



THE VIERTEL/FRANKEL/BARUCH/ROUTH GROUP



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FIDELITY FUTURESTAGEsm

**ANNOUNCES THE 10 STUDENT-WRITTEN PLAYS SELECTED FOR THE
FINALE PERFORMANCE AT NEW WORLD STAGES, MAY 2007**

New York, March 29, 2007 -- **Fidelity Investments**, in partnership with **The Viertel/Frankel/Baruch/Routh Group** and **Leap** (Learning through an Expanded Arts Program), is proud to announce the 10 student-written plays selected for the finale performance of **Fidelity FutureStagesm**. The finale performances will be held at New World Stages, 340 W. 50th Street, on May 21 and 23, 2007.

Fidelity FutureStagesm is a comprehensive, seven-month arts education initiative designed to provide New York City students an unprecedented opportunity to learn from some of professional theater's leading playwrights, directors, designers and actors, and experience the thrill of bringing their own creativity and ideas to life on a professional stage.

Over the past five months, more than 800 students, representing 10 inner-city schools, have been engaged in the **Fidelity FutureStagesm** program. Students have participated in classroom workshops covering theater disciplines including writing, acting, production and design, led by Leap teaching artists and special guests such as **Alan Menken** (*The Little Mermaid*), **Raúl Esparza** (*Company*), **Kathleen Marshall** (*The Pajama Game*). They have also been busy writing, casting and rehearsing their own original plays; ultimately preparing those works for a live audience. In addition to the program's educational elements, students have also had the opportunity to experience professional theater by attending several Broadway shows at no cost.

One play from each of the 10 participating schools has been selected for the **Fidelity FutureStagesm** finale performance to be performed at New World Stages, May 21 and 23. The following offers a brief synopsis of each of the 10 plays:

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The Fidelity FutureStagesm Finale

1. ***My Loves***, by **Oscar Alfaro, age 17** from **Hillcrest High School** (grades 9-12; Queens). **SYNOPSIS:** A romantic comedy about a married couple who have a falling out over the husband's obsession with sports. Cast includes Michael Gonzales, age 18, Vanessa Destin, age 17, Oscar Alfaro, age 17, and Rodney McFarlane, age 17.
2. ***Let's Eat***, by **Shaunette Wilson, age 17** from **Long Island City High School** (9-12; Queens). **SYNOPSIS:** A comedy about a nuclear family trying to eat a "normal" family dinner together. Cast includes Darryl Barney, age 17, Peter Georgiadis, age 18, Ashley Ellis, age 19, Giancarlo "G.C." Vicuna, age 17, Jeremiah Haynes, age 17, George Kontonis, age 17, and Gina Kalmeta, age 17.
3. ***In My Shoes***, by **Krystina Colon, age 17** from **Adlai E. Stevenson High School** (9-12; Bronx). **SYNOPSIS:** A young woman is slain as a result of stereotyping and prejudice as she "comes out" as a lesbian. Cast includes Julio Beltron, age 16, Johnathan "Bibby" Aviles, age 19, Veronica Liz Ocasio, age 18, Samantha Iesha Matos, age 15, Jessie Richelle Oppenheim, age 17, and Kevin Chimilio, age 18.
4. ***The World of Fashion***, by **NDoumbe Fall, age 13** from **JHS 022 Jordan L. Mott** (5-8; Bronx). **SYNOPSIS:** Young fashion designers compete for a prize. Cast includes Ashley Santos, age 13, Shadae Johnson, age 11, Dominique Grannum, age 13, Elizabeth Ragsdale, age 11, Christopher Williams, age 12, Louis Caballero, age 13, Marcus Williams, age 11, Eric Bradley, age 12, Carolin Baez, age 12, and Adrian Candellerio, age 11.
5. ***Two of a Kin***, by **Melodi Conze & Dwayne Matthew, ages 17** from **Enterprise, Business & Technology High School** (9-12; Brooklyn). **SYNOPSIS:** A mystery about identical twins accused of a murder. Cast includes Silvia Martinez, age 17, Doniel Richardson, age 17, Tyrese Rivers, age 17, Jarrod Rudolph, age 18, and Carlos Torres, age 17.
6. ***Road Trip***, by **Salman Patwary, age 12** from **JHS 050 John D. Wells** (5-8; Brooklyn) **SYNOPSIS:** An absurdist comedy about a family lost in the desert. Cast includes Nicole Amezquita, age 13, Mesiah Hameed, age 11, Rhane Treece, age 13, Matthew Fernandez age 13, Raymond Acosta, age 12.
7. ***Ice Joey***, by **Taiwo Ellis & Yadira Ramos, ages 13** from **JHS 383 Phillipa Schuyler** (5-8; Brooklyn). **SYNOPSIS:** An urban boy moves to the suburbs and pretends to be a rapper to make friends. Cast includes Kyle Alfred, age 13, Erica Gayle, age 13, Yadira Ramos, age 13, Nisa Crosson Henderson, age 12, and Shanin Chowdhury, age 13.
8. ***I Didn't See That One Coming***, by **Leandra Wilkerson, age 18** from **Louis D. Brandeis High School** (9-12; Manhattan). **SYNOPSIS:** A romantic comedy about a man who falls in love with a girl in the bank he is robbing. Cast includes Jason Austin, age 18, Chernor Barrie, age 17, Christopher Mitchell, age 18, Suavay Poole, age 18, Dariell Pujols, age 17, and Leandra Wilkerson, age 18.
9. ***Gigolo's Spots***, by **Kinga Madej, Julie McKay, Kevin Casidid, Mike Albanese & Jeffrey Yip, ages 15** from **Baruch College Campus High School** (9-12; Manhattan) **SYNOPSIS:** A criminal named Gigolo attempts to reform. Cast includes Angie Godoy, age 17, Autumn Green, age 16, Kinga Madej, age 15, Eric Vincent Moretti, age 15, and Jason Berliner, age 15.

