



**FIDELITY**  
**FUTURESTAGE®**

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**MEDIA CONTACT: Rogers & Cowan**  
Lorraine Osmundsen, 212-445-8420  
[losmundsen@rogersandcowan.com](mailto:losmundsen@rogersandcowan.com)

**NEW YORK PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS MAKE BROADWAY DEBUT IN  
FIDELITY FUTURESTAGE® FINALE AT THE  
IMPERIAL THEATRE, HOME OF AWARD WINNING HIT *BILLY ELLIOT THE MUSICAL***

**QUEEN LATIFAH TO HOST JUNE 15 GALA EVENT**

*Six student-written plays to be performed, including winner of the  
Fidelity FutureStage Playwriting Contest*

BOSTON, June 1, 2009 – Fidelity Investments®, in partnership with *Billy Elliot the Musical*, the Viertel/Frankel/Baruch/Routh Group, LeAp (Learning through an Expanded Arts Program) and Camp Broadway®, today announced that entertainment icon Queen Latifah will host the Fidelity FutureStage® 2009 Finale on Monday, June 15. The gala event will be held at Broadway’s Imperial Theatre, home of the Tony-nominated production of *Billy Elliot the Musical*.

After months of intensive playwriting and production development, the Fidelity FutureStage Finale marks the Broadway debut of six student-written plays, showcasing the work of over 1,000 NYC area students who participated in the 2009 Fidelity FutureStage theater education program.

“Fidelity FutureStage is giving these students a once in a lifetime opportunity to become Broadway’s youngest playwrights,” said Queen Latifah. “I am thrilled to help them celebrate a night they’ll always remember.”

Five of the plays were selected from among the 10 schools participating in the year-long Fidelity FutureStage school program. The sixth play is the winner of the Fidelity FutureStage Playwriting Contest, a joint initiative of Fidelity and *Billy Elliot the Musical* to encourage young people throughout the NYC metro area to express their creativity through playwriting.

**FIDELITY FUTURESTAGE FINALE PLAYS AND PLAYWRIGHTS:**

- *Path to the Throne*, by Steven Paul (age 12, 7<sup>th</sup> grade)  
JHS 383K, Philippa Schuyler (Brooklyn)
- *Phoenix Kills the Sunset*, by Tiffany Blake (age 17, 12<sup>th</sup> grade)  
Hillcrest High School (Queens)
- *The Baby Project*, by Tanai Pirela (age 16, 10<sup>th</sup> grade)  
Fordham High School for the Arts (Bronx)
- *Break-Down*, by Keren Alshanetskey (age 14, 8<sup>th</sup> grade) & Jessica Fedin (age 13, 8<sup>th</sup> grade)  
Mark Twain School for the Gifted (Brooklyn)
- *Culpa*, by Vivienne Dayao (age 18, 12<sup>th</sup> grade)  
Lower Manhattan Arts Academy (Manhattan)
- **Fidelity FutureStage Playwriting Contest Winner:**  
*Driver's Education*, by Madeline Hendricks (age 17, 12<sup>th</sup> grade)  
Mamaroneck High School (Westchester)

The 10 New York City schools participating in the year-long Fidelity FutureStage theater program took part in a special Broadway Audition Day earlier this month. The day included a series of educational workshops featuring cast members and creative team of *Billy Elliot the Musical* and covering disciplines including getting into character and the ABC's of auditioning. Those workshops readied the students from each school for a special audition performance before a judging panel of theater industry insiders.

Following all 10 auditions, the panel, which included David Henry Hwang (Tony Award-winning playwright for *M. Butterfly*), Megan Larche (casting director: *Grease*, *White Christmas*, *A Chorus Line*), Paul Canaan (actor, theater program educator and Reality Show Judge from MTV's *Legally Blonde*), Michael Bush (Fidelity FutureStage Finale Director, Artistic Director of Emelin Theater) and Robert Ellman (theater education coordinator for the New York City Department of Education), selected five plays and their casts to move on to the Broadway finale.

The winner of the Fidelity FutureStage Playwriting Contest is the sixth play to be included in the June 15 finale event. Participants of the contest were invited to write a ten-minute play reflecting the themes of *Billy Elliot*. More than 500 plays were submitted from students from across the NYC metro area, representing NYC, Westchester and Richmond counties outside of the city, Nassau and Suffolk counties on Long Island, as well as Bergen and Hudson counties in New Jersey.

The winning play was selected by a panel representing *Billy Elliot the Musical* including Lee Hall (Book), Jon Finn (Producer), B.T. McNicholl (Resident Director) and 2009 Tony-nominated Actor Gregory Jbara (Dad). Rounding out the judges was Fidelity FutureStage Finale Director Michael Bush. Leading up to the June 15 Fidelity FutureStage Finale, winning student playwright Madeline Hendricks will work with B.T. McNicholl and other members of the *Billy Elliot the Musical* creative team to ready her play for the Broadway stage.

All of the plays featured in the June 15 finale will be published by Samuel French, the premier play and musical publishing and licensing company serving the Broadway community since 1830.

### **About Fidelity FutureStage**

Fidelity FutureStage, now in its third year, is designed to bring theater to life for 600+ NYC students, representing 10 inner-city schools. The year-long theater education curriculum affords students the opportunity to learn from leading playwrights, directors, designers and actors, and ultimately experience the thrill of bringing their own creativity to life on a professional stage.

