



THEATRE/ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR

May 12, 2009

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PLAYGROUND SPOTLIGHTS YOUNG WRITERS WITH
YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS PROJECT

MAY 21-24, 2009

AT THE THICK HOUSE IN SAN FRANCISCO

SAN FRANCISCO, (May 12, 2009) - **PlayGround**, San Francisco's incubator for the next generation of playwrights, is thrilled to announce the finalists of the **Young Playwrights Project**, whose work will be presented **May 21 - 24** during the **The Best of PlayGround 13: A Festival of New Writers & New Plays**. Earlier this year, PlayGround announced a playwriting competition open to all Bay Area high school students. Contestants had to submit a new ten-minute play from the topic prompt "**Adaptation of a Fairytale**" by April 20th.

The writers whose plays were selected will be presented as staged readings and serve as "curtain raisers" each night of the festival May 21 - 24th. Festival tickets and full festival information are available through the Thick House Box Office at 415-401-8081 or online at www.PlayGround-sf.org.

The plays to be presented as curtain raisers for the Best of PlayGround Festival May 21 - 24 are:

- *The Toyshop* by **Sophie Becker** (Thu 5/21) directed by Doyle Ott
- *How To Make A Clean Get Away* by **Tanea Lunsford** (Fri 5/22) directed by Lee Sankowich
- *Before the Once Upon A Time* by **Jose Villegas** and **Melanie Manzana** (Sat 5/23) directed by Nancy Carlin
- *Bear* by **Reese Adams-Romagnoli** (Sun 5/24) directed by Robin Stanton

Event: The Best of PlayGround 13: *Young Playwrights Project*

Date: Thursday - Sunday, May 21-24th

Time: Thurs. - Sat., 8pm; Sun., 7pm

Location: Thick House, 1695 18th Street, San Francisco

Tickets: **Best of PlayGround:** \$28-\$40 (general), discounts available for students, PlayGround subscribers and members, and groups of 10 or more. *Thursday, May 21 is Pay-What-You-Can; Pay-What-You-Can tickets go on sale one hour before the performance, first-come first-served, subject to availability.*

For tickets call (415) 401-8081 or on-line at www.PlayGround-sf.org

The Young Playwrights Project runs as part of the 13th Annual Best of PlayGround festival, which runs through May 31st; visit website www.playground-sf.org for full festival schedule.

Information: Jim Kleinmann, Artistic Director; 415.704.3177;
jim@playground-sf.org; www.playground-sf.org

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHTS:

Reese Adams-Romagnoli, a developing actor and playwright, is a sophomore at San Francisco School of

the Arts high school with a major in theatre. The idea of being part of this competition is euphoric to him. This is his first time at PlayGround. Reese wants to give special thanks to Ellen Koivisto and Brady Lea.

Sophie Becker is a 16-year-old sophomore at Tamalpais High School in Mill Valley. She has always had a curiosity for theater and loves all aspects of putting on a stage performance. Her interest in theater originated from an interest in stories and story telling. She enjoys singing, creative writing, and acting.

Tanea Lunsford is currently a senior counting down the days at the San Francisco School of the Arts. She is a San Francisco native and will be attending Columbia University in New York City in the fall. She enjoys learning new things of all kinds, advocating for the righting of wrongs, and traveling. She has completed a senior thesis and is as excited as one can get about college and life thereafter.

Melanie Manzana is a young artist who got into playwriting this year due to the PlayGround workshop in her Creative Writing class at the Academy of Arts and Sciences. She began writing in middle school, preferring to avoid writing about herself and staying within the realms of fiction.

Jose Villegas is a young writer who longs to decipher the hieroglyphics of life, not by translating and transcribing but by writing. He is a student at the Academy of Arts and Sciences.

ABOUT PLAYGROUND:

The mission of PlayGround is to support the development of significant new local voices for the theatre. More than just a play development program, PlayGround focuses on the creation of a true theatre community by nurturing the collaborative process between first-time or early development playwrights, and established professional actors and directors. With a particular focus on the ten-minute form, PlayGround creates a microcosm of the greater theatre scene, allowing for experimentation and risk-taking as well as the honing of style and technique. More information, including artist biographies, at www.playground-sf.org.

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