

DANIEL HENNING
Artistic Director/Producer

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NEWS RELEASE

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TheBlank.com

THE BLANK THEATRE COMPANY'S 16TH ANNUAL NATIONWIDE YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL CHOOSES WINNERS

The Blank Theatre Company's 16th Annual Nationwide Young Playwrights Festival has chosen 12 winning plays by teenaged playwrights, aged 15 -19 from 7 different states. The winning plays will be presented in the month-long Festival at the Hudson Mainstage Theatre in Hollywood beginning June 5, 2008.

And the winners are: **THREE HEADED DOG** by Patrick Howley (age 18) from Avon, CT; **GUESTS** by Cayla Clark (age 17) from Santa Barbara, CA; **THE WAR ON SAFETY** by Max Posner (age 19) from Denver, CO; **RIGHT TO PRIVACY** by Siena Leslie (age 18) from Los Angeles, CA; **RESPECT FOR THE ELECTRIC FIELD OF HORSES** by Lisa Meyers (19) Orange, CA; **QUIET SPIRITS** by David Watson (19) New York, NY; **RED CROSS** by Alex Nunnelly (16) St Petersburg, FL; **IZZY ICARUS FELL OFF THE WORLD** by Aliza Goldstein (16) Jacksonville, FL; **SPIN ALLEY** by Chad Baker (19) Beavercreek, OH; **FAMILY PORTRAIT** by Madeline Sprung-Keyser (17) Los Angeles, CA; **A POEM BY JOSHUA FEINBERG** by Kate Herzlin (15) Rockville Centre, NY; and **DOUBLETS AND HOSE** by Griffin Hennelly (16) Dumont, NJ.

"I am constantly amazed at the caliber of the writing in these winning plays each year. Just when I think the quality can't get any better, it does," says Blank Artistic Producer Noah Wyle. "If I didn't know these plays were written by teenagers, I would never guess. This is not children's theatre. It is remarkable to know that there are kids creating art at a level that can be compared to most adults. And by the way, often more entertaining!"

Winning plays were chosen by a panel of theatre professionals from plays submitted by teenagers from across the nation. Winning playwrights are next assigned a mentor and then a professional director who will help them hone their scripts for 5 public performances. In the past fifteen years, The Blank Theatre Company (Daniel Henning - Artistic Director & Noah Wyle - Artistic Producer) has produced 172 plays by teenaged playwrights. Ten of those plays have gone on to be presented on The Blank's Mainstage; many have been nominated for LA theatre awards: Ovation Award for "Best Writing—World Premiere", LA Weekly Award "Best One Act Playwriting", and a Robby Award for "Best Music and Lyrics".

"Alumni" playwrights are populating the nation's theatres and soundstages with their work. Many of our winners have gone on to successful writing careers creating TV shows, filling regional stages, teaching writing to others, founding regional Young Playwrights Festivals and most recently opening brand new New York theatres like Stephen Karam, a 3-time winner in The Blank's YPF, whose play **SPEECH AND DEBATE** opened Broadway's Roundabout Theatre's new experimental space *Roundabout Underground* in the fall to great critical and audience acclaim.

The Blank Theatre Company's 16th Annual Young Playwrights Festival is made possible by the support of The James Irvine Foundation, The Harold & Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust, The Plum Foundation, The Gould Family Foundation, County of Los Angeles Arts Commission & City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs.

The Blank Theatre Company's 16th Annual Nationwide Young Playwrights Festival plays Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 2pm & 7pm, June 5 through June 29, 2008 at the Hudson Mainstage Theatre, 6539 Santa Monica Blvd, Hollywood 90038. Program includes 3 plays each week. Tickets are \$15 for all performances (Festival Passes are available for \$50) and may be purchased in advance by calling (323) 661-9827 or at YoungPlaywrights.com. Info at: YoungPlaywrights.com.

Winner of the 2008 Hollywood Arts Council's Charlie Award for *Outstanding Achievement in the Arts*

Winner of the 2007 NAACP Theatre Award for *Best Producer*

Winner of the 2006 LA Drama Critics Circle Award for *Outstanding Production*

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**The Blank Theatre Company's
16th Annual Nationwide
Young Playwrights Festival Schedule**



TheBlank.com

WEEK ONE June 5 – June 8

THREE HEADED DOG by Patrick Howley age 18 Avon, CT

Heteros, step aside! In the glorious gay world of "Barney's" sales clerks, there is zero tolerance for breeders! Will one employee really lose his job when his secret life is revealed?