More than 1,000 hours of classroom work over the course of the school year includes instruction in theater arts disciplines ranging from playwriting and editing to casting, auditioning, set and costume design, directing and final stage production, coordinated by LeAp teaching artists in the classrooms. Some of the Broadway artists lending their time and support to the Fidelity FutureStage program have included: Kathleen Marshall (*GREASE!*), William Ivey Long (*Grey Gardens, Hairspray*), David Hyde Pierce (*Accent on Youth, Curtains*), Charles Strouse (*Annie, Bye Bye Birdie*), Alan Menken (*Little Shop of Horrors, The Little Mermaid*), Jerry Zaks (*Caine Mutiny Court-Martial, Little Shop of Horrors*), Raúl Esparza (*Company, Speed the Plow*), Lin-Manuel Miranda (*In the Heights*), Charles Dutton (*The Piano Lesson*) David Strathairn (“Goodnight and Good Luck”) and Chazz Palmintari (*A Bronx Tale*). Students in the Fidelity FutureStage classes also have the opportunity to attend Broadway shows throughout the school year. The guest artist school visits and Broadway field trips are coordinated with the help of the Viertel/Frankel/Baruch/Routh Group.

The **Fidelity FutureStage Playwriting Contest** is a new extension of the program this year, created to give additional students throughout the NYC metro area encouragement and opportunity to participate in the theater arts. The contest was open to all high school students attending school in the NYC and surrounding counties in NY and NJ. Students were invited to write a 10-minute, one-act play reflecting one of the themes from the story of *Billy Elliot*: fulfilling a dream, discovering a special talent or overcoming adversity. The grand prize winner, Madeleine Hendricks, has the opportunity to work directly with the *Billy Elliot the Musical* creative team to develop and produce her play for the Broadway stage. The Fidelity FutureStage Playwriting Contest was administered by educational partner and contest manager Camp Broadway.

**For more information, visit [www.FutureStage.com](http://www.FutureStage.com).**

#### **About Fidelity Investments**

Fidelity Investments is one of the world's largest providers of financial services, with custodied assets of nearly \$2.7 trillion, including managed assets of \$1.3 trillion as of April 30, 2009. Fidelity offers investment management, retirement planning, brokerage, and human resources and benefits outsourcing services to over 20 million individuals and institutions as well as through 5,000 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](http://www.fidelity.com).

#### **About *Billy Elliot the Musical***

The multi-award winning *Billy Elliot the Musical* opened to rave reviews at Broadway's Imperial Theatre (240 West 45<sup>th</sup> Street) in November 2008 and has recently been nominated for a record-tying 15 Tony Awards. Based on the critically acclaimed film of 2000, *Billy Elliot* is the funny, heart-warming tale of a young boy with a dream, and a celebration of his triumph against the odds. Set against the historic British miners' strike of the 1980s, the story follows Billy's journey as a boy in a small mining town who, after stumbling across a ballet class while on his way to a boxing lesson, realizes that his future lays not in the boxing ring but on stage as a dancer. *Billy Elliot* is brought to life by the film's original creative team - director Stephen Daldry, choreographer Peter Darling, and writer Lee Hall - joined by music legend Elton John who wrote the score. The show has played to over 3 million people worldwide since its London premiere in 2005. *Billy Elliot the Musical* is presented by Universal Pictures Stage productions, Working Title Films and Old Vic Productions in association with Weinstein Live Entertainment, based on the Universal Pictures/Studio Canal film. In support of the Fidelity FutureStage Playwriting Contest, *Billy Elliot the Musical* is offering a special discount ticket rate for students, starting at \$40. Group rates for classes are also available. For more information, visit [www.billyelliottbroadway.com](http://www.billyelliottbroadway.com).

### **About The Viertel/Frankel/Baruch/Routh Group**

Tom Viertel, Richard Frankel, Steven Baruch and Marc Routh over the past 24 years have provided integrated production, management, booking, and marketing services for more than 90 theatrical productions. Their current shows include *The Norman Conquests* on Broadway, *Stomp* off-Broadway, *Hairspray* in London. Previous productions include *The New Mel Brooks Musical Young Frankenstein*, *Gypsy*, *The Producers*, *Company*, *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 many others. Upcoming projects include *A Little Night Music* on Broadway directed by Trevor Nunn, a national tour of *Young Frankenstein*, *Leap of Faith* with music and lyrics by Alan Menken and Glenn Slater.

### **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 31 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 Executive Director Ila Lane Gross and Associate Executive Director 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.

### **About Camp Broadway**

Founded in 1995, Camp Broadway has grown into a year round leader in theatre arts programming, special events administration, and curriculum development as publisher of StageNOTES®: A Field Guide For Teachers. The company serves as a vital link between Broadway's many theatrical productions, estates and libraries to families, schools and social organizations. Now in its 14th year, CAMP BROADWAY has hosted almost 10,000 theatre-loving kids from every state and over 40 countries at its annual summer camps in New York and around America, and has provided first time Broadway show experiences to over 200,000 students through its workshops and community outreach programs. CAMP BROADWAY is the recipient of the 2002 Standing Ovation Award from the Educational Theatre Association and was featured on the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade® telecast from 2001-2008. Camp Broadway is dedicated to presenting programs that promote life-long learning through the performing arts. For more information, visit [www.CampBroadway.com](http://www.CampBroadway.com).

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*Fidelity FutureStage* is a community arts education initiative of Fidelity Investments.  
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