World Premiere Circle

(plural noun.) Producers and top-level supporters who truly understand Dorset Theatre Festival’s vision for new play development, as well as the unique challenges and risks involved in that commitment.

Dorset Theatre Festival’s World Premiere Circle is a unique opportunity to join the ranks of visionary arts supporters including the Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust, the Edgerton Foundation New Play Awards, and the James H. and Irene M. Hunter Charitable Trust. The support of these generous foundations has allowed us to take a tremendous leap forward in becoming a nationally recognized producer of new plays. They understand what it takes to produce World and Regional Premieres, and for years have championed our efforts to:

- extend rehearsal periods
- provide dramaturgical support
- workshop a play in its early stages
- attract professional actors to Dorset
- build an audience that loves new plays

Now, with the World Premiere Circle Donors, we can go further in the Festival’s ability to support new, diverse work written by established and emerging artists. We can continue to produce World and Regional Premieres with the quality and professionalism they deserve as they enter the American theatre canon.

In addition to World and Regional Premieres, through the Women Artists Writing Group, the Jean E. Miller Young Playwrights Program, the Pipeline Series of New Plays, and the soon-to-be Dorset Theatre Festival Commissioning and Fellowship Program, we continue gaining momentum toward becoming a year-round New Play Center in Southern Vermont.

OUR NEED

World Premiere Circle Donors give a multi-year gift of $25,000 for at least four years to benefit the Festival’s New Play Development Programs.

Thanks to a transformative gift from Mary-Anne and Bob Van Degna, we are honored to offer you an invitation to join them as they lead the charge in bolstering the Festival’s mission. The Van Degenas believe in our development programs as a way to make our community stronger, and understand the Festival’s global impact on these plays, as they become the hits of tomorrow.