

Marcus Gardley is a poet-playwright who recently won the 2011 PEN Laura Pels award for Mid-Career Playwright. His most recent play *Every Tongue Confess* premiered at Arena Stage starring Phylicia Rashad and directed by Kenny Leon. It was nominated for the Steinberg New Play Award, the Charles MacArthur Award for Best Play and was the recipient of the Edgerton New Play Award.

His musical, *On The Levee* premiered last summer at Lincoln Center and was nominated for 11 Audelco Awards including outstanding playwright. Last Spring, his critically acclaimed epic *And Jesus moonwalks the Mississippi* was produced at the Cutting Ball Theater and received the SF Bay Area Theater Critics circle Award nomination for outstanding new play and had two sold-out extensions.

His Bay Area plays: *This World in a Woman's Hands* (October 2009) and *Love is a Dream House in Lorin* (March 2007) have been hailed as the best in Bay Area theater. The latter was nominated for the National Critics Steinberg New Play Award. He has had six plays produced including: *dance of the holy ghosts* at Yale Repertory Theatre (now under a Broadway option,) *(L)imitations of Life*, at the Empty Space in Seattle, WA and *like sun fallin' in the mouth* at the National Black Theatre Festival. He is the recipient of the Hellen Merrill Award, a Kellsering Honor, the Gerbode Emerging Playwright Award, the National Alliance for Musical Theatre Award, a Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation Grant, a NEA/TCG Playwriting Participant Residency, the Eugene O'Neill Memorial Scholarship and the ASCAP Cole Porter Prize.

He holds an MFA in Playwriting from the Yale Drama School and is a member of New Dramatists, The Dramatists Guild and the Lark Play Development Center. *The New Yorker* describes Gardley as "the heir to Garcia Lorca, Pirandello and Tennessee Williams." He is the 2011/2012 Aetna New Voices Playwright in residence at Hartford Stage and a professor of Playwriting at Brown University.