

## PRESS RELEASE

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Contact Deborah Salzer or Cecelia Kouma (619) 239-8222

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### **Playwrights Project Introduces New Leadership and a New Play**

Who: Playwrights Project

What: Public performance of professional touring production *Lifted*  
and  
Introduction of the organization's new leadership team

When: Tuesday, October 23, 2007, 7:30 p.m. curtain; 6:30 p.m. reception

Where: The Neurosciences Institute Auditorium, La Jolla

Tickets: \$50.00 includes reception; \$20 general admission; \$15 students/seniors/military

How: For tickets and information call Playwrights Project (619) 239-8222

Website: [www.playwrightsproject.org](http://www.playwrightsproject.org)

Playwrights Project introduces a new Artistic Director, Maria Glanz, and a new play, *Lifted*, by local favorite Annie Weisman Macomber, at The Neurosciences Institute on Tuesday, October 23, 2007, at 7:30 p.m.

Maria Glanz is an educator, playwright and performer. She comes to Playwrights Project after leading Seattle's Rainer Valley Youth Theatre. At a pre-performance reception, Founder Deborah Salzer will welcome the organization's new leadership team of Ms. Glanz and Cecelia Kouma, Managing Director for the past seven years.

Guests will see a performance of *Lifted*, a modern morality play for teenagers that is "seriously funny and funnily enough, serious," according to Annie Weisman Macomber, who was commissioned by Playwrights Project to write the piece for the annual WINS Tour to middle and high schools.



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“My goal was to write about a young person trying to establish his own sense of right and wrong, without the help of the authority figures in his life. I hope this story allows audience members to reflect on their own sense of right and wrong, and I hope they laugh and enjoy themselves along the way.”

Annie, a Los Angeles dramatist who works in theatre and television, discovered her talent for dramatic writing as a teenager with Playwrights Project. Best known for her plays *Be Aggressive* (which premiered at La Jolla Playhouse) and *Hold Please* (staged in April at The Old Globe), she is a staff writer for the television series *Heartland*.

*Lifted* focuses on Todd, a thoughtful teenager with loving parents, a knack for rapping, and alas, a “teen brain” not fully developed in the area that controls decision-making. Todd is persuaded to steal merchandise from the big box store where he works. When his mother, Luella, is blamed for the theft, Todd confesses. Although the store is lenient, Luella is not. Her response lifts the teenager to a new level of understanding.

Following the performance, the audience will have an opportunity to participate in a discussion with the playwright and an Institute scientist who studies brain development. *Lifted* is part of *Performing Arts at the Neurosciences Institute*, a series of events presented for the benefit of the community.

D. Candis Paule directs the production, which will tour schools in Southern California from October 15 to November 9, 2007. The performers are Michael Freeling, Sidney Franklin, Monique Gaffney, Rachel Van Wormer and Fred Harlow. Beeb Salzer designed the set.

Playwrights Project is a nonprofit arts education organization that promotes literacy, creativity and communication skills through drama-based activities. Programs for young people include the school tour, playwriting residencies in grades 4-12, the California Young Playwrights Contest, and professional productions of contest plays, staged as *Plays by Young Writers*. Funding for the commission and production of *Lifted* was provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, with



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additional support provided by the California Arts Council, County of San Diego District 3, City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture, The Pratt Memorial Fund, the Fox Foundation, City of Chula Vista and City of Encinitas. Beverages for the reception have been donated by Barefoot Wine.

*Lifted* is recommended for ages 10 and older. General admission to the October 23 public performance is \$20 with discount rates available; \$50 for admission and a pre-performance reception with the playwright. Contact Playwrights Project at (619) 239-8222 to buy tickets for October 23 or book a performance of the tour.

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