



THEATRE/ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 9, 2011

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PLAYGROUND SPOTLIGHTS YOUNG WRITERS WITH
3RD ANNUAL YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS PROJECT
MAY 19-21, 2011
AT THE THICK HOUSE IN SAN FRANCISCO

SAN FRANCISCO, (May 9, 2011) - **PlayGround**, San Francisco's incubator for the next generation of playwrights, is thrilled to announce the finalists of the third annual **Young Playwrights Project**, whose work will be presented **May 19-21** during the **Best of PlayGround 15: 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 "**Vaudeville**" by April 25th.

The writers whose plays were selected will be presented as staged readings and serve as "curtain raisers" each night of the festival May 19-22. Festival tickets and full festival information are available through the PlayGround Box Office at 415-992-6677 or online at www.PlayGround-sf.org.

The plays to be presented as curtain raisers for the Best of PlayGround Festival May 19-22 are:

- Thu 5/19: *Act After Curtain* by **Alona Bach** (Berkeley High '11)
- Fri 5/20: *You Wanna Refill?* by **Rebecca Leiner** (SOTA '11) and **Madison Worthington** (SOTA '11)
- Sat 5/21: *Secrets in a Backstage Box* by **Pavla Berghen-Wolf** (Jewish Community High School of the Bay '13)
- Sun 5/22: *Shakespeare in an Airport* by **Caety Klingman** (Miramonte High '11)

Event: Best of PlayGround 15: *Young Playwrights Project*

Date: Thursday - Sunday, May 19-22

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

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

Tickets: **Best of PlayGround:** \$30-\$35 (general); \$45-\$50 (VIP); discounts available for students, PlayGround subscribers and members, and groups of 10 or more. *Thursday, May 19 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 15th Annual Best of PlayGround festival, which runs May 5th through May 29th; 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:

Alona Bach is a graduating senior at Berkeley High, and plans to take a gap year in the Bay Area to start a teen theater-going non-profit before heading East to Harvard. She is new to the world of playwriting but is an avid audience member, actor, and fan of PlayGround's work.

Pavla Berghen-Wolf is a sophomore at the Jewish Community High School of the Bay. When not juggling schoolwork, she takes dance and pilates classes at the ODC dance school. She has been tap dancing since age six. She also enjoys reading, sewing, creative writing and is on her school's literary magazine board.

Caety Klingman is a senior at Miramonte High School. Next year she will be attending the University of Chicago. She was a finalist of last year's Young Playwrights Project, and she has participated in the New Works playwriting program through Young Rep.

Rebecca Leiner is a senior at San Francisco School of the Arts and has studied acting and playwriting for four years. Next year she will attend the University of Minnesota's Guthrie Theatre BFA Actor Training Program. She enjoys acting, clowning, reading and writing.

Madison Worthington is a senior at Ruth Asawa School of the Arts High School, where she has studied theatre for the past four years. Her interests include acting, playwriting, juggling, and aerial arts. This fall she will be attending UCLA as a B.A. Theatre major with an acting specialization.

ABOUT PLAYGROUND:

PlayGround is the Bay Area's leading playwright incubator. 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 and increasingly on new full-lengths through PlayGround's commissioning programs, 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.

BEST OF PLAYGROUND:

The Best of PlayGround Festival is PlayGround's annual showcase of the best new plays by the best new writers. The festival features a four-week run of an evening-length program of six short plays and one short musical originally developed as part of the Monday Night PlayGround series at Berkeley Rep, with performances Thursday through Sunday evenings. In addition, the festival also features staged readings of seven new full-length plays commissioned and developed by PlayGround (see <http://playground-sf.org/commissioning.shtml> for the complete schedule) and readings of four high student short plays as part of the third annual Young Playwrights Project Contest (<http://playground-sf.org/ypp.shtml>).

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