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Writers Ages 11-18 See their Plays Come to Life at The Old Globe

Who: Playwrights Project

What: ***Plays by Young Writers***, a festival of winning scripts from the 32nd annual ***California Young Playwrights Contest***

When: January 19 - January 29, 2017 (See schedule below)

Where: The Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre
in the Conrad Prebys Theatre Center at The Old Globe

Tickets: Individuals \$25
Seniors, Students, Military \$20
School Groups of 10 or more \$10
Other Groups of 10 or more \$15
Opening night (includes reception) \$60

How: Playwrights Project (858) 384-2970 or write@playwrightsproject.org
For more information and reservations

San Diego – Playwrights Project will produce its 32nd annual festival of *Plays by Young Writers*, sponsored by the Sheila and Jeffrey Lipinsky Family Fund, at The Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre in the Conrad Prebys Theatre Center at The Old Globe on January 19 - January 29, 2017. The festival will feature winning scripts from its *California Young Playwrights Contest* for ages 18 and under.

Contest winners were selected from 385 plays submitted by students from across the state. Four scripts will receive full professional productions, and two scripts will receive staged readings in this highly regarded festival of new voices.

All 385 contest submissions were evaluated blindly by the Ed Delos Reyes (Contest Coordinator) and a pool of theatre professionals who volunteered their time and expertise. The top 70 scripts were reviewed by Cecelia Kouma (Executive Producer), who worked with the Contest Coordinator to choose 16 finalists whose plays were evaluated by Final Judges. Final Judges in the selection process included Jennifer Thorn (Associate Artistic Director, MOXIE Theater), Danielle Ward (Literary Manager at the San Diego REPeratory Theatre), Monique Gaffney (prominent local actor), and Ruff Yeager (prominent local actor/director/playwright/

producer and adjunct instructor at Southwestern College). Yeager (who is also serving as Festival Artistic Director) and Kouma chose the final plays for the season based on the judges' feedback and interviews of top finalists.

The selection criteria focused on creative ideas, intriguing and authentic characters, fresh use of language, a story that is revealed through dialogue and action, and a script that would benefit from further development in the production process. All contest participants who requested feedback received individualized written critiques.

The Festival is divided into Program A (appropriate for ages 11+) and Program B (for ages 16+). Each program includes one staged reading and two full productions. Two acting ensembles will present the two different programs, with actors playing multiple roles.

Program A for ages 11 and up

Full Productions

Supermarket of Lost
Hackathon

Playwrights

Cassandra Hsiao, age 16, Walnut
Eliana Dunn, age 16, Pacifica

Staged Reading

Turtle on a Rock

Playwright

Absinthe McDonald, age 12, San Diego

In *Supermarket of Lost* two teenagers and a young girl meet by chance in a mysterious warehouse where you can recover what you've lost in exchange for something of equal value. As their friendship develops, they discover a compelling difference between what we lose and what we choose to give away. The play was written by Cassandra Hsiao, at age 16, while attending Orange County School of the Arts. *Supermarket of Lost* was originally produced in The Blank Theatre Young Playwrights Festival in Los Angeles, CA. George Yè will direct and dramaturg this thought provoking play.

Set in Silicon Valley, the witty satire *Hackathon* examines issues of gentrification and bias in the tech industry, as teenagers from different walks of life compete to create an app that will change the world. When the names of the finalists were revealed to the producers, they were surprised and delighted to learn that *Hackathon* was written by 16 year old Eliana Salzer Dunn, who is the granddaughter of Playwrights Project's Founder Deborah Salzer. Eliana attends City College of San Francisco; George Yè will direct and Mabelle Reynoso will dramaturg.

In *Turtle on a Rock*, an unfulfilled turtle sings of his longing to find his purpose in life. Playwright Absinthe McDonald, age 12, took part in a playwriting residency in Mr. Lindsey's class at Creative Media and Performing Arts School in Clairemont led by Teaching Artist Wendy Waddell, where she composed her winning script. Erika

Beth Phillips, Playwrights Project's Program Manager of School Programs, will direct *Turtle on a Rock* and Deborah Salzer will serve as the dramaturg/writing mentor.

