

# YPT Wire



The Newsletter of Young Playwrights' Theater

## In This Issue

[YPT's Exciting New Cultural Exchange Project](#)

[Kicking Off the 2011 Express Tour](#)

[Nicole Jost Honored in Washingtonian Magazine](#)

[Shannon Marshall: Promising Playwright](#)

## Support YPT!

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Secure donations through  
Network for Good

## YPT-Shirt Contest!

# INNOVATION through arts EDUCATION

Giving students the tools they need  
to engage the world

**Calling all visual artists and graphic designers! YPT is excited to announce our first ever t-shirt design contest!**

We are looking for designs that capture the idea of "Innovation through Arts Education."

The deadline for submissions is Thursday, October 27.

[Click here](#) for contest rules and details.

**Mark Your Calendars to Give to the Max**

Issue: # 60

October 2011

## YPT's Exciting New Cultural Exchange Project



This November, YPT's award-winning student theater ensemble, the *Young Playwrights' Workshop*, will participate in an exciting day of cultural exchange and theater workshops with students from the *Es Artes* theater company of Suchitoto, El Salvador. The workshops are made possible through a unique collaboration between YPT, the Stratford Shakespeare Festival and the Embassy of Canada.

During El Salvador's civil war in the 1980s, the town of Suchitoto was at the heart of a dangerous battle zone. Though the war ended long ago, the residents of Suchitoto continue to struggle with widespread violence and unemployment. The *Es Artes* program began training local youth in acting and technical theater skills last year, planting the seeds for a larger effort to generate a thriving theater scene and arts-driven economy for Suchitoto.

YPT is thrilled to work with *Es Artes* to give Suchitoto students and DC students the exciting opportunity to create original work together in a new cultural context.

We can't wait to see what these students create (and to tell you all about it)!

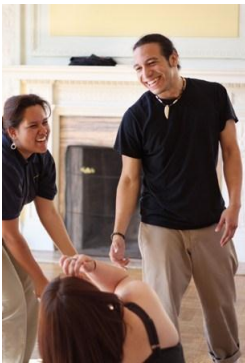
on November 9!



YPT is excited to announce that we will be participating in DC's first annual Give to the Max Day! Give to the Max Day is a huge one-day online fundraising event on November 9, 2011 that will unite Maryland, Virginia and Washington, DC communities to support local nonprofits through 24 hours of charitable giving.

[Click here](#) learn more about the event. And don't forget to log on November 9th, starting at midnight, to join the movement and support YPT! Ready, set, give!

Join The Young Playwrights' Workshop!



**Calling all students!** There's still time to join the (award-winning) [Young Playwrights' Workshop!](#) The Workshop meets every Wednesday at 4:00pm, in YPT's studio space (2437 15th Street NW). See you there!

Email [njost@yptdc.org](mailto:njost@yptdc.org) for more info.

Become a YPT Community Ambassador!

Get involved with YPT in a fun

[Click here](#) to learn more about the *Young Playwrights' Workshop*, and [click here](#) to watch a great video about the *Es Artes* program and the youth of Suchitoto.

Kicking Off the 2011 *Express Tour*



This Monday, the YPT *Express Tour* company loaded their set pieces, costumes and props into the YPT bus, and hit the road for a seven week tour to over sixty schools, hospitals and nursing homes throughout the DC region.

The annual *Express Tour* is a traveling production of vibrant new plays by YPT students. YPT brings these plays to life with professional actors in an energetic, fully staged performance, and then tours them throughout the community in order to inspire new artists and audiences.

This year, in honor of National Anti-Bullying Month, the *Express Tour* will present a performance called *Heroes and Bullies*, sharing plays that explore the question, "Which do you want to be?" With national pressure mounting on schools to educate students on the dangers of bullying, *Heroes and Bullies* presents an opportunity to start the conversation with young students from a perspective they can relate to. The production presents three short plays written by DC students, woven together with short scenes on bullying by students at Kelly Miller Middle School, and original spoken word poetry by high school student Reyna Rios.

"From students confronting school bullies to superheroes overcoming their fears to save the day, this is a performance that celebrates the hero in all of us," says David Snider, Producing Artistic Director and CEO of YPT. "These young playwrights have an important message that resonates across all age groups, and we are thrilled to share their writing with the community."

Sound like something you'd like to see? You can catch the *Express Tour* when the company stops for a free evening performance at GALA Hispanic Theatre on Monday, November 14, at 7:30pm. [Click here](#) for more information.

easy way!



**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!

### Calling All Federal Employees!

YPT is thrilled to be a Combined Federal Campaign charity again this year! Please remember us when you make your CFC contributions.

YPT's CFC number is 64148.



[Click here](#) to learn more about the Combined Federal Campaign, and how you can participate.

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In the meantime, check out these [awesome photos](#) from *Express Tour* rehearsals last week.

### Nicole Jost Honored in *Washingtonian Magazine*



This month, YPT Program Manager Nicole Jost was honored in *Washingtonian Magazine* as one of "10 Women to Watch" in Washington. This list was compiled as an addition to the magazine's "100 Most Powerful Women in Washington" article in their latest issue. Highly celebrated women like Arena Stage Artistic Director Molly Smith, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton appeared on the main list, and Nicole was listed as one of ten women rocketing towards their ranks.

Since Nicole joined the YPT staff four years ago, her work in programming has helped over 5,000 DC area young people discover their voices and stories through playwriting.

"I am very inspired by Washington," Nicole says in the article. "That's a motivator in my artistic work and the work of my life."

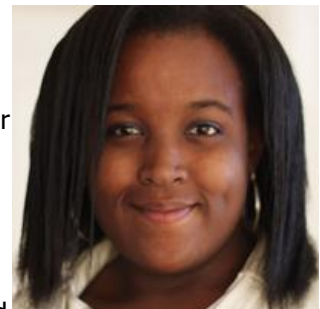
Congratulations, Nicole!

You can read the article online [here](#).

### Shannon Marshall

#### Promising Playwright

"One day I was walking on Georgia Avenue with some friends, and we were looking for a corner store and couldn't find it. Instead, we saw a big condominium where the corner store used to be," shares Shannon Marshall. "When we saw that, we were like, 'Wow, what is going on?'"



Shannon's experience of the gentrification happening in her own neighborhood inspired her to write *Society Unjust*, which was performed as part of the 2011 *New Play Festival*. *Society Unjust* is about a 73-year-old woman faced with the difficult decision of whether to sell her home to a developer to pay for her medical expenses.

Shannon based her protagonist on her grandmother. She says of her grandmother's experience, "Developers were saying, 'This is a historic neighborhood', and property tax was raised, but my grandmother was very, very determined to keep living in the area. She lived there up until she passed away, when her house was sold and renovated. When

I saw my play performed, I was like, 'Wow, that's my grandmother on stage.'"

Shannon wrote *Society Unjust* while in the ***In-School Playwriting Program*** in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade at Bell Multicultural High School, but she has been involved with YPT since the company came into her classroom in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. "It was a great experience because it was different from just sitting and watching our teacher teach," she remembers. "You had a chance to be creative and do stuff you wanted to do."

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

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