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**CLUBBED THUMB ANNOUNCES  
2013 BIENNIAL COMMISSION WINNER  
KATE BENSON**

**Obie Award-winning theater company Clubbed Thumb** announced on Monday the winner of its sixth Biennial Commission: playwright **Kate Benson**. The commission comes with a \$12,000 award as well as various development opportunities with Clubbed Thumb throughout the next two years. The announcement was made by 2013 Tony Award-winner (and Clubbed Thumb board chair) director Pam MacKinnon, at the company's winter benefit -- a reading of Ethan Lipton's play TUMACHO featuring Patrick Wilson, America Ferrera, Christian Borle, Celia Keenan-Bolger, Richard Kind, Kristine Nielsen, John Ellison Conlee, Bill Buell and Paul Neibanck.

The Clubbed Thumb Biennial Commission was created in 2005. Each commission asks a question or poses a theme to serve as a jumping-off point for this examination. This year's applicants were asked to submit a project inspired in some way by the Robert Altman film *Nashville*. Nearly 200 proposals were submitted, from all across the country, which were read "blind".

For the first time in the commission's history, three finalists will also be awarded prizes of \$1,000 each: Clare Barron (writer of Summerworks 2013's BABY SCREAMS MIRACLE), Jon Steinhagen (from Chicago) and Boni Alvarez (from Los Angeles). Semi-finalists include David Myers, Kyle Warren, MJ Kaufman, Bennet Fisher, Jessica Goldschmidt, Ryan King, Josh Conkel, Carmen Herlihy, Jeanne Beckwith, Cory Hinkle, Stephanie Del Rosso, Cory Finlay and Sarah DeLappe. Previous Biennial Commission winners are: Karl Gadjusek, Andy Bragen, Elizabeth Emmons, Aimee Gonzalez and Greg Moss.

**Kate Benson** is a writer and actor living in Brooklyn. She is finishing an MFA in Playwriting at Brooklyn College, where her play RADIUM NOW won the 2011-2012 Himan Brown Prize. Her plays have been read and performed at New Georges, Clubbed Thumb, Brooklyn College, Jimmy's No. 43, the Exley Bar Reading Series and Dixon Place. New Georges is producing her play, A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN NOVEMBER ON THE BANKS OF THE GREATEST OF THE GREAT LAKE at Dixon Place in May 2014 as part of Toast. home/sick, a play Kate co-wrote and performed with the Assembly Theater Company, is happening at Wesleyan University at the end of January 2014. She is a cofounder of the performance collective Wook Taut Majesty.

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Clubbed Thumb commissions, develops and produces funny, strange, and provocative new plays by living American writers. Since its founding in 1996, the company has earned five Obies, including the 2013 Ross Wetzsteon Award for Sustained Artistic Excellence.

For more information about Clubbed Thumb visit [www.clubbedthumb.org](http://www.clubbedthumb.org) or contact Managing Director Nora DeVeau-Rosen at [nora@clubbedthumb.org](mailto:nora@clubbedthumb.org).

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