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**JEANIE O'HARE
APPOINTED
CHAIR OF THE PLAYWRITING DEPARTMENT
AT YALE SCHOOL OF DRAMA**

Yale School of Drama Dean James Bundy is pleased to announce the appointment of **Jeanie O'Hare** as the **Chair of the Department of Playwriting**, effective July 1, 2012, for a three-year term.

"Jeanie O'Hare has distinguished herself as a unique and profoundly accomplished theatre artist," says **Dean James Bundy**. "For nearly twenty years, she has cultivated relationships with playwrights from around the world and developed work that has been produced and celebrated internationally. I am certain that her vital creative intelligence and generous collaborative spirit will inspire not only the Playwriting department, but also the entire Yale School of Drama community."

Jeanie O'Hare comes to Yale School of Drama from the Royal Shakespeare Company, where she has served as Company Dramaturg since 2005. At the RSC, she has been responsible for dozens of commissions that have brought the works of living playwrights back to high visibility within the Company's repertoire. These include plays by such writers as Debbie Tucker Green, David Greig, Natalia Vorozhbit, and Roy Williams, as well as the recent *Matilda The Musical* by Dennis Kelly with music and lyrics by Tim Minchin. Ms. O'Hare also brought playwrights into the RSC for extended residencies through the RSC/Warwick International Playwright In Residence program, forged an alliance with LAByrinth Theater Company in New York City, and conducted play development workshops at the University of Michigan, among many other projects. Prior to her work at the RSC, Jeanie served as Literary Manager for Hampstead Theatre for four years, and worked for seven seasons in the artistic and literary offices of the Royal Court Theatre. She trained as a sculptor at the Falmouth School of Art in Cornwall, and is a writer of fiction.

"I am delighted and honored to join Yale School of Drama. I have long been aware of Yale as the proving ground of some of the best talent emerging in American theatre. I have spent nearly twenty years working with writers in the profession and Yale has consistently earned its reputation as a hotspot of exciting new writing," says **Jeanie O'Hare**. "Over the last four years Paula Vogel has been raising the bar of Yale playwriting ever higher, inspiring a brilliant cohort of writers. I hope by developing closer professional ties and mapping shifts in theatre practice I can lead the playwriting program towards a new era in theatre making; encouraging young artists to become the kind of industry-ready playwrights who can really make a difference."

Jeanie O'Hare will participate in the admissions process and planning for the incoming class of 2015 and beyond. She will assume full-time duties on July 1, 2012, leading a department that includes Eugene O'Neill Professor (Adjunct) of Playwriting Paula Vogel and Associate Chair Kenneth Prestinzi. The current School of Drama Playwriting faculty also includes Michael Korie, Lisa Kron, Lynn Nottage, Frank Pugliese, Sarah Ruhl, Rachel Sheinkin, and Deborah Stein.

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