

# PHILADELPHIA YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS

Educating students for life

Press Contacts: Canary Promotion, 215-242-6393  
Emaleigh Doley, [emaleigh@canarypromo.com](mailto:emaleigh@canarypromo.com)  
PYP Online: [www.phillyyoungplaywrights.org](http://www.phillyyoungplaywrights.org)

## MEDIA ADVISORY

### 2009 New Voices: Workshop Productions Philadelphia Young Playwrights and Temple University Present winning student plays and monologues at Tomlinson Theater, October 15 – 17

- WHEN:** Thursday, October 15 @ 7:30 p.m.  
Friday, October 16 @ 11 a.m. (matinee for students/teachers, reservation only)  
Friday, October 16 @ 8 p.m.  
Saturday, October 17 @ 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
- WHERE:** Temple University's Tomlinson Theater, 13<sup>th</sup> and Norris Streets, Philadelphia
- WHO:** Student playwrights and representatives from Philadelphia Young Playwrights will be available for interviews.
- ADMISSION:** Free. Content is appropriate for middle and high school audiences. For more information, please contact PYP at (215) 665-9226.
- WHAT:** Philadelphia Young Playwrights kicks off the 2009-10 Play Development Series with *New Voices: Workshop Productions* of students plays and monologues, an annual presentation of student work, in collaboration with Temple University. On October 15, 16 and 17, Greater Philadelphia's most compelling young writers will team up with some the region's most respected theatre artists to have their plays presented at Tomlinson Theater (13<sup>th</sup> and Norris Streets, Philadelphia).

Professional theatre artists Seth Bauer, David Bradley, Kevin Glaccum, James Ijames, David Mackay, Danielle Pinnock, Peter Reynolds and Rebecca Wright will direct enhanced workshops of first place winning middle and high school student plays and monologues which were selected from nearly 760 submissions to the 2009 Annual Playwriting Festival. The readings will be performed by undergraduate student actors in the Department of Theater at Temple University.

The plays and monologues by winning student playwrights explore a wide range of subjects and universal themes such as dealing with adversity, learning to love oneself completely, choosing the greater good and more. Participating students come from schools throughout the region, including Northeast Philadelphia's George Washington High School and Little Flower High School, North Philadelphia's General George G. Meade School, Spring Garden's J.R. Masterman School, Center City's Science Leadership Academy, Delaware County's Drexel Hill Middle School and Strath Haven Middle School, and Montgomery County's Cheltenham High School.

For more information about *New Voices*, visit [www.phillyyoungplaywrights.org](http://www.phillyyoungplaywrights.org) or call (215) 665-9226. [A full schedule of performances, including play descriptions and information on participating students and schools, follows below.]

Philadelphia Young Playwrights' ***New Voices: Workshop Productions*** gives middle and high school playwrights the opportunity to see their work presented in a professional workshop. The student playwrights are at the center of a two-week rehearsal and production process in which they interact directly with the director, dramaturg, actors and stage crew.

2009 Annual Playwriting Festival winners were chosen at each grade level, and each student who submitted a play received detailed comments from theatre professionals who read his or her script. Other staged readings and productions will take place throughout the fall and winter including the upcoming **Saturday Morning Reading Series**.

Celebrating 23 years of service, Philadelphia Young Playwrights remains the only theatre arts program in the region promoting literacy through playwriting and supporting the development of each student's distinctive voice. The organization's programs provide students with unique opportunities to advance academic and personal skills, share their stories and be heard by their peers and communities. Young Playwrights offers an antidote to decreasing arts education and places an incredibly active learning process in the eager hands of our young people.

### **SCHEDULE: 2009 New Voices: Workshop Productions at Temple University**

All performances are held at Temple University's Tomlinson Theater, located at 13<sup>th</sup> and Norris Streets in Philadelphia. Admission is free; no tickets or reservations are required. Content is appropriate for middle and high school audiences. Each play or monologue summary is written by the student playwright.

#### **Bill #1 – Thursday, October 15 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, October 17 at 8:00 p.m.**

##### **F.A.T. (monologue)**

By Kya S. Johnson ~ Little Flower Catholic High School for Girls, Grade 11

Directed by James Ijames

About: *F.A.T.*, a monologue, is the story of a beautiful, thick (as in large-sized) young woman who is insecure about her looks at first, but comes to see that she can't let other people define her worth.

##### **A Harmless Game at Recess**

By Benjamin Tindal, Jr. ~ J.R. Masterman School, Grade 9

Directed by Peter Reynolds

About: The play, *A Harmless Game at Recess*, is about a young boy who is picked on at recess and decides to fight back against the bullies.

##### **Torn Between (monologue)**

By Aimee Leong ~ Science Leadership Academy, Grade 10

Directed by Danielle Pinnock

About: The monologue, *Torn Between*, is about the conflict a teenage Asian girl encounters while deciding whether to stay in her interracial relationship or to abide by her family's wishes.