10. *Stuck*, by **Tiffany Bolden, age 17, Irve Edmond, age 18, Mamadou Keita, age 17 & Christopher Ruffin, age 19** from **A. Philip Randolph Campus High School (9-12; Manhattan)**. **SYNOPSIS:** Two men are stuck in an elevator with a woman - the girlfriend of one, and the mistress of the other. Cast includes: Juriel Gomez, age 17, Eric Kazadi, age 15, Rauling Larancuent, age 17, Lashante Taylor, age 16.

The 10 schools involved in the inaugural **Fidelity FutureStagesm** program were identified with the help of Leap, a non-profit organization committed to improving the quality of public education through a hands-on, arts-based approach to learning. While the participating schools range in location, size, age group and educational focus, they are all dedicated to fostering well-rounded students with an appreciation of the fine arts. **Fidelity FutureStagesm** provides these students and their teachers with unique learning tools and experiences as they explore their creative talents and interests through the course of the program. As the presenting sponsor of this season's productions of *Company* and *The Fantasticks*, Fidelity joined The Viertel/Frankel/Baruch/Routh Group in developing this unique education outreach initiative.

About Fidelity Investments

Fidelity Investments is one of the world's largest providers of financial services, with custodied assets of \$3.0 trillion, including managed assets of \$1.4 trillion as of February 28, 2007. Fidelity offers investment management, retirement planning, brokerage, and human resources and benefits outsourcing services to more than 23 million individuals and institutions as well as through 5,500 financial intermediary firms. The firm is the largest mutual fund company in the United States, the No. 1 provider of workplace retirement savings plans, the largest mutual fund supermarket and a leading online brokerage firm. For more information about Fidelity Investments, visit www.fidelity.com.

About The Viertel/Frankel/Baruch/Routh Group

Tom Viertel, Richard Frankel, Steven Baruch and Marc Routh may be the most prolific commercial theatrical producers in the world, with multiple productions currently in New York, London, Las Vegas and Shanghai. Over the past 21 years they have provided integrated production, management, booking, and marketing services for more than 60 theatrical productions. In 2005, shows produced and managed by The Viertel/Frankel/Baruch/Routh Group played 3,943 performances in 179 cities in 44 states and in 18 countries on 5 continents. Their current shows include *The Producers*, *Hairspray* and *Company* on Broadway, *Stomp* and *The Fantasticks* off-Broadway, *Porgy and Bess* and *The Producers* in London, *The Producers* and *Stomp* in Las Vegas, *I Love You You're Perfect Now Change* in Mandarin in Shanghai and *The Sound of Music* in English on tour in China. Previous productions include *Sweeney Todd*, *Smokey Joe's Café*, *The Weir*, *Angels in America*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Penn and Teller*, *Love Letters*, *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune* and others. For 2007 their projects include *Leap of Faith* with music and lyrics by Alan Menken and Glenn Slater, a musical based upon *The Hudsucker Proxy* and *Porgy and Bess* on Broadway; a North American tour of *Sweeney Todd*, *SpongeBob SquarePants The Musical* in Singapore, *42nd Street* in Beijing and a tour of *The King and I* in Asia that opens in Shenzhen, China.

About Leap

Leap (Learning through an Expanded Arts Program), serving over 200,000 students a year, is a non-profit educational service organization committed to improving the quality of public education through a hands-on, arts-based approach to learning. For the past 30 years, Leap has brought professional artists and educational experts to under-served students in the New York metropolitan area and continues to develop and deliver customized programs to schools, cultural institutions and community based organizations. By training teachers and working with students, Leap's goal is to improve academic performance, cultivate creativity and empower all students to reach their full potential. Leap Directors Ila Lane Gross and Alice Krieger founded Leap in 1977, after working as educators in NYC, and have expanded Leap from a small, volunteer program in four Manhattan schools to a trusted, quality arts-in-education organization that currently reaches over 300 schools.

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