

molly smith  
artistic director

stephen richard  
executive director

zelda fichandler  
founding director



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **ARENA STAGE ANNOUNCES ADDITION TO ARTISTIC TEAM**

**\*\*\* David Dower, founder and former artistic director of the Z Space Studio, to be Arena Stage Artistic Associate \*\*\***

(Washington D.C.) Arena Stage Artistic Director Molly Smith announced that as of October 2006 David Dower will join the theater's artistic team as Artistic Associate. Dower will be leaving The Z Space Studio in San Francisco, an innovative theater company he founded 13 years ago and has led as Artistic Director, to bring a wealth of knowledge and experience in the development of new work at Arena Stage.

"David Dower is one of the most interesting theater practitioners working today," said Smith. "When he founded The Z Space Studio, he created a tremendously innovative theater – one whose work continues to be both vibrant and engaging. Bringing that vision to Arena, David will help us make connections with artists for our mainstage shows and our downstairs series. We are thrilled."

As Artistic Associate, Dower will support the development of new artistic projects and programming; function as on-line producer (attend design meetings, workshops, read-throughs, rehearsals, etc); scout talent by attending local and national productions; attract artists to Arena by creating and maintaining relationships with directors, designers, actors and playwrights; support Arena's season planning process; and serve as a spokesperson for Arena in the D.C. community.

Dower has a B.A. from American University and trained as an actor in the M.F.A. program at NYU. As the founder and Artistic Director of The Z Space Studio, he built the organization from an all-volunteer effort to a bustling, fully professionalized, multi-program company. The Studio has consistently garnered critical and popular acclaim for its projects and programs. Dower has spent more than 18 years as a director and dramaturg in the San Francisco Bay Area. Five works he guided toured nationally and internationally in 2005/06. He has restaged works developed and premiered in the Bay Area in regional theaters including Arena Stage, Berkeley Rep., Intiman, Philadelphia Theater Company, Perseverance Theater, The Guthrie Theater and PS122. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Theatre Communications Group, and will continue to work on projects with The Z Space Studio including directing two premieres this coming spring.

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