##### **The Heart of the Notebook**

By Dana Duncombe ~ Drexel Hill Middle School, Grade 8

Directed by Seth Bauer

About: In *The Heart of the Notebook*, a young, shy boy on the newspaper staff learns that the real strength isn't on paper but in his heart.

**Bill #2 – Friday, October 16 at 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, October 17 at 2:00 p.m.**

**The Way I Think** (monologue)

By Marshall Johnston ~ Science Leadership Academy, Grade 10

Directed by James Ijames

**A Requiem for the Fallen**

By Kerri Horvay ~ George Washington High School, Grade 11

Directed by David Bradley

About: In *A Requiem for the Fallen*, the life of an Iraqi woman's daughter is threatened, forcing the mother to become a suicide bomber for a terrorist organization. The mother must choose between saving her daughter or saving 15 people.

**I Should Have Never Changed!**

By Jameka S. Lee ~ General George G. Meade School, Grade 7

Directed by Rebecca Wright

About: *I Should Have Never Changed!* is a play about a girl who goes to a new school. Her mom buys her all new clothes, but even in the new clothes, she ends up getting picked on by a boy anyway.

**The Huckleberry**

By Lindsay Peichel ~ Strath Haven Middle School, Grade 8

Directed by Kevin Glaccum

About: *The Huckleberry* tells the story of one boy who faces an internal conflict about being gay and trying to fit into the world.

**Glass Keys**

By Jennifer Hudes ~ Cheltenham High School, Grade 12

Directed by David Mackay

About: The night of broken glass is a night of infamous destruction, one which will test the relationship between three characters: Isle, the piano teacher, Joseph the mob leader and dictator of Isle, and Adele, the piano student who is being dictated by Nazi Germany.

**Bill #3 – Friday, October 16 at 11 a.m. (matinee for students/teachers, reservation only)**

**Torn Between** (monologue)

By Aimee Leong ~ Science Leadership Academy, Grade 10

Directed by Danielle Pinnock

**A Harmless Game at Recess**

By Benjamin Tindal, Jr. ~ J.R. Masterman School, Grade 9

Directed by Peter Reynolds

**I Should Have Never Changed!**

By Jameka S. Lee ~ General George G. Meade School, Grade 7

Directed by Rebecca Wright

**About Philadelphia Young Playwrights**

Founded in 1987 by Adele Magner, and led today by Executive Producing Director Glen Knapp, Philadelphia Young Playwrights is an award-winning program that taps the potential of youth and inspires learning through playwriting in up to 50 public and private K-12 schools each year. A leader in the region's educational programs for youth and built upon its primary belief that all students have something important and valuable to say, Young Playwrights has enriched the Greater Philadelphia community, touching the lives of thousands of students, teachers and parents for the past twenty years. Since 1987, approximately 60 professional playwrights have led workshops, and nearly all of Philadelphia's professional theater companies have participated by performing, producing, or directing student works. Nearly 55,000 students have seen peers' work produced in class or by professionals. Young Playwrights' Literary Committee includes more than 60 educators, writers, parents, and former Young Playwrights students who read and critique each student script. Young Playwrights has been recognized as a *Champion in Action* by Citizens Bank and is the past recipient of a 2005 Barrymore Award for Excellence in Theatre Education and Community Service, a 1997 Barrymore Award for Theatre Education, a 2003

George Bartol Award for Excellence in Arts Education, a national "Points of Light" designation, and a 2004 Eastern University Award for Nonprofit Excellence.

Young Playwrights productions and public events are made possible with support from Barra Foundation, Stockton Rush Bartol Foundation, Beneficial Bank Foundation, Louis N. Cassett Foundation, Children Can Shape the Future, Citizens Bank, Claneil Foundation Inc., Ethel Sergeant Clark Smith Memorial Fund, Comcast Foundation, Connelly Foundation, Charlotte Cushman Foundation, ExxonMobil, Samuel S. Fels Fund, Flip Video, Franklin Mint Credit Union, Elsie Lee Garthwaite Memorial Foundation, GlaxoSmithKline, Phoebe W. Haas Charitable Trust A, Hamilton Family Foundation, Harmelin & Associates, Inc., Henkels and McCoy Inc, Independence Foundation, Kimmel Arts Education Fund, Kohn Foundation, Lida Foundation, Lincoln Financial Group Foundation, Christopher Ludwick Foundation, Leo Model Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, PECO / An Exelon Company, William Penn Foundation, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, Philadelphia Cultural Fund, Philadelphia Cultural Leadership Project of the Pew Charitable Trusts, Philadelphia Foundation, YOUTHadelphia, PNC / Arts Alive, Quaker Chemical, Suzanne F. Roberts Cultural Development Fund, Rosenlund Family Foundation, Seybert Institution, Sunoco, Target Corporation, US Airways, Verizon, and Henrietta Tower Wurts Memorial.

# # #

**Please call in advance to schedule an interview or camera.**

Press Contact: Emaleigh Doley, Canary Promotion  
office: 215-242-6393, email: [emaleigh@canarypromo.com](mailto:emaleigh@canarypromo.com)