

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**MEDIA CONTACT:**  
**Liliana Hernandez-Constenla**  
305-375-5829/ [lilianh@miamidade.gov](mailto:lilianh@miamidade.gov)**SEE NEW MIAMI PLAYS BEFORE THEY REACH THE STAGE AT THE *FROM SCRATCH*,  
FESTIVAL OF STAGED READINGS ON AUGUST 22 & 23, 2015*****Part of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs'  
Playwright Development Program***

**(Miami, August 7, 2015)** – The *From Scratch – Festival of Staged Readings* offers the first glimpse of new works by Miami playwrights before they reach the stage on August 22-23, 2015. For the past two years, three local playwrights - Chris Demos-Brown, Andie Arthur, and Juan C. Sanchez - participated in the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs' [Playwright Development Program](#) and have worked to create a new play from scratch, under the instruction of [Master Playwright, Sheri Wilner](#). Scripts developed through the Program have often gone onto regional theatre stages.

The Playwright Readings will be held at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Miami, 7701 SW 76 Ave and Area Stage Company, 1560 South Dixie Highway. The readings are free and open to the public. RSVP is required at [asp@miamidade.gov](mailto:asp@miamidade.gov).

Saturday, August 22, 2015 at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Miami

5:00 PM - [SUCH TREMENDOUS FAITH by Andie Arthur](#)

A suicidal, depressed woman is torn between her congregation and her new minister.

Sunday, August 23, 2015 at Area Stage Company

3:00 PM – [A GRAY DIVIDE by Juan C. Sanchez](#)

When a man and a woman meet in a coffee shop, sparks fly – until the past rears its ugly head.

5:30 PM – [WRONGFUL DEATH by Chris Demos-Brown](#)

A desperate plaintiff's lawyer vies for the case of a lifetime.

The [Playwright Development Program](#), an initiative from the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs in conjunction with the [South Florida Theatre League](#) and [The Deering Estate at Cutler](#), is a series of weekend workshops over the span of two years led by nationally renowned playwrights. It provides intensive support for cultivating new work from Miami's growing and diverse community of playwrights and has successfully served as an incubator for new works that have been produced by major theatres nationally, including Vanessa Garcia's *The Cuban Spring* at New-Theatre, David Caudle's *Visiting Hours* at the Rising Shiners Theatre Company and Juan Sanchez's *Buck Fever* at the Blue Heron Arts Center in New York City.

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*The Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council develop cultural excellence, diversity and participation throughout Miami-Dade County by strategically creating and promoting opportunities for artists and cultural organizations, and our residents and visitors who are their audiences. The Department directs the Art in Public Places program and serves its board, the Art in Public Places Trust, commissioning, curating, maintaining and promoting the County's art collection. The Department also manages, programs and operates the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center, a campus of state-of-the-art cultural facilities in Cutler Bay, as well as Miami-Dade County Auditorium, Joseph Caleb Auditorium and the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, all dedicated to presenting and supporting excellence in the arts for the entire community. Through staff, board and programmatic resources, the Department, the Council and the Trust promote, coordinate and support Miami-Dade County's more than 1,000 not-for-profit cultural organizations as well as thousands of resident artists through grants, technical assistance, public information and interactive community planning. The Department receives funding through the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners, The Children's Trust, the National Endowment for the Arts, the State of Florida through the Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. Other support and services are provided by TicketWeb for the Culture Shock Miami program, the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau, the South Florida Cultural Consortium and the Tourist Development Council.*

*It is the policy of Miami-Dade County to comply with all of the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. To request materials in accessible format, sign language interpreters, and/or any accommodation to participate in any Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs program or meeting, please contact Francine Andersen at 305-375-4634 [culture@miamidade.gov](mailto:culture@miamidade.gov) at least five days in advance to initiate your request. TTY users may also call 711 (Florida Relay Service).*