

NEWS RELEASE



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***Alabama Students Awarded in Young Playwright
Competition at Alabama Shakespeare Festival
Florence High School Student a Repeat Winner***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONTGOMERY, AL (Monday, June 1, 2009) Ten Alabama high school students were recognized for their talent for storytelling in the form of one-act plays this past Saturday morning. The Alabama Shakespeare Festival named the top three plays and playwrights from among the ten finalists in the 2009 Young Southern Writers' Project Playwriting Competition.

The students, their teachers and families gathered at ASF for a casual welcome reception and were greeted by the theatre's Associate Director and head of the Young Southern Writers' program, Nancy Rominger. ASF Chief Operating Officer Michael Vigilant shared a brief message with the students. Vigilant is the playwright for the 2009 Blockbuster hit *Bear Country*. After Mr. Vigilant's message the winners were announced.

The finalists came from all areas of the state, including Montgomery, Hoover, Huntsville, Florence and Hazel Green. Their plays spanned a wide range of subjects from family drama to political activism.

First place went to Hannah Saxon of Hazel Green High School with her play *Attempted Epic*. Mary Locker of Florence High took the second place title with her play *The Transcendental*. Mary was the 2008 first place winner. Third place honors went to Amy Hester of Hoover High School with her play *Number Nine Elmore Street*.

The top three winning plays will be work shopped with ASF's playwright in residence, then performed at libraries around the state and at the 2010 Southern Writers' Project Festival of New Plays. For more information, please call (334) 271 – 5326.

The Alabama Shakespeare Festival is among the largest Shakespeare theatres in the world. Designated as The State Theatre of Alabama, ASF has been located in Montgomery since 1985 when it moved from Anniston as a result of Mr. and Mrs. Wynton M. Blount's gift of a performing arts complex set in the 250-acre Wynton M. Blount Cultural Park.

This program/project has been made possible by grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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Fact Sheet

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2009 Young Southern Writers' Project Competition Awards Ceremony

2008-2009 Season

Produced by the Alabama Shakespeare Festival

Finalists:	Student	Play title	School
	Katherine Tucker	<i>A Certain View of Hell</i>	Booker T. Washington Magnet High School, Montgomery, AL
First Place	Hannah Saxon	<i>Attempted Epic</i>	Hazel Green High School, Hazel Green, AL
	Andrew Menefee	<i>The Gravedigger's Story</i>	LAMP High School, Montgomery, AL
	Ujunwa Anakwenze	<i>Detour from Sanity</i>	Florence High School, Florence, AL
	Andrew Husted	<i>Our End is Our Purpose</i>	Florence High School, Florence AL
Second Place	Mary Locker	<i>The Trancendental</i>	Florence High School, Florence, AL
	Rey Ramos	<i>What You Wanted</i>	Hoover High School, Hoover, AL
Third Place	Amy Hester	<i>Number Nine Elmore Street</i>	Hoover High School, Hoover, AL
	Mary-Catherine Anderson	<i>Benched</i>	Huntsville High School, Huntsville, AL
	Erin Caramanian	<i>Detour</i>	Huntsville High School, Huntsville, AL

Synopsis: The awards ceremony was preceded by a short reception at 10 AM in the Octagon Lobby at ASF. Finalists were recognized and three winners were announced at 10:30 AM on the Octagon Stage. The top three winning plays will be workshopped and performed at libraries around the state and at the 2010 Southern Writers' Project Festival of New Plays. For more info please call Meg Lewis at (334) 271-5326 or (334) 312-2007.

Website: <http://www.asfeducation.com/playwrights/index.html>