



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**YPT PRESENTS "THE HEIGHTS OF CHANGE"
ORIGINAL STUDENT WRITING ABOUT
THE EFFECTS OF RAPID CHANGE IN AN URBAN NEIGHBORHOOD**

WASHINGTON, DC (February 1, 2010) Young Playwrights' Theater (YPT) presents *New Writers Now! The Heights of Change*.

The staged reading, which is free of charge and open to the public, will be presented at 7:00 PM, on Monday, February 22, 2010, at GALA Hispanic Theatre. GALA Hispanic Theatre is located at 3333 14th Street NW, Washington, DC 20010. A FREE reception will precede the performance, beginning at 6:15 PM.

The Heights of Change is the fourth production in YPT's 2009-2010 *New Writers Now!* series, featuring professional actors in staged readings of student plays fresh from the classroom, followed by a community discussion about the plays with the playwrights. At *New Writers Now!*, young writers discover the value of sharing their work and recognize that the community is invested in the stories they tell.

The Heights of Change will feature writing that explores the effects of rapid change in an urban neighborhood. The plays explore questions such as: How can a community grow while honoring its past? How can the needs of long-time residents be balanced against the desires of newcomers?

"DC is a community continually in flux," says David Andrew Snider, YPT Artistic Director. "As the fortunes of our city rise and as faces in our neighborhoods change, it's important to hear how our young people feel about these changes. Hearing how our youth view these changes can help our community grow together, to better serve their futures -- and our own."

The evening will feature original writing created by students in YPT's programming. Young Playwrights' Theater teaches students to express themselves clearly and creatively through the art of playwriting. Through interactive in-school and after-school programs, YPT activates student learning and inspires students to understand the power of language and realize their potential as both individuals and artists. By publicly presenting and discussing student-written work, YPT promotes community dialogue and respect for young artists.

The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (DCCA) joins YPT for this presentation. DCCA Executive Director Gloria Nauden says, "Organizations like YPT are essential to the vitality of our community. YPT promotes learning and literacy, reinforces the importance of community, and inspires youth to share ideas and to dream big. The subject of change in our urban neighborhoods is of great importance and DCCA is honored to partake in this discussion. DCCA believes that one of the most powerful vehicles of change comes from the arts, as it is a unifier and facilitator to an open and fair exchange."

The mission of the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities is to provide grants, programs and educational activities that encourage diverse artistic expressions and learning opportunities, so that all District of Columbia residents and visitors can experience the rich culture of our city. For more information visit www.dcartarts.dc.gov

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