



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**NEW PLAYS CELEBRATE PLAYWRIGHTS PROJECT'S 25 YEARS!**

- What: Celebrate Playwrights Project at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
- Who: Anyone interested in trying their hand at playwriting; no age restrictions.
- When: Saturday November 6, 2010, 6:00 PM-10:30 PM
- Where: Museum of Photographic Arts, Balboa Park
- Cost: Tickets are \$150/person for the dinner and performance  
Or performance only for \$75/person
- How: Ticket sales and information at Playwrights Project  
(619) 239-8222 or [write@playwrightsproject.org](mailto:write@playwrightsproject.org)

San Diego – *New Play Development is key to Playwrights Project's past and future.* Playwrights Project has been developing new plays since its inception in 1985 through playwriting programs and theatre productions. Our most far reaching program brings theatre artists to classrooms throughout San Diego County to teach playwriting to students in grades 4-12, visiting approximately 100 schools and serving about 2,000 students each year with its In-School Playwriting Programs.

Playwrights Project's most recognized program is *Plays by Young Writers*, a festival of new plays written by youth 18 years and younger who have entered the annual *California Young Playwrights Contest*. Between 200 and 350 scripts are submitted each year. Each writer can request a script critique offering suggestions for further revisions and development. Winners of the *Contest* receive mentoring to improve their scripts. Those who have gone on to careers as playwrights credit Playwrights Project's significance as a demanding and encouraging force that set them on the path to their playwriting career. These emerging and accomplished playwrights continue their relationship with Playwrights Project, sending us drafts of work in progress or inviting us to workshops of their plays. These playwrights and others tell us that there simply aren't enough opportunities to workshop new scripts.

**\*\* More \*\***

Programs also include *Telling Stories*, which encourages current and former foster youth to create theatre about their experience in the foster care system; *Lifestages / Recollections*, which involves adults ages 55 and up in dramatizing their life experiences; and the newest program of *Play by Play: Cultivating Emerging Playwrights*, which works with playwrights ages 19-29 offering 1-on-1 mentoring and a staged reading of their script.

Playwrights Project will celebrate its 25 years with a celebration at the Museum of Photographic Arts in Balboa Park on Saturday, November 6 at 6:00 PM. Tickets are \$150/person. The evening will include a dinner, silent auction and performance. The performance will feature plays by several of Playwrights Project's accomplished alumni, who have been commissioned to create short plays that include the number 25 at least once in the spoken lines. The Third Annual Deborah Salzer Excellence in Arts Education Award will be presented to Craig Noel in memoriam in recognition of his lifelong commitment to the development of young theatre artists. For tickets and information, contact Playwrights Project at (619) 239-8222 or [www.playwrightsproject.org](http://www.playwrightsproject.org).

***Mission:*** Playwrights Project's mission is to advance literacy, creativity and communication by empowering individuals to voice their stories through playwriting programs and theatre productions.

***Major supporters*** include: City of San Diego Commission for Arts & Culture; California Arts Council; City of Encinitas and Mizel Family Foundation Community Grant Program; Community Service Association of San Diego Unified School District; Helen K. & James S. Copley Foundation; County of San Diego Community Neighborhood Reinvestment Program, District 3; The Fieldstone Foundation; Sidney E. Frank Foundation; Samuel I. & John Henry Fox Foundation and Arthur & Jeanette Pratt Memorial Fund at Union Bank of CA; Mrs. Audrey Giesel/Dr. Seuss Foundation; The James Irvine Foundation; the Lipinsky Family Foundation; Mandell Weiss Charitable Trust; National Endowment for the Arts; QUALCOMM® Incorporated; Target; The San Diego Foundation through the Cultural Arts & Humanities Fund and the Ariel W. Coggeshall Fund in Partnership with The James Irvine Foundation; and Darlene Shiley.

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