

PLAYWRITE INC

World Trade Center Theater

May 25, 2010



Creative Writing

(for T. W.)

by Alyson Ayn Osborn

At the school for kids on the edge –
The ones who've already learned tactics:
To dance/duck/swing/bargain/plead
to have made it this far,
A playwriting program;
And today an especially spit-fire gal
Who finds my questions unbelievably lame.
With one perfectly orchestrated motion of bullying incredulity
She both shoves and flops herself further back into her chair,
Her sternum punches forward, her head tips back, her jaw juts out,
A sitting up, self-propelled resuscitation Annie.
“What?! Oh my God. Are you serious? How should I know?”
She's writing about a cactus who's listening to the wind;
I ask her how it sounds, how the cactus hears wind.
A full glottal stop/sigh of disgust and exasperation escapes her lips.
She's winding up from the inside,
preparing to fast ball pitch herself to me across the table.
“What do you mean how does it sound?! I don't know how it sounds and my
character don't know how it sounds. Because it's just the wind. And everybody
already knows how it sounds.”
Slight snort for emphasis, with a widened eye stare in case I missed the snort.
I do the mentoring thing – wait a bit before continuing on.
She counters with the hard palate tongue cluck. The head shake. An eye roll,
pointedly looks away from me like I'm the Elephant Man,
then sort of turtles down into herself and hunches over.
She's seen enough of these middle age do-gooder types,
Hoping to make kids love language, from pain create art,
Show the world in a way so resonant and profound an audience will gasp.
...But I'm beginning to think she might be right about the wind question –
Everyone does know how it sounds. It whistles of course, and screeches and
howls and whispers. It rustles leaves, flap/slaps laundry, whisks papers.
Wind's been done to death I realize.
And just as I decide to tell her she's right and we should move on,
She seems to squirm out from under a weight, shimmying herself up like a cobra,
Huge heaving sigh, then... “It's just a little wind –
Like how it would sound if a baby could whistle.”



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Welcome to *Word. voice.*

The plays and songs you are about see and hear are a mere sampling of the work that comes from our PlayWrite workshops. Tonight's highlights are the creative products of just some of the lives we touch. The real masterpieces are the lives themselves and the work the students do behind the scene to create their characters. Working one-on-one with a coach, the students open themselves up to tell a story that needs to be told. Metaphors flying. Inanimate objects and animals personified. A voice found. A life perhaps changed. The creative process is indeed a fascinating journey, and can be very healing.

My fellow board members and I are proud of the work that PlayWrite does, and we'd like to thank everyone who helps us achieve that: the schools and programs that allow us to come in; the students for sharing their stories; the coaches and actors for their talent and patience that bring the students words to life; to Bruce for his passion and drive that drives PlayWrite; and certainly, to the generous donors – individuals, foundations, and businesses – that believe in the powerful work PlayWrite does. Without your generosity, these would be voices lost. Thank you for supporting PlayWrite.

Enjoy the show!



Steve Cox

Board President

PlayWrite, Inc.
P.O. Box 13420 • Portland, Oregon 97213 • Phone (503) 249-5800
PlayWrite is a 501(c)3 Organization

Executive Director's Note

Exercising one's creative spirit is nourishing at the most fundamental level. Making art in the midst of chaos elevates our humanity. While the past year has offered challenges, it has also offered unique opportunities and many rewards for our hard work.

In December, we moved into an office in the Rose City Park Presbyterian Church. It's in the basement, but there are four big windows gathering southern light. Moving out of the back room of my house has been a big change, mostly positive. Although I don't go back to work after dinner so frequently, I'm often late for supper.

The church is much more than a landlord to us. One of our long-standing goals has been to offer continuing connections with PlayWrite to the graduates of our core playwriting workshops. Romalia Stickney-Shibley, who manages the church facility, has been incredibly helpful. She generously arranged for us to use a fine big room with a piano (in tune!) for our most recent songwriting workshop. All but one of tonight's songs were written there. We're looking forward to more opportunities to bring PlayWrite graduates from various schools together at our new home.

