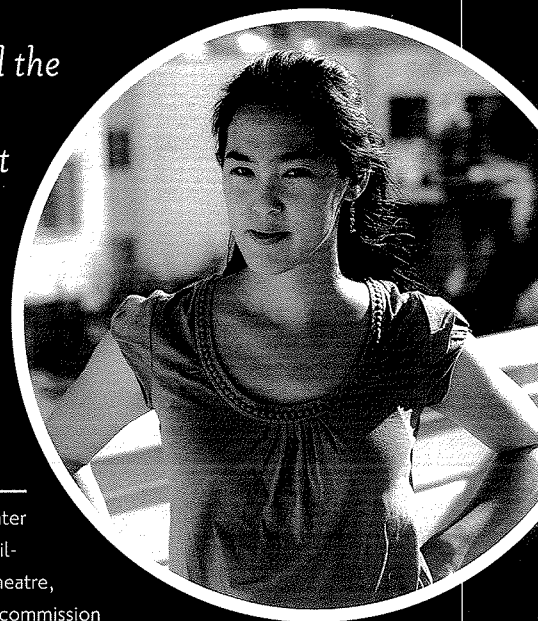


Which one writer or play had the most impact on my writing

# LAUREN YEE

*Adam Bock's Five Flights utterly changed the way I thought about theater. I hadn't yet started down the path of playwriting, but this first exposure to the world of "new plays" redefined for me what a piece of theatrical writing could be. His writing exemplifies the kind of work I love: language-based, elusive, and heart-breakingly simple.*

**LAUREN YEE**'s work has been produced/developed at Lincoln Center Theatre/LCT3, The Public, PlayPenn, Bay Area Playwrights Festival, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Hangar Theatre, Company One, Moxie Theatre, Impact Theatre, Mu Performing Arts, and Pan Asian Rep. She is under commission from Lincoln Center Theatre. BA: Yale. MFA: UCSD.



Which one writer or play had the most impact on my writing

# ADAM BOCK

*I saw Caryl Churchill's Far Away at NYTW in 2002. At the end of the play, I sat silent and then had to start talking to the woman sitting next to me, who I didn't know at all. We continued to talk as we left the theater and kept it up for eight blocks more as we walked towards the subway.*

*Far Away is an astonishing piece of writing. In 50 short minutes, Churchill showed me a new way to think about fear, about government, about war.*

*In the final scene, all of creation is at war. Churchill takes this notion to absurd lengths - the Canadians are allied with the Venezuelans and mosquitoes and children under five - it was impossible not to laugh at the alliances she conjures. But by the time an exhausted and fearful Joan says "Who is going to mobilise darkness and silence?" Churchill's layering of image after horrific image forced me to imagine the disorientation of war. A fortunate child of peace at home, I have so rarely experienced war or strife in my own country (with the horrible exceptions of the FLQ and 9/11) but suddenly I could imagine how truly dangerous it would be to live in an unendingly war-tossed world. Is there murder behind that tree? If I crossed the river, will it rise up and kill me?*

*With every play Churchill proves the possibility of the importance of theatre. She shows us theatre can manifest danger, it can unlock fears we refuse to face and bring them here, now, alive, in front of us. Far Away is a beautiful and terrifying play, one that reminds me to do better, to write better, to try harder, to pay attention, to care more.*

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**ADAM BOCK's** recent plays include *A Small Fire* (Playwrights Horizons, 2011 Drama Desk nomination for Best Play), *The Receptionist* (MTC, 2008 Outer Critics nomination, Best Plays of 2007-2008) and *The Thugs* (Soho Rep, 2007 OBIE Award for Playwriting). He is a 2012 Guggenheim grantee.

