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WINNING STUDENT-WRITTEN PLAYS SELECTED IN CITY THEATRE'S ANNUAL EQT YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS CONTEST

Festival will follow to celebrate vibrant voices and fresh talents

Pittsburgh, PA (June 17, 2019). City Theatre is thrilled to announce the winners of the annual **EQT Young Playwrights Contest**. The six selected playwrights, all middle and high school students from western Pennsylvania and northern West Virginia, will receive a professional production of their original one-act plays during the EQT Young Playwrights Festival, running October 22 – November 2, 2019, in the Lester Hamburg Studio at City Theatre. Four honorable mention plays were also chosen and will receive a staged reading during the festival.

“We received almost 400 new plays and that made the task of selecting the finalists and honorable mentions equal parts challenging and exhilarating,” said Kristen Link, Director of Education and Accessibility. “We couldn’t be more impressed with the high-caliber writing these students are demonstrating, and are looking forward to introducing their unique voices to Pittsburgh audiences this fall.”

Celebrating 20 years this fall, the EQT Young Playwrights Contest and Festival is a cornerstone of City Theatre’s education initiatives, introducing students to the new play process and celebrating the creative and vibrant young voices of our region. Each finalist will work alongside a professional dramaturg over the coming months to revise and develop their scripts for production.

2019 Young Playwrights Festival Plays

Middle School Winners

Flight by Amelia Staresinic
Pittsburgh CAPA 6-12

Love and Lightning by Athena Iverson
Pittsburgh CAPA 6-12

Words by Ava Weidensall
J.E. Harrison Middle School

High School Winners

All Hallow's Eve by Kelsey Geary
Derry Area High School

The December's Cold by Polina Soldatova
Lakeview High School

The Dream Series by Jordan Jackson
Fox Chapel Area High School

Honorable Mention Plays

Ginger by Abigayle Arthurs
South Fayette High School

Growth by Isabella Voinchet
Hampton High School

Just Right by Caroline Lucas
North Allegheny High School

The Voice in My Head by Brooke Murawski
Mellon Middle School

The EQT Young Playwrights Festival will include two weeks of student matinees, public performances, and a reading of honorable mentions. Middle school and high school plays will be presented in two separate programs. School group and field trip inquiries may be made to Katie Trupiano (ktrupiano@citytheatrecompany.org; 412-431-4400 x269).

Founded in 1975, City Theatre is entering its 45th season as Pittsburgh's home for bold new plays. Located in the historic South Side on its four-building cultural campus, the company produces a season of regional and world premieres; its renowned Young Playwrights Festival; a season-long reading series of new works in progress; and the annual Momentum Festival. City Theatre's mission is to provide an artistic home for the development and production of contemporary plays of substance and ideas that engage and challenge a diverse audience. With an annual average operating budget of \$2.75 million, City is the largest performing arts organization not located in Pittsburgh's downtown Cultural District and is a constituent and core member of the League of Resident Theaters (LORT), Theatre Communications Group (TCG), and the National New Play Network (NNPN). In July 2018, Marc Masterson returned as Artistic Director, after an 18 year absence, to join Managing Director James McNeel as co-leaders of the organization.

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