The pulsing heart of the PlayWrite experience is the one-to-one relationship between writer and coach. That relationship stands on a rock-solid foundation of trust,

challenge, and support. Hour after hour, day after day, the emotional, physical and intellectual dance deepens and intensifies. The work is difficult, sometimes painful, yet when performance day comes, everyone involved knows it's been worth the struggle.

You, our audience, are a vital, indeed necessary, piece of the creative act. Plays are written to be seen and heard. The words are the core, the heart of the matter. That's why our actors have the writers' scripts in hand, to honor the words. The creative fire of the writer leaps onto the page, works its way into the body and spirit of the actors, singers and musicians, and now it engages you, bringing your creativity into play. This is the magic of theatre, and indeed it is the essential magic of being human. Everything begins with – and depends upon – connection.

Thank you for joining in this magical creative process, that brings all of us so alive.



Bruce Livingston

Executive Director

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Underwriters' Circle members are individuals who make \$1,000 contributions annually to PlayWrite.

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Alyson Osborn
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Ivy Ross
Timothy Scarrott
Grace Hsu Shapiro
Kristin Steele
Michael Stone
Paul Susi
Tamara Wallace
Marianna Hane Wiles
Leah Yanoff

Actors & Singers

Deirdre Atkinson
Ayanna Berkshire
Rollin Carlson
Spencer Conway
Valerie Day
Matt Deegan
John Ellingson
Sarah Liane Foster
Julianna Jaffe
Noah Jordan

Victor Mack
Rebecca Frost Mayer
Wade McCollum
Alyson Osborn
Cecily Overman
Darius Pierce
Shawn Price
Eric Reid
Timothy Scarrott
Grace Hsu Shapiro
Michael Stone
Paul Susi
Tamara Wallace

Musicians/ Composers

Doug Fraser
Steve Hale
Mel Kubik
Kenny Sawyer
Molly Scholz
Sandin Wilson

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Program

May 25, 2010

Master of Ceremonies – Paul Susi

“Syllabus for Life,” by Daniel

sung by Shawn Price as JADE, a deer

Departure, by Kaitlyn

ANGELICA, a seed from a flower that’s made of long white wisps – Amaya Villazan
IKE, a mature but well-managed set of roller skates – Rollin Carlson

“Take Revenge Upon the Fear,” by Bryson

sung by John Ellingson as SLICK, a fishing pole

Possible Emptiness, a monologue, by Cristina

SAMUEL, a black leather punching bag – Victor Mack

“Driplett’s Song,” by Brian

sung by Valerie Day as DRIPLETT, a raindrop

Shimmer, by Ashley

SHAKEY, a big brown rattlesnake – Spencer Conway

PATSY, a glossy, finished cherry blossom with two wilted petals – Deirdre Atkinson

“Masterpiece,” by Daniel

sung by Michael Stone as ALFRED, a can of spray paint

A Knife’s Monologue, by TJ

The Knife – Rollin Carlson



“You Know We’re Friends,” by Bryson

sung by John Ellingson as KOA, a giant praying mantis

“What Are We Killing For?” by Antwoine

sung by Shawn Price as KOSAYCOSAYKO, a tiger

An Undefined Relationship, by Alexis

PEARLS, a white fluffy flake of snow – Alyson Osborn

PETER, a spiky fish that’s puffed up – Timothy Scarrott

“Change the Way I’m Falling,” by Brian

sung by Michael Stone as CWOW, a crocodile

The Heart in You, by Amanda

PENELOPE, a leather high-heel shoe

with sparkles only on her tip – Adrienna Ogin

JOSÉ, a young fox – Victor Mack

“It All Makes Sense,” by Kelsey

sung by Valerie Day as SANDY, a pink tumbleweed



Production Staff:

Lyndsay Hogland, Production Manager
Phoebe Daurio, Lighting Director
Gavin D’Avanther, Production Assistant
Photography, Annaliese Moyer
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The Band:

Doug Fraser, Composer, Guitar, Vocals
Molly Scholz, Keyboards, Vocals
Gareth Tabor, Composer, Guitar, vocals
Michael Tevlin, Composer, Guitar, Vocals

Volunteer Coordinators:

