

YPT Wire



The Newsletter of Young Playwrights' Theater

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Do you enjoy deal-of-the-day emails from companies like Groupon and Living Social?

Check out Recoup - a new philanthropic marketing engine that provides discounts to consumers and allows consumers to donate a portion of their purchase to a nonprofit of their choice.

YPT is excited to join the family of nonprofits on Recoup - and we hope you will sign up too.

Issue: # 59

September 2011

A Message from YPT's CEO

INNOVATION through arts EDUCATION

Giving students the tools they need
to engage the world

Dear Friends,

As President Barack Obama said in his 2011 State of the Union address, "To win the future, America needs to out-educate, out-innovate, and out-build the rest of the world." At YPT, we know our students will not "win the future" by correctly answering multiple choice questions on standardized tests. We are committed to teaching our students to innovate, so they're ready for the challenges of tomorrow, giving them the tools they need to think critically, solve problems creatively and share their ideas clearly with the rest of the world.

In our increasingly technologically advanced world, students will be required now more than ever to develop skills to help them compete with other students globally. To that end, educators across the country have identified a framework for 21st century learning skills to ensure that our youth are equipped for success. **These essential skills are: creativity and innovation, critical thinking and problem solving, and communication and collaboration.** YPT's programs are designed to make students proficient in each of these skills through our innovative and rigorous playwriting curricula.



[Click here](#) to join the Recoup email list and select YPT as your charity of choice!

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.

Become a YPT Community Ambassador!

Get involved with YPT in a fun, 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!

YPT Year in Review

YPT workshops bolster creative thinking as students work to find inspiration for their original plays and must evaluate their ideas for clarity of purpose and creative potential. The act of writing their play stretches students' ability to innovate as they invent the characters, environments and language of the story while imagining it in a theatrical context. At the core of each play is a conflict that needs to be resolved, so students' critical thinking and problem solving skills are sharpened as they imagine the many different ways to find a resolution that creates the most dramatic impact possible. This process of analyzing conflict leads them to a greater understanding of conflict resolution and builds their capacity for empathy.

Ultimately, the entire process of writing a play is a lesson in communication and collaboration. The playwright must have clarity of vision in what her or his play will communicate to an audience. In order to achieve this, she must work with collaborators - dramaturges, actors, directors, etc. - to give life to the world she has created and offer constructive criticism of the playwright's work. The YPT process offers students a fun and empowering opportunity to gain confidence in the skills that will make them competitive in the 21st Century.

So remember - when you donate to YPT this year, or attend one of our free performances - you are helping us support and celebrate the next generation of great American innovators - and helping us to prepare students to succeed in today's world.

We can't wait to see you at our next YPT event!

Warmly,

David A. Snider
Producing Artistic Director and CEO

[Click here](#) to get involved with YPT this year!

Save the Date for YPT's First Performance of the Season!



On October 3, 2011, YPT will kick off our 2011-12 Season with ***New Writers Now! - The Fight for Family***. This professional staged reading of new work fresh from the classroom will feature plays by some of our amazing Latino writers, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month.

As always, this performance is 100% free for our students and community members.

Our FY11 Annual Report is ready for your reading pleasure.



[Click here](#) for inspiring stories about our students and programs.

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Join us on October 3, and explore the question, "What would you do for your family?"

Young Playwrights' Theater Presents: *New Writers Now! - The Fight for Family*

October 3, 2011

6:30pm Reception, 7pm Performance

GALA Hispanic Theatre

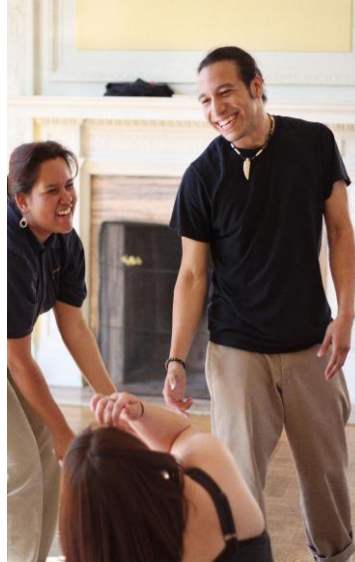
3333 14th St. NW

Washington, DC 20010

Roxana Olivas, Director of The Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs (OLA) will present opening remarks for this performance.

[Click here](#) for more information about this show and YPT's entire 2011-12 season of FREE performances.

Calling All Students: Join the Young Playwrights' Workshop!



The *Young Playwrights' Workshop* is YPT's [award-winning](#) student theater ensemble. Students work together to create, develop, rehearse and perform their own original play. This year's Workshop will present their play at GALA Hispanic Theatre on June 11, 2012.

The *Workshop* meets in YPT's studio space every Wednesday from 4 to 5:30pm. Students in grades 8 - 12 are welcome to apply. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Want to put YOUR story on stage? Be a part of this year's *Workshop!* Contact Nicole at njost@yptdc.org to find out how.

KaMiya Barrett

Promising Playwright

"I like challenges," explains KaMiya Baret, an eighth grader at Lincoln Middle School. "If it's above my level, I will do it because it challenges me to work harder."



When YPT came into her classroom, KaMiya rose to the challenge. "People think that the hero always wins and is tough, but sometimes the villain can be tough too; it's just that they have a bad way of showing it," explains KaMiya. "I wanted to show how sometimes it can be backwards, and instead of the hero winning, sometimes the villain wins."

KaMiya's play is about two dogs who are fighting over a piece of steak they find in an alley. "I had never written a play before, and it was kind of interesting. It made me feel like I was able to express myself through writing."

Though she likes words, KaMiya says she prefers working with numbers. "My friends really, really don't like math. It makes them confused. They are always asking if I can help them with their math homework, and I say, 'okay.' Helping them makes me feel like people can count on me."

When she is older, KaMiya wants to become an accountant. "My mom used to be an accountant, and I want to follow in her footsteps," she shares. "I would get to work with numbers - I love working with numbers."

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

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