

ARENA STAGE MEDIA RELEASE

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Julia Suszynski/Greta Hays
press@arenastage.org; 202-554-9066 ext. 5062

November 11, 2011

ARENA STAGE AT THE MEAD CENTER FOR AMERICAN THEATER NOW ACCEPTING ENTRIES FOR THE 12TH ANNUAL STUDENT 10-MINUTE PLAY COMPETITION

***** Deadline is December 2 for middle- and high-school students to submit scripts for a chance to win \$250 and a production of their play with professional actors *****

(Washington, D.C.) The 2011/12 Arena Stage Student Playwrights Project invites all students in fifth through 12th grades in the District of Columbia and its neighboring counties to enter into competition an original 10-minute play. **Entries must be delivered to Arena Stage by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 2, 2011.**

The winning students will receive playwriting master classes and participate in further script development with professional playwrights, directors and dramaturgs. **The winning entries will then be performed by professional actors at Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater. All winning playwrights receive \$250.**

"The Student Playwrights Project is a direct outgrowth of Arena Stage's mission to expand the American canon with new work from diverse voices," says Anita Maynard-Losh, Director of Community Engagement at Arena Stage. "Through this program, we recognize the value of young people's stories by inviting them to express their unique voices and imaginations."

Guidelines for competition

Who: Playwrights must be students in fifth through 12th grades. Students must attend school in the District of Columbia, the City of Alexandria or one of the following counties: Loudon, Prince William, Fairfax, Arlington, Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's or St. Mary's. Home-schooled students must be residents of the aforementioned cities and counties.

When: Entries must be received at Arena Stage by Friday, December 2, 2011 to be eligible for competition.

What: Submitted plays must be the original, unpublished work of one playwright. Pieces written by more than one student will not be accepted. Suggested length is 6-10 pages. Plays longer than 12 pages will not be read.

Submission process: All submissions must include an Arena Stage cover sheet, which may be downloaded at www.arenastage.org. **Plays will not be accepted without a cover sheet.** All plays must be typed, double-spaced, in 12-pt. font, with page numbers. The title of the play and the playwright's grade **should** be listed on each page of the play. The playwright's name, contact information or school **should not** appear anywhere on the play **except** the cover sheet. Submitted scripts will not be returned. Playwrights wishing to confirm receipt of their submission should enclose a self-addressed, stamped postcard. Winners will be notified by Arena Stage and the list of selected plays posted at www.arenastage.org in late January or early February.

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Arena Stage calls for scripts for the 12th Annual Student 10-Minute Play Competition—Page 2

Three copies of the entered play, with the required cover sheet attached to the top copy, should be mailed to:

Student Playwrights Project
Arena Stage – Community Engagement Division
1101 Sixth St., SW
Washington, DC 20024

For more information, call Community Engagement at 202-554-9066, ext. 4062 or e-mail education@arenastage.org.

The Student Playwrights Project is sponsored 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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