

PLAYGROUND ANNOUNCES
2018 YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS FINALISTS
STUDENT PLAYS TO RECEIVE PROFESSIONAL READINGS
AT BEST OF PLAYGROUND FESTIVAL, MAY 17-20

SAN FRANCISCO, (May 2, 2018) - PlayGround is thrilled to announce the finalists for the 10th annual **Young Playwrights Contest!** PlayGround invited aspiring writers and theatre artists at the high school level to write and submit their own 10-minute plays inspired by the topic: TALL TALES. The three selected plays and one short musical will each receive a professional staged reading, presented as a “curtain raiser” before select performances of the 22nd Best of PlayGround Festival (<http://playground-sf.org/bestof>) at Potrero Stage, May 17-20, 2018. PlayGround invites audiences to join in welcoming these bold new voices to the stage.

The selected plays/finalists are: **HIGHLY QUALIFIED** by Penelope Gould (Oakland School of the Arts '18), **SHORTER THAN FICTION** by Trey Harris (SOTA '18) and Oliver Paddock (SOTA '19), **WE DON'T HAVE DAY JOBS ANYMORE** by Lucy Urbano (Oakland School of the Arts '19), and **TRUE COLORS** by Nicholas Wong (Galileo Academy of Science & Technology '18). Honorable mentions go to *Learning to Forget* by Zeke Gerwein (Oakland School of the Arts) and *Bernardi Hardware* by Cicely Henderson (SOTA). Join us May 17-20 as we celebrate the work of these emerging young writers as a part of this year's Best of PlayGround. For more info, visit <http://playground-sf.org/youngplaywrights>.

WHAT: Young Playwrights Contest Staged Readings

WHEN:

Thursday, May 17 @ 8pm / TRUE COLORS by Nicholas Wong

Friday, May 18 @ 8pm / SHORTER THAN FICTION by Trey Harris & Oliver Paddock

Saturday, May 19 @ 8pm / WE DON'T HAVE DAY JOBS ANYMORE by Lucy Urbano

Sunday, May 20 @ 7pm / HIGHLY QUALIFIED by Penelope Gould

WHERE: Potrero Stage, 1695 18th Street, San Francisco, CA

INFO: <http://playground-sf.org/youngplaywrights>

CONTACT: Jim Kleinmann, Artistic Director; 415.992.6677;

youngplaywrights@playground-sf.org; www.playground-sf.org

ABOUT THE YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS PROJECT:

High school students from the Bay Area nine counties were invited to submit original short scripts inspired by the assigned topic, Tall Tales. This year marks the tenth year of the Bay Area-wide Young Playwrights Contest, through which PlayGround has identified and honored thirty-six up-and-coming young writers. “Through the Young Playwrights Project, PlayGround and Bay Area high schools partner to enable young writers to find their own expressive voice through the creation, development, and production of short plays,” stated PlayGround Artistic Director Jim Kleinmann. A tremendous opportunity for creatively-inclined high school students to experiment with writing for theatre in the ten-minute theatre form, the finalists gain immeasurable confidence and accomplishment from seeing their works staged by Bay Area theatre professionals, alongside the adult professional playwrights at Best of PlayGround.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHTS:

Penelope Gould (*Highly Qualified*) is an emerging playwright who loves absurdity. Her other plays include: *Trickle*, *Whose Voice Comes Out of Your Throat?*, and *Grapefruit Girls* (Berkeley Rep 2017 Teen One-Acts Festival). She is a senior at Oakland School for the Arts and is excited to continue her study of dramatic writing at New York University this fall.

Trey Harris (*Shorter Than Fiction*, Book & Lyrics) is a writer and actor from San Francisco. His biggest influences are Carlo Goldoni and Ke\$ha. Trey will be attending DePaul University in the fall, pursuing Acting. He'd like to thank Oliver Paddock for being the best collaborator anyone could hope for.

Oliver Paddock (*Shorter Than Fiction*, Music & Lyrics) is a junior in the Musical Theatre department at the Ruth Asawa School of the Arts. Aside from being an aspiring composer and actor/singer/dancer, he enjoys puppet making, learning to play as many instruments as he can, overcommitting himself, and spending time with his cats and dog (and family).

Lucy Urbano (*We Don't Have Day Jobs Anymore*) is a Junior at Oakland School for the Arts. Her one-act, *Lucky*, was produced in Berkeley Rep's Teen One-Acts festival and her ten-minute plays, *Hall of Fame* and *Familiar Faces*, were featured in Bay Area Zeta Player's Ten-Minute Play Festival. She is very honored to be a part of the Best of PlayGround Festival! She hopes her play inspires you to hug your friends.

Nicholas Wong (*True Colors*), the one and only, is a man of charming appeal and confidence. The first Young Playwrights Contest finalist to come out of Galileo, he has aspirations to write and direct movies and television one day. While he takes his work "extremely" seriously, his true passion is creating humorous, fun and entertaining pieces.

ABOUT PLAYGROUND:

PlayGround, the Bay Area's leading playwright incubator, provides unique development opportunities for the Bay Area's best new playwrights, including the monthly Monday Night PlayGround staged reading series, annual Best of PlayGround Festival, full-length play commissions and support for the production of new plays by local playwrights through the New Play Production Fund and, PlayGround's newest initiative, the PlayGround Film Festival. To date, PlayGround has supported more than 200 local playwrights in the development and staging of over 850 original short plays and 71 new full-length plays, including more than twenty-three that have since premiered in the Bay Area. For more information, visit <http://playground-sf.org>.

For more information on the Young Playwrights Project, visit <http://playground-sf.org/youngplaywrights>.