Program B for ages 11 and up

Full Productions

The Dumping Ground

Playwrights

Matthew Maceda, age 17, Rancho Peñasquitos

Pros and Cons

Katie Taylor, age 18, Woodlake

Staged Reading

A Play on Words

Playwright

Samantha Rafter, age 14, San Diego

Minh-Son Tran, age 13, San Diego

The Dumping Ground depicts the story of Mark, a high school student whose proposal is publicly rebuffed in front of his peers. As he struggles to make sense of his rejection, he learns valuable life lessons from supportive mentors. Playwright Matthew Maceda attends Westview High School in Poway, and this is Matthew's fifth play to win the contest. Three of his plays received staged readings and *Coffee, Cream and Closure* received a full production in 2015. *The Dumping Ground* will be directed by Wendy Maples, local theater educator and founder/Artistic Director of Step UP Theatre.

Pros and Cons is a clever farce about formerly incarcerated friends who reunite for a fresh start as they reenter society. Despite their altruistic efforts, old habits die hard and whacky escapades ensue. In the playwright's words, "the road to comedy is paved with good intentions." Katie Taylor, who penned the play, lives in Woodlake where she attends College of the Sequoias. *Pros and Cons* will be directed by Phil Johnson, and Ruff Yeager will dramaturg.

A Play on Words by Samantha Rafter and Minh-Son Tran, introduces Patrick a piece of math homework, Patricia a pretty pencil, and Eileen an introverted eraser, as they experience an existential crises during Spring Break. Samantha and Minh-Son wrote their winning script in a playwriting program at Black Mountain Middle School, which was taught by Teaching Artist Wendy Waddell in Ms. Gapusan's Language Arts class.

Plays by Young Writers

Schedule

Public Performances

Saturday, January 21 – 7:30 PM – Opening Night (four full productions/no readings)
Friday, January 27 – 7:30 PM - Program B
Saturday, January 28 – 2:00 PM - Program B
Saturday, January 28 – 7:30 PM - Program A
Sunday, January 29 – 2:00 PM - Program A

School Matinees (available to press; not available to the general public)

Thursday, January 19 – 10:00 AM - Program A
Friday, January 20 – 10:00 AM - Program B
Tuesday, January 24 – 10:00 AM – Program TBD
Wednesday, January 25 – 10:00 AM - Program A
Thursday, January 26 – 10:00 AM - Program B
Friday, January 27 – 10:00 AM - Program A

Production Team

Executive Producer	Cecelia Kouma
Festival Artistic Director	Ruff Yeager
Production Manager	Kevin Six
Production Stage Manager	Charmaine Reed
Stage Manager	Beonica Bullard
Director - Program A Full Productions	George Yé
Director - <i>The Dumping Ground</i>	Wendy Maples
Director - <i>Pros and Cons</i>	Phil Johnson
Director - Program Staged Readings	Erika Beth Phillips
Dramaturg - <i>Supermarket of Lost</i>	George Yé
Dramaturg - <i>Hackathon</i>	Mabelle Reynoso
Dramaturg - <i>Turtle on a Rock</i>	Deborah Salzer
Dramaturg - <i>The Dumping Ground</i>	Mabelle Reynoso
Dramaturg - <i>Pros and Cons</i>	Ruff Yeager
Dramaturg - <i>A Play on Words</i>	Deborah Salzer
Costume Design	Jordyn Smiley
Sound Design	Chad Goss
Scenic Design	Victoria Vitola
Lighting Design	Karin Filijan
Properties Design	Angelica Ynfante
Technical Director	Andrew Young
Box Office & Marketing Manager	Emily Fleet
Opening Night Coordination	Linnea Searle

About Playwrights Project:

Playwrights Project advances literacy, creativity and communication by empowering individuals to voice their stories through playwriting programs and theatre productions.

Playwrights Project gratefully acknowledges support from:

Sponsors: The Sheila and Jeffrey Lipinsky Family Fund, City of San Diego's Commission for Arts and Culture, Macy's, Mandell Weiss Charitable Trust, Kinder Morgan Foundation, San Diego County Community Enhancement Program, District 4 (Ron Roberts) and District 3 (Dave Roberts).

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