

## ADVICE FROM SUZAN-LORI PARKS

### **1. Are there any particular plays that you would suggest highlighting for new college students?**

As the process of writing the plays was and is key to the 365 Days/365 Plays experience, perhaps the "reading" of the plays might depart from the more traditional and conventional reading process. Some suggestions: Read the plays out loud and in groups. Hold a marathon reading. Read plays at random from dusk to dawn (or from dawn to dusk). Gather together groups of friends and perform the plays all over campus. These plays are meant to open your heart, set you free from who you think you have to be, show the beauty and value of simple daily dedication, bring all different kinds of people together. [If means are modest then I would suggest that your "Reading" of the plays be a 2-fold process: 1) read the play 2) get together with friends and modestly act out the play (no props or costumes just your joyous bodies and voices).]

Once you've chosen HOW you'd like to "read" the plays, here are some ideas on which ones: Definitely read the Three Constants; read 13 November play "Start Here, read your birthday play (the play written on the day that you were born), and then pick a thread and follow it: for example read all the "...comes home from the wars" plays; one word title plays; plays that have Shakespeare's plays in the title; plays written in honor of famous people; (again) plays; forever plays. Read the plays from start to finish straight through. Read the plays totally at random.

Pick a thread of your own choosing. What drew you to the thread? Where did it take you? How did you make sense of it as you went along? Did you need to "make sense" of it? The writing of these plays, and the world-wide festival that followed, are a demonstration of a dedication to the artistic process. Even if you're not aspiring to be an artist, how might this kind of dedication/celebration inform your own life path?

### **2. What advice would you give a young adult who has never read a play before? How should they approach this book?**

Read the plays out loud with friends! Act them out. Language, especially in plays, is meant to be heard and seen and felt and experienced. Be a surfer and ride the words like you would a wave!