

NEWS RELEASE

For further information:
Daniel Henning
(323) 662-7734

TheBlank.com

**JOSH RADNOR, MARK VALLEY, DEE WALLACE, TIFFANI THIESSEN,
BARBARA BAIN, AND THE LEGENDARY BLAKE EDWARDS
SET FOR THE BLANK THEATRE COMPANY'S
15TH ANNUAL YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL**

Josh Radnor (*How I Met Your Mother*), Mark Valley (*Boston Legal*), Dee Wallace (*Sons and Daughters*), Tiffani Thiessen (*What About Brian*), Tony Todd, Vicki Lewis (*News Radio*), Nicholas Brendan (*Buffy the Vampire Slayer*), Elaine Hendrix (*Joan of Arcadia*), Aaron Himmelstein (*Joan of Arcadia*), Jamie Luner, Charlie Schlatter, James Eckhouse, Barbara Bain, and the legendary Blake Edwards will all be participating in The Blank Theatre Company's 15th Annual Nationwide Young Playwrights Festival beginning June 7, 2007 at the Matrix Theatre on Melrose.

The Blank Theatre Company's 15th Annual Nationwide Young Playwrights Festival has chosen 12 winning plays by teenaged playwrights, aged 14-19. The competition is open to teen-aged writers from across the nation.

And the winners are: "Counting the Sheep" by Matthew Grossman (age 16) from New York, NY; "White Woman" by Phoebe Rusch (age 18) from Highland Park, IL; "Strand in the Closet" by Gabriel Neustadt (16) St. Petersburg, FL; "The Transition Man" by Max Taxe (18) & Nuriel Moghavem (18) Los Angeles, CA; "Noble Causes" by Max Posner (18) Denver, CO; "Mark David Chapman: Live in Concert" by Benjamin Firke (17) Chicago, IL; "The Mole" by David Watson (18), New York, NY; "Parent/Teacher" by Madeline Sprung-Keyser (16) Los Angeles, CA; "Brother's Don't Say It" by Chad Baker (18) Beavercreek, OH; "Under A Tree" by Siena Leslie (17) Los Angeles, CA; "Storms" by Erica Richardson (19) Orangeburg, SC; and "Wife and Her Fisherman" by Kate Herzlin (14) from Rockville Center, NY.

Winning plays were chosen by a panel of theatre professionals from plays submitted by teenagers from across the nation. Winning playwrights are next assigned a mentor and then a professional director who will help them hone their scripts for production. In the past fourteen years, The Blank Theatre Company (Daniel Henning - Artistic Director & Noah Wyle - Artistic Producer) has produced 160 plays by teenaged playwrights. Ten of those plays have gone on to be presented on The Blank's Mainstage; many have been nominated for LA theatre awards: Ovation Award for "Best Writing—World Premiere", LA Weekly Award "Best One Act Playwriting", and a Robby Award for "Best Music and Lyrics".

The 15th Annual Nationwide Blank Theatre Company Young Playwrights Festival plays Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 2pm & 7pm, June 7 through July 1, 2007 at the Matrix Theatre, 7657 Melrose Avenue. Tickets are \$15 for all performances (Festival Passes are available for \$50) and may be purchased in advance by calling (323) 661-9827 or at YoungPlaywrights.com. Info at: YoungPlaywrights.com.

15th Annual Nationwide Blank Theatre Company Young Playwrights Festival

SCHEDULE

WEEK ONE June 7—June 10, 2007

COUNTING THE SHEEP By Matthew Grossman (16) New York, NY

Mentor: Blake Edwards

Director: Kirsten Sanderson

When the curtain is pulled back on a meeting of the U.S. Supreme Court, a hysterical farce ensues. What's really going on behind those gigantic closed doors?

WHITE WOMAN By Phoebe Rusch (18) Highland Park, IL

Mentor: Murray McRae

Director: Ken Page

A non-profit worker in Uganda is confronted by her former lover when she makes a well-intentioned but unethical decision. How far should she go in the name of compassion?

STRAND IN THE CLOSET By Gabriel Neustadt (16) St. Petersburg, FL

Mentor: David Holstein

Director: Barbara Bain

After his mother's death, a young businessman must return home and face his painful childhood. When his younger brother refuses to sell the house, hidden memories surface and an agonizing choice must be made.

