reading of Laura Schellhardt’s The Comparables. Hosted by Fontana Butterfield Guzman. Use discount code “Salon” for aHS10 ticket ($13 w/ surcharge). Get tickets [here](http://worksbywomensf.wordpress.com/2013/07/16/noteworthy-news-shows-to-see-3/).

- **Sun 7/28 @ 4pm**: Works by Women San Francisco Meetup Group attends the reading of Erin Bregman’s Before & After. Hosted by Christine Young. Use discount code “WWSF” for a $10 ticket ($13 w/ surcharge). Get tickets [here](http://worksbywomensf.wordpress.com/2013/07/16/noteworthy-news-shows-to-see-3/).