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NEW VICTORY THEATER AND THE 24 HOUR PLAYS ANNOUNCE THE 24 HOUR PLAYS: NEW VICTORY



One-Night-Only Event Will Feature Seven Short Plays Written, Rehearsed, and Performed in 24 Hours

April 24, 2024 - Today, New Victory Theater and The 24 Hour Plays announced *The 24 Hour Plays: New Victory*, featuring seven short plays written by select young playwrights and performed by leading actors from Broadway, television and film. *The 24 Hour Plays: New Victory* will play the New Victory Theater for one night only on May 4, 2024.

Seven New York City students participating in <u>Speak Up, Act Out: Celebrating Student Voices</u>, a creative writing program uplifting student writers, will debut original short plays on the New Victory stage in collaboration with professional directors, playwrights, and actors.

The student writers for *The 24 Hour Plays: New Victory* include **Annabelle Borsanyi** (Grade 11), *The Chapin School*; **Jeury Cortorreal** (Grade 8), *Mott Hall Science and Technology Academy*; **Celestine Deaton** (Grade 10), *The Chapin School*; **Amanda C. Deliz** (Grade 10), *Brooklyn Collaborative Studies*; **Zion Park** (Grade 6), *De La Salle Academy*; **Emma Perez**

Maturen (Grade 7), *Riverdale/Kingsbridge Academy*; and **Adaa Rahul** (Grade 6), *NYC Lab Middle School for Collaborative Studies*.

These short plays will feature performances by T.R. Knight, David Burtka, Amy Hargreaves, Russell G. Jones, Olli Haaskivi, Haskiri Velazquez, Mirirai Sithole, Natalie Walker, Heath Saunders, Marcia DeBonis, Ray Anthony Thomas, Alex Hernandez, Brett Epstein, and more to be announced

Prior to this one-night-only live theatrical performance, student finalists participated in a series of developmental workshops to strengthen their dramatic writing skills alongside professional playwright mentors, including **Chisa Hutchinson**, **Dylan Guerra**, **Lily Houghton**, **Danny Tejera**, **Tasha Gordon-Solmon**, **SMJ**, and **Marissa Joyce Stamps**. In addition to the developmental workshop series, each student will be paired with one of the professional playwrights to receive one-on-one mentorship, dramaturgical input, and additional writing resources as they write an original play 24 hours before the live event.

New Victory Theater and The 24 Hour Plays previously partnered with The Lillys and The Lillys' Executive Director Julia Jordan on *Speak Up Act Out: Celebrating Student Voices*, which amplified the voices of young writers and activists with monologues written by New York City students inspired by the life and legacy of celebrated playwright Lorraine Hansberry.

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About New Victory Theater

A project of the nonprofit New 42, New Victory opens new worlds to young people and families through extraordinary performances, education and engagement programs. Bringing kids to the arts and the arts to kids since 1995, this nonprofit theater has become a standard-bearer of quality performing arts for young audiences in the United States. Reflecting and serving the multicultural city it calls home, The New Victory is committed to arts access for all communities of New York to experience and engage with the exemplary international shows on its stages. A global leader in arts education, youth development and audience engagement, the New Victory Theater has been honored by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities with the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award, by Americans for the Arts with a national Arts Education Award, and by the Drama Desk for "providing enchanting, sophisticated children's theater that appeals to the child in all of us, and for nurturing a love of theater in young people."

About The 24 Hour Plays®

Established in 1995, The 24 Hour Play (Mark Armstrong, artistic director; Madelyn Paquette, managing director) bring together creative communities to produce plays and musicals written, rehearsed and performed in 24 hours. Through a radically-present approach to theater, The 24 Hour Plays respond immediately to the world around us, generate new artistic partnerships and build strong, enduring creative communities. Regular events include The 24 Hour Plays on Broadway and The 24 Hour Musicals in New York City, as well as productions in Los Angeles, Dublin, Minneapolis, Denver, Sacramento, Mexico City and more. *The 24 Hour Plays: Viral Monologues* generated 600 new free-to-view theater pieces featuring over 1000 artists that have been viewed millions of times and are archived in the Library of Congress. The 24 Hour Plays: Nationals, an annual free professional intensive for early-career artists, has introduced audiences and collaborators to a new generation of artists changing the game in theater, television, and film. www.24hourplays.org. Instagram: @24hourplays