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New Playwrights debut at Tulsa Performing Arts Center

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Saturday, October 23rd saw the [Tulsa Performing Arts Center](#) play proud host to Brainstorm, an important showcase for young, aspiring playwrights from Tulsa. Nine one act plays were featured on the night, each one an award winner from the Tulsa City-County Library, 2010 Young People's Creative Writing Contest.

The three plays featured in the 12-13 year old category, *Prince of War* by Nathan Hinkle, *The Circus of Pandora's Box* by Fletcher Lowe and *The Remarkable Discovery for Parsawy* by Samantha Stolincy showed both freshness and originality and, at times, a frighteningly mature understanding of theatricality.

In the 14 -15 year old category *Rivalry of the Shopkeeping Agents*, by Christopher Parker, *The Dollhouse* by Kaylee Rae Gentry and *Amaigamation U* by Hannah Farrell were equally impressive for debut playwrights working in the one act format, each showing huge promise for the future.

In the 16- 18 years old category *Princesses Against Disney Deception* by Michelle Farell took a clever and humorous look at the representations of famous female characters in Disney movies, with a scene stealing performance by Xavier Sagel as Cinderella. *Real Life Fairytales* by Kristina Keiner was a touching, well written piece about friendship and love with a standout performance by young actress Helen Wallace who was consistently strong throughout the evening. *Lizzie Borden* by Emily Hedgecock was the longest and most powerful piece and told the tale of a modern day Lizzie Borden who kills her mother. Presented through a series of short, sharp scenes with clever use of dialogue, Emily Hedgecock revealed herself as a promising playwright in the making and one capable of taking this work to even greater heights.

Not only were young playwrights showcased on the night but young acting talent also. Unfortunately the program did not list which actors took part in which play, but all gave their best with the lead actress in *Lizzie Borden* also deserving of mention. It might be worth considering next year showcasing the work of young, aspiring directors as part of the Brainstorm experience.

Whilst much praise is due to Michael Wright, who directed all nine plays, the opportunity for young writers, young actors and young directors to work together must certainly be worth considering. Praise is also due to the Tulsa Performing Arts Center Trust and to Tulsa City-County Libraries for supporting this worthwhile venture and to Camie Hayes who has been involved with Brainstorm for the past five years.

Each journey begins with a first step, and Brainstorm is a first, solid step in the right direction. Let's hope many of these aspiring playwrights now take their second step, and many more to come, on their journey to becoming the writers they wish to be.



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