Jeri Alcock
Leah Yanoff

Authors & Plays, 2009-2010 School Year

Cedar Bough

August 13, 2009

Carissa The Wanting
 Elicia If I'm Not Big
 Elizabeth Friends or Enemies
 Hayley Broken Between Fear
 Theo Colorless Emotions
 MCJ How Johny and Edward Met
 Corey Reunite

Mt. Scott Learning Center

Sept. 29, 2009

Robbie I Don't Know
 Josslynn Ralph's Day Away From Gertrude
 Shawn The Mohawk and the Glacier
 Taylor Reaching for the Ocean
 Tia Banana
 Katie Breaking Free
 Daniel Stream of Consciousness

Portland Night High School

Dec. 15, 2009

Darius The Big Bounce
 Kia When Things Get Hard
 Malia The Sissy and the Salmon Catcher
 Brian Change the Way I'm Falling
 Aryn Last Chance of Hope in a Friend
 Bryson The Passion of the Unaware
 Kaitlyn Departure

Open Meadow Middle School Sept. 29, 2009

Alycia Family or Friends
 Bryony Paradox
 Quintin Authority and Length
 Lorelei Goliath and Darkness: Ancient
 Rocks Frozen With Fear, Part One
 Maria Friends in the Sun
 Gloria Coral

Cedar Bough

Nov. 27, 2009

Malia The Meaning of Friendship
 Jeff Running Wolf and El Soccerball's
 Fight Back
 Michael Charlie
 Chance Wooshy and Sheckle
 Emily Courage Within
 Ethan The Lost Clod of Dirt and the
 Worrying Fishing Pole

New Avenues for Youth

Jan. 26, 2010

Juke Boxxx Leavings of the Willow Tree
 Nichole The Tale of Larry and Philip
 Cristina Possible Emptiness
 Cameron The Cold Front
 Eric Dreaming of Blossoms
 TJ Knife Monologue
 Antwoine Two Character Sketches
 Dylan There is a Word for Hope

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 to transform the lives of youth at the edge.*

Authors & Plays, 2009-2010 School Year

Merrick School/ChristieCare March 9, 2010

Cole	Wanting to be Something Else
Tori	I'm Free
Keith	Oo, Fish Poop
Scott	Trouble in the Garbage Dump
Lizzy	Nobody Likes Me
Alexis	An Undefined Relationship

Rosemont School April 30, 2010

Vanessa	I'm Still Me
Demi	Bitter Sweet
Jenn	Sour Ties
Amanda	The Heart in You
Kara	Chasing Dreams
Sam	50/50
Makenna	When the Petal Falls
Emily	Ocean and Desert
Leah	A Character Sketch

White Shield Center

Ashley	Shimmer
Cortnie	Hope Inches Away
Destiny	No More Bananas
Joanna	It's Hard To Get What You Want
Rhachelle	The Enemies
Anissa	The Adventures of Noah and Anna
Kaitlyn	The Reunited Friends
Stormy	A Play About Chipping and Hobbling
Amanda	At Wit's End
Gianna	The Hill and the River

May 18, 2010

Partner Schools

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 Portland Night High School
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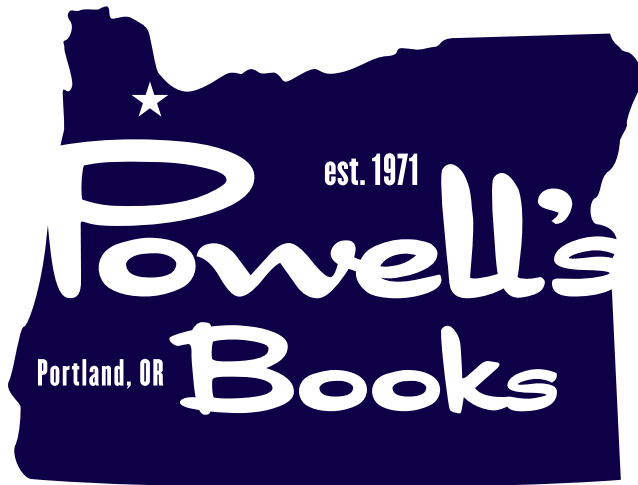
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