GUESTS by Cayla Clark age 17 Santa Barbara, CA

When guests from out of town arrive, a high schooler must preserve the balance between his mother's neurosis, his father's anger, and a dark charade that the entire family must protect. Will he be able to keep the bubble from bursting?

THE WAR ON SAFETY by Max Posner age 19 Denver, CO

A college freshman tries to cope with his parents who left for vacation and never came home (although they do send postcards) and his fragile relationship with his girlfriend. Can they prevail as the threat level raises higher and higher?

WEEK TWO June 12 – June 15

RIGHT TO PRIVACY by Siena Leslie age 18 Los Angeles, CA

The quirky Hotel Descue is filled with oddball guests and an owner who caters to their every need; no matter how strange. Satisfying the desires of the colorful occupants leaves little time for love and romance...or does it?

RESPECT FOR THE ELECTRIC FIELD OF HORSES by Lisa Meyers age 19 Orange, CA

A group of unusual people find themselves falling in and out of love, yet connected through a series of meetings. How do meaningless moments become truly important to our souls?

QUIET SPIRITS by David Watson age 19 New York, NY

What would you do if your family was killed in a freak accident? When an estranged father faces his grieving son, he must attempt to communicate with him before his son goes off the deep end.

WEEK THREE June 19 – June 22

RED CROSS by Alex Nunnally age 16 St Petersburg, FL

A Red Cross volunteer searches an evacuated valley before it is flooded. He finds the lone holdout: a woman who refuses to leave her home and family's history. Will he be able to save her? Or will she end up saving him?

IZZY ICARUS FELL OFF THE WORLD by Aliza Goldstein age 16 Jacksonville, FL

Izzy Icarus, the autistic kid on the block, believes he can fly. Will the fascination and unwavering belief of a neighborhood girl allow him to finally fulfill his dream?

SPIN ALLEY by Chad Baker age 19 Beaver Creek, OH

After an assassination attempt on the two leading presidential candidates, hilarity ensues as they are hidden in a safe room while things are secured. Enter a wildcard third party candidate, blackmail, nosey reporters, and there is more damage control than any press secretary could possibly handle!

WEEK FOUR June 26 – June 29

FAMILY PORTRAIT by Madeline Sprung-Keyser age 17 Los Angeles, CA

When devastating photos are discovered, one family must get to the bottom of who took them...before the police arrest the wrong person or find out too much.

A POEM BY JOSHUA FEINBERG by Kate Herzlin age 15 Rockville Centre, NY

As he prepares for his wedding, Joshua Feinberg is haunted by a painful relationship from his past. With the help of Thoreau, he must come to terms with this woman, before he can truly give himself to his bride.

DOUBLETS AND HOSE by Griffin Hennelly age 16 Dumont, NJ

Verona as we know it is upside down, as we romp through a fast-paced, zany and pop culture infused re-telling of Romeo and Juliet. Hang onto your doublets and experience Shakespeare like you've never seen it!

For further information: YoungPlaywrights.com or 323/661-9827 Press: 323/871-8018

**BLANK THEATRE COMPANY
16th ANNUAL NATIONWIDE
YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Contact: 323/871.8018**

EVENT:	BLANK THEATRE COMPANY 16th ANNUAL NATIONWIDE YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL
DESCRIPTION:	Celebrity actors and professional directors present twelve winning plays by teenaged playwrights from across the nation during this prestigious four-week Festival. Each week is a different evening of plays. (schedule attached)
DATES:	June 5, 2007 through June, 29, 2007
TIMES:	Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8pm Sunday at 2pm & 7pm
THEATRE:	Hudson Mainstage Theatre 6539 Santa Monica Blvd Hollywood CA 90038
ADMISSION:	\$15 for all performances Festival Pass (one seat each week) \$50
TICKET INFORMATION:	Tickets available at YoungPlaywrights.com or by calling (323) 661-9827.
FURTHER INFORMATION:	YoungPlaywrights.com

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