

2007 Third Annual Young Playwrights Short Play Competition

The Young Peoples Program of Blueberry Pond Arts Center located in Ossining, New York, announces its **Third Annual Young Playwrights' Short Play Competition** open to middle and high school students from Westchester and the surrounding lower Hudson Valley area. The Young People's Program supports and develops young people who have an interest in theatre and in writing new material for the stage. The goal of the short play competition is to ultimately provide performance opportunities of submitted original works.

The Young Playwrights' Competition was developed by Gayle Hudson, a published playwright and originator of several musicals for young people including **Outloud**, a mainstage production held at Blueberry Pond last year. "There are many forms of creative writing that students are exposed to in school, but few students are led to playwriting," said Ms. Hudson. "Blueberry Pond whose mission is to develop and produce original works, has developed a program where young people can come to explore theatre as whole theatre artists."

Blueberry Pond makes its home at Shine House Theatre within the natural setting of Ossining's Cedar Lane Park and is Westchester's only professional theatre company dedicated solely to developing and producing new plays. An emerging force in the Westchester theatre community, the group has attracted a host of area playwrights and actors to their weekly Playwright Labs and young people from the area have joined the weekend Creative Labs. Blueberry Pond is adding aspiring young playwrights to the list of theatre artists in Westchester who are finding themselves part of this vibrant new group.

The selected finalists for the **2006 Young Playwrights' Short Play Competition** were Maria Devlin of Bronxville High School for her **MAPQUEST IS DOWN, BUT I'M WIDE AWAKE** and Melanie Gold of Sleepy Hollow Middle School for her **ONE DAY AT A TIME**. The plays were judged by prominent members of the theatrical and children's literature communities, including published playwrights and writers of children's fiction, directors and literary managers. Five finalists' plays were read aloud in Blueberry Pond's Young People's Creative Lab and the winning plays received professionally staged readings of their scripts.

For further information visit the theater's website at www.BlueberryPond.org.