

YPT Wire



The Newsletter of Young Playwrights' Theater

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What's so great about YPT? We decided to ask the experts - our students.

[Here's what they had to say.](#)

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Issue: # 63

January 2012

Announcing the 2012 *New Play Festival* Line-up!

It's our favorite time of the year again: ***New Play Festival*** season!

Over the past few weeks, members of the YPT Reading Committee met to select the 26 student-written plays we will produce in the ***New Play Festival*** this April. Our amazing elementary, middle and high school students wrote an unprecedented 700 new plays in 2011. Out of these plays, 70 were selected for review by the Reading Committee, and 26 became Finalists. This year, for the very first time, each ***New Play Festival*** finalist will receive a professional performance of his or her play over the next few months.

Performances will take place at schools and community venues throughout our region. Stay tuned for a complete performance schedule in the next few weeks.

From the 26 ***New Play Festival*** Finalists, the YPT Reading Committee selected 12 Featured Playwrights. We will present professional productions of plays written by these students in our annual two-day ***New Play Festival*** showcase performance at GALA Hispanic Theatre.

Professional actors, dramaturges and directors will collaborate with these student writers to create two thrilling evenings of fresh, dynamic theater on April 23 and 24, 2012. We hope to see you there!

[Click here](#) for a complete list of the 14 ***New Play Festival*** Finalists and the 12 Featured Playwrights!



Community Ambassadors are advocates for YPT, adult volunteers from a variety of backgrounds committed to supporting the work of the company. Ambassadors help us build a lasting community of support, using their specific skills and interests to get others involved.

[Click here](#) to learn more!

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Never Too Early to Plan for Anti-Valentine's Day...

*Roses are red,
Violets are blue,
Do you hate Valentine's Day?
We do too.*

Save the date for YPT's first performance of 2012, **New Writers Now! - Mad Love**.

Mad Love will present professional readings of three original student-written plays exploring the question, "How far would you go for the one you love?" The pre-show party, beginning at 6:30pm, will feature Anti-Valentine's Day-themed music, treats, and activities.



"We see a lot of stories coming from the classroom about broken hearts, betrayals and love triangles," says David Snider, Producing Artistic Director and CEO of YPT. "Everyone can relate to the experience of being in a tough relationship, and we are excited to showcase the other side of love through the work of these extraordinary playwrights. What better time to share these plays with the community than on the eve of Valentine's Day?"

See you there!

New Writers Now! - Mad Love

FREE PERFORMANCE

February 13, 2012

6:30pm Reception, 7pm Performance

GALA Hispanic Theatre

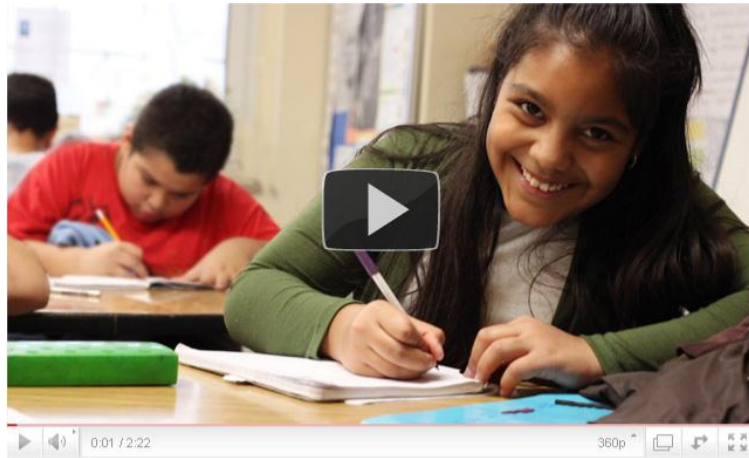
3333 14th St. NW

[Click here](#) for more info.

Don't Forget to Invest in YPT!

A huge thank you to everyone who has already made a donation to invest in YPT students this spring!

In case you missed our inspiring campaign video, be sure to click the screen shot below.



Remember, when you invest in YPT between now and January 31, you have the chance to double your donation through a matching grant opportunity with the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities!

Take advantage of this special opportunity to double your impact, double your donation and double your investment in the future of our community.

This year, we will continue to show thousands of students that their ideas matter, their voices count and their dreams are achievable.

But only with your help.

Please click the donate button below and make your tax deductible gift today!



Jenna Blanton

Promising Playwright



"I have no idea what I want to do for a career," Jenna Blanton laughs, sitting in the Swanson Middle School music room. "I've been thinking about it, trying to find what I really like, but I can't seem to choose just one thing that I want to go for."

Eighth grader Jenna's diverse interests are

obvious in the play she wrote for YPT's ***In-School Playwriting Program*** last semester, *Lost in the Jungle*. Her main character, Alice, travels to the jungle to work with her biologist uncle, but when she arrives, her world collides unexpectedly with two young tribal warriors.

"My dad has a dog named Alice," Jenna explains, "and I love the outdoors, so when I was writing the play, I was thinking about the dog, and being outside, so I came up with the girl Alice being in the jungle with her uncle. I just kept going from there."

While Jenna's love of animals and nature has led her to consider a future as a veterinarian, she also has a strong interest in the arts. She is enrolled in a year-long theater elective at Swanson, where she gets to both act and write creatively. YPT integrated into her theater class once a week last semester, guiding students through the process of writing their own original plays. "I actually found out that I like writing, and I was already into theater, so this year I decided to take the full-year drama class," she says. "I just love acting."

In addition to her talent for the dramatic arts, Jenna also plays the guitar and even writes her own songs. "I just write about what's going on in my life at the moment," she says, and laughingly adds that her friends all compare her to Taylor Swift, both for her love of music and her long, wavy blonde hair.

Whether she's songwriting or playwriting, Jenna hopes that others will take something away from her finished product. "When I'm going through something, and don't necessarily know what to do about it, I try to get an answer through art. I hope other people will understand and be able to take it for their own use."

For more Promising Playwrights [click here](#).

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