

ARENA STAGE MEDIA RELEASE

Molly Smith Artistic Director Edgar Dobie Managing Director Zelda Fichandler Founding Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARENA STAGE ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF ITS 12th ANNUAL STUDENT 10-MINUTE PLAY COMPETITION

***** Out of more than 800 entries, eight selected playwrights receive an
Arena Stage production and a cash prize of \$250 *****

(Washington, D.C.) Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater announces eight winners of the 2011 Student Playwrights Project 10-Minute Play Competition, an annual event in which Washington, D.C. metropolitan area students submit original 10-minute plays into competition. A record-setting amount of more than 800 works were submitted from students in D.C.-area middle and high schools, setting a new record for the program.

The eight winning playwrights will receive master classes in playwriting and work with an Arena Stage dramaturg to develop their plays. The plays will then be directed by an Arena Stage director and performed by professional actors at the Mead Center. In addition, Arena Stage will host two evenings of readings for the middle school and high school honorable mention plays.

Admission to the Student Playwrights Project performances is free, but reservations are required by calling the Arena Stage Sales Office at 202-488-3300.

Performances of winning plays take place in the Kreeger Theater at Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater (1101 Sixth St, S.W.). Honorable Mention readings will take place in the Mead Center's Ammerman Rehearsal Hall.

Note: Some of the plays contain mature content and language and may not be appropriate for younger children.

Performances of Winning Plays

Monday, March 7 at 7:30 p.m.
Monday, March 14 at 7:30 p.m.

Honorable Mention Readings

Middle School Readings Monday, January 31 at 7:30 p.m.
High School Readings Tuesday, February 1 at 7:30 p.m.

The Student Playwrights Project is a direct outgrowth of Arena Stage's mission to expand the American canon with new work from diverse voices.

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The Winning Plays:

Name: Unknown by Lind-z Bur, Grade 8
Rachel Carson Middle School, Herndon, VA

Just Make Something Up by Carolann Collins, Grade 12
Duke Ellington School of the Arts, Washington, DC

If You Have Nothing Nice to Say... by Teddy Dean, Grade 10
McLean High School, McLean, VA

The Day Before by David Fish, Grade 8
Rachel Carson Middle School, Herndon, VA

The Weird, Horrible, Confusing Day by Reyhan Koyash, Grade 8
Washington Irving Middle School, Springfield, VA

The Brothers Biggins by Lucas Napier-Macdonald, Grade 12
The French International School, Bethesda, MD

The Poor People Magazine by Laneisha McCauley, Grade 11
Cardozo Senior High School, Washington, DC

Responsibility – Fatal or Not? by Michelle Wong, Grade 7
Lime Kiln Middle School, Fulton, MD

Middle School Honorable Mentions:

The Principal's Office by Amanda Bachman, Grade 7
Lime Kiln Middle School, Fulton, MD

Zelda and Suzuki's Brave Fight Against Laws by Tobie Collins, Grade 6
Grace Episcopal School, Kensington, MD

What I Knew As Home by David Hawkins, Grade 7
Key Middle School, Springfield, VA

The 200 Year Nap by Kathleen Healy, Grade 7
Annunciation Catholic School, Washington, DC

The Wondrous Adventures of Bernard Stubblefield by Marta Lewis, Grade 6
The French International School, Bethesda, MD

Take the Shot by Ahmed Malik, Grade 8
Key Middle School, Springfield, VA

It's a Cow, At Least I Think It Is by Sagar Patel, Grade 8
Carl Sandburg Middle School, Alexandria, VA

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Say Aaah! by Idrisa Rahman, Grade 8
Islamic Saudi Academy, Alexandria, VA

High School Honorable Mentions:

Blessed and Highly Favored by Terra Campbell, Grade 12
Duke Ellington School of the Arts, Washington, DC

Penitent by Samantha Downey, Grade 11
McLean High School, McLean, VA

The Answer Isn't C by Cort Fontaine, Grade 10
Watkins Mill High School, Gaithersburg, MD

The Bus Ride by Tynesha Jamison, Grade 12
Ballou Senior High School, Washington, DC

Gleepnork and Me by Forrest Penrod, Grade 10
Sitar Arts Center, Washington, DC

The Sound of Silence by Lexie Shoaibi, Grade 11
McLean High School, McLean, VA

Mother Teresa Goes to the Vatican by Stacey Spillman, Grade 12
Woodbridge Senior High School, Woodbridge, VA

Spotless by Mike Thompson, Grade 11
Brentsville District High School, Nokesville, VA

The Student Playwrights Project is supported in part by Toni Ritzenberg.

Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater is a national center dedicated to the production, presentation, development and study of American theater. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Molly Smith and Managing Director Edgar Dobie, Arena Stage is the largest company in the country dedicated to American plays and playwrights. Arena Stage produces huge plays of all that is passionate, exuberant, profound, deep and dangerous in the American spirit, and presents diverse and ground-breaking work from some of the best artists around the country. Arena Stage is committed to commissioning and developing new plays through the American Voices New Play Institute. Now in its sixth decade, Arena Stage serves a diverse annual audience of more than 300,000. www.arenastage.org.

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