

molly smith  
artistic director

stephen richard  
executive director

zelda fichandler  
founding director

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Contact: Kirstin Lunke/Elisabeth Gohlke  
(202) 554-9066; press@arenastage.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 3, 2007

### **ARENA STAGE ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF ITS 8th ANNUAL STUDENT TEN-MINUTE PLAY COMPETITION**

**\*\*\* Out of 594 entries, 10 selected playwrights receive a production  
at Arena Stage and compete for the \$2,500 Grand Prize \*\*\***

(Washington, D.C.) Arena Stage announces ten students have earned a production slot in the Student Playwrights Project showcase – an annual event in which Washington, D.C. metropolitan area students submit ten-minute original plays into competition. A total of 594 works were submitted from students in 36 middle and high schools.

The ten winning plays will be given professional theater resources to develop their play and mount a staged reading for an audience. In addition, Arena Stage will host two evenings of readings for both the middle school and high school honorable mention plays.

This year the top ten finalists receive a cash prize, as supported by the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, with additional support from the Shelley & Donald Ruben Foundation. Eight of the finalists receive \$750. A First Prize winner receives \$1,500 and a Grand Prize winner receives \$2,500. The First and Grand Prize winners are selected by an expert panel, including Arena Stage Artistic Director Molly Smith, who will read the plays and will see the Sunday, May 20 performance. The panel will deliberate and announce the First and Grand Prize winners to the evening's audience immediately following the performance.

**Admission to the Student Playwrights Project performances is free, but reservations are required through the Arena Stage Sales Office: (202) 488-3300. All performances take place at Arena Stage's 14th & T location.**

#### **Top Finalist Performances**

Friday, May 18, 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 19, 8:00 p.m. (with playwright discussion following show)

Sunday, May 20, 8:00 p.m. (followed by top prize-winner announcement)

#### **Honorable Mention Readings**

Middle School readings – May 2, 7:30 p.m.

High School readings – May 3, 7:30 p.m.

1101 Sixth Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20024  
T: 202 554 9066  
F: 202 488 4056  
www.arenastage.org

– continued –



## **Arena Stage announces the winners of the Student Ten-Minute Play Competition**

### **Page 2**

Arena Stage's Student Playwrights Project is a comprehensive approach to increase the involvement in and appreciation of theater by young audiences. The program promotes a full range of literacy skills (reading, writing, listening, speaking, presentation and critical thinking) while nurturing the next generation of American playwrights.

### **The Selected Plays**

***Chronicles of Mongrel Octopus*** by Michael Bazarov, Grade 12  
Thomas Jefferson HS for Science & Technology, VA

***Subs*** by Amber Barraclough, Grade 12  
West Springfield HS, VA

***How Old Are You Really?*** by Elsa Dupre, Grade 7  
Eastern MS, MD

***Only a Few Days*** by Yarl Gilboa, Grade 12  
Thomas Jefferson HS for Science & Technology, VA

***Dad, Are You There?*** by Vivian Telegarsky, Grade 8  
Capitol Hill Day School, DC

***A Whole Different Story*** by Meridian Alaina Reid Witt, Grade 7  
Stuart Hobson MS, DC

***Hey, Diddle Diddle*** by Rebecca Day Rothfeld, Grade 9  
Georgetown Day School, DC

***Order's Imbalance*** by Adam Williams, Grade 12  
McKinley Technology HS, DC

***Pluto – A Planet No More: A Galactic Tragedy in Ten Minutes*** by Nathaniel Kresh, Grade 9  
Washington-Lee HS, VA

***Inspection*** by Marta Elena Sparrow, Grade 12  
Thomas Jefferson HS, VA

### **Participating Schools**

**Washington, D.C.:** ABC Public Charter School; Anacostia Senior High School; Bell Multicultural High School; Benjamin Banneker Academic High School; Capitol Hill Day School; Georgetown Day School; Howard Road Academy; I.D.E.A. Public Charter School; Jefferson Junior High School; Maret School; McKinley Technology High School; Sidwell Friends School; Stuart-Hobson Middle School; The Patricia M. Sitar Center for the Arts.

**Arena Stage announces the winners of the Student Ten-Minute Play Competition**  
**Page 3**

**Virginia:** Bishop Ireton High School; Chantilly High School; Ellen Glasgow Middle School; Herndon High School; Thomas A. Edison High School; Robinson Secondary School; Rocky Run Middle School; Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology; Walt Whitman Middle School; Washington Irving Middle School; Washington-Lee High School; West Springfield High School; Woodbridge Senior High School.

**Maryland:** A. Mario Loiederman Middle School for the Creative and Performing Arts; Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School; Eastern Middle School; Gaithersburg High School; Georgetown Preparatory School; Paint Branch High School; Poolesville High School; White Oak Middle School; Washington Episcopal School.

###