WEEK TWO June 14—June 17, 2007

THE TRANSITION MAN By Max Taxe (18) & Nuriel Moghavem (18) Los Angeles, CA

Mentor & Director: Austin Winsberg

A smooth-talking charmer makes a career of helping women get over nasty break-ups. His latest customer is more challenging than he imagined. Will this be the first girl he won't be able to help?

NOBLE CAUSES By Max Posner (18) Denver, CO

Mentor: Hilly Hicks, Jr.

Director: Angela Garcia Combs

It is hard for modern-day teenagers to connect with the history they study. When a young man is suddenly thrust into current events, will his own terror teach him to learn from the past?

MARK DAVID CHAPMAN: LIVE IN CONCERT By Benjamin Firke (17) Chicago, IL

Mentor: Gary Tieche

Director: Al D'Andrea

A music executive is so overwhelmed by the quality of an unsolicited demo tape that he risks everything to help develop its fledgling creator: Mark David Chapman. Will the world accept John Lennon's killer as the next big popstar or will promoting his music lead to tragedy?

WEEK THREE June 21—June 24, 2007

THE MOLE By David Watson (18) New York, NY

Mentor: Adam Belanoff

Director: Daniel Henning

What would you do if you believed your wife was an impostor? This tale takes us deep inside the psyche of the world of espionage and the double feelings of double agents.

PARENT/TEACHER By Madeline Sprung-Keyser (16) Los Angeles, CA

Mentor: Allan Heinberg

Director: Warren Davis

In the high stakes, high pressure world of high school, a teacher confronts the parents of a cheating student. Is it worth condemning an entire academic career for one plagiarized mistake?

BROTHERS DON'T SAY IT By Chad Baker (18) Beavercreek, OH

Mentor: Mark Saltzman

Director: Tiffani Thiessen

After a tragic accident, two brothers at odds with the world, and each other, must work together as the sole heirs of their family estate deciding what to keep and what to let go of.

WEEK FOUR June 28—July 1, 2007

UNDER A TREE By Siena Leslie (17) Los Angeles, CA

Mentor: Wendy West

Director: Thia Stephan

As two teenagers navigate the stormy waters of love, a mystical tree stands guard over their relationship. Can nature guide them to greater understanding of each other and their world?

STORMS By Erica Richardson (19) Orangeburg, SC

Mentor: Ellen Byron

Director: Darin Anthony

In 1950's Georgia, a young man begins to build a successful life for himself by passing for white. Eventually he must choose which path he will take and face the consequences waiting there.

WIFE AND HER FISHERMAN By Kate Herzlin (14) Rockville Centre, NY

Mentor: Robert L. Freedman

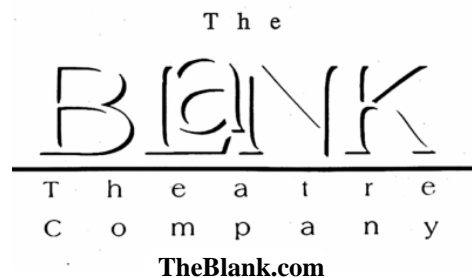
Director: James Eckhouse

A retiring principal must face both the end of his career and his wife's slow decline. As he tries to cope with the overwhelming emotions of loss, an unlikely friendship guides him to a final tribute of love.

For further information: YoungPlaywrights.com or 323/661-9827 Press: 323/662-7734

DANIEL HENNING
Artistic Director/Producer

NOAH WYLE
Artistic Producer



**FIFTEENTH ANNUAL NATIONWIDE
BLANK THEATRE COMPANY
YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Contact: (323) 662-7734

EVENT: **FIFTEENTH ANNUAL NATIONWIDE
BLANK THEATRE COMPANY
YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL**

DESCRIPTION: Twelve plays by teenaged playwrights from across the nation are presented during this prestigious four-week Festival. The winning plays are presented by professional actors and directors. This year's participants include: Josh Radnor, Mark Valley, Dee Wallace, Tiffani Thiessen, Barbara Bain, and the legendary Blake Edwards. Each week is a different evening of plays. (exact schedule attached)

DATES: June 7, 2007 through July 1, 2007

TIMES: Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8pm
Sunday at 2pm & 7pm

THEATRE: Matrix Theatre
7657 Melrose Avenue
(near Fairfax)
Los Angeles CA

ADMISSION: \$15 for all performances
Festival Pass (one seat each week) \$50

TICKET INFORMATION: Tickets available at box office one hour prior to curtain, online at YoungPlaywrights.com or by calling (323) 661-9827.

FURTHER INFORMATION: YoungPlaywrights.com

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