



THEATER/ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

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Media Contact: Samantha Chanse
415.704.3177
samantha@playground-sf.org
www.playground-sf.org

PLAYGROUND LAUNCHES YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS PROJECT CONTEST

SAN FRANCISCO, (March 9, 2009) - Bay Area playwrights incubator **PlayGround** announces the launch of the **Young Playwrights Project Contest**, inviting Bay Area high school students to submit original ten-page plays inspired by the recently-selected topic, **ADAPTATION OF A FAIRY TALE**. A PlayGround review panel will select four student scripts to be presented with professional actors and directors as part of **the 2009 Best of PlayGround Festival at Thick House** in May 2009.

“Through the **Young Playwrights Project**, PlayGround and Bay Area high schools partner to enable young writers to find their own expressive voice through the creation, development, and production of short plays,” stated PlayGround Artistic Director Jim Kleinmann. With a generous planning grant from the **California Arts Council** Artists-in-Schools program in 2007, PlayGround began taking its unique playwright development efforts into Bay Area high schools as part of the PlayGround Young Playwrights Project. This year marks the first year of the Bay Area-wide Young Playwrights Project Contest. “We are excited to open the PlayGround process and particularly the PlayGround Festival – our celebrated annual showcase for the Bay Area’s best new writers – to Bay Area high school students and look forward, in turn, to sharing their work with Bay Area audiences and theatre-makers,” added PlayGround Education Coordinator Evan Schnair.

High school students from the Bay Area nine counties are invited to submit original short scripts inspired by the assigned topic by the April 20th, 2009 deadline (full guidelines are available online at <http://playground-sf.org/ypp.shtml>). The same topic, ADAPTATION OF A FAIRY TALE, has also been assigned to PlayGround’s professional writers pool members, who must submit a new ten-page play by an earlier March 10th deadline. The six best plays from the writers pool will be presented as staged readings at the final Monday Night reading of the 15th Season on Monday, March 16th at Berkeley Repertory Theatre.

SUBJECT: Young Playwrights Project Contest
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Monday, April 20, 2pm
SUBMISSION GUIDELINES: Posted at <http://playground-sf.org/ypp.shtml>
MORE INFO: Evan Schnair, Education Coordinator; 415.704.3177;
evan@playground-sf.org; www.playground-sf.org

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 at www.playground-sf.org.