



THEATRE/ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MEDIA CONTACT: JIM KLEINMANN
415.704.3177
JIM@PLAYGROUND-SF.ORG
WWW.PLAYGROUND-SF.ORG

PLAYGROUND SPOTLIGHTS YOUNG WRITERS WITH
YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS PROJECT
MAY 20-23, 2010
AT THE THICK HOUSE IN SAN FRANCISCO

SAN FRANCISCO, (May 6, 2010) - **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 20-23** during the **Best of PlayGround 14: 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 "**Origin Story**" by April 19th.

The writers whose plays were selected will be presented as staged readings and serve as "curtain raisers" each night of the festival May 20-23. 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 20-23 are:

- Thu 5/20: *Eden* by **Hannah Sears** (Urban School '12), directed by Doyle Ott
- Fri 5/21: *Pandora* by **Lucas Baisch** (SOTA '10), directed by Nancy Carlin
- Sat 5/22: *Family Values* by **Nathan Forster** (Berkeley High '11), directed by George Maguire
- Sun 5/23: *Blankie* by **Caety Klingman** (Miramonte High '11), directed by Eric Fraisher Hayes

Event: Best of PlayGround 14: *Young Playwrights Project*

Date: Thursday - Sunday, May 20-23rd

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

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

Tickets: **Best of PlayGround:** \$20-\$40 (general), discounts available for students, PlayGround subscribers and members, and groups of 10 or more. *Thursday, May 20 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 14th Annual Best of PlayGround festival, which runs May 6th through May 30th; 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:

Lucas Baisch will be graduating from the Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts' theatre program this June. There he has received four years of training in acting, directing, playwriting, improvisation, Afro-Haitian dance, Noh and Kyogen theatre, and more. Baisch has acted in shows including *Peer Gynt*, *Balm in Gilead*, *The Skin of Our Teeth*, and *Third Eye: The B-side Monologues*. This fall, Baisch will be attending The Theatre School at DePaul University in the BFA in Playwriting program.

Nathan Forster, a Berkeley High Junior, is super excited to have a play he wrote being performed. He is inspired by his everyday life and emotions, as well as that of his friends. Playwriting is a new love he will hopefully continue to pursue forever.

Caety Klingman is a junior at Miramonte High School, and she is thrilled to be able to see her scene come alive on stage. She enjoys writing short stories and scenes, won first place in the science fiction category of the Paul Anderson writing contest last year, and has written two novels that she is trying to get published with the help of a literary agent. She would like to thank her friends and family for all their support.

Hannah Sears is a 16-year-old student attending the Urban School. Her elementary education was at Convent of the Sacred Heart. Hannah's family lives in San Francisco and includes two sisters and a dog. While her poetry has been previously published, this is the first professional performance of her work. In addition to writing, Hannah enjoys singing, performing in musical theater, songwriting with her guitar and ukulele, volunteering with seniors and children, and playing basketball.

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, 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 six 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 second annual Young Playwrights Project Contest (<http://playground-sf.org/ypp.shtml>).

MEDIA CONTACT: JIM KLEINMANN, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
PLAYGROUND, 268 BUSH ST. #2912, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94104-3503
PHONE 415.704.3177 FAX 415.704.3177 EMAIL: JIM@PLAYGROUND-SF.ORG

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