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FIFTH GRADE PLAYWRIGHTS SEE THEIR WORKS COME TO LIFE

Professional actors and drama students perform plays written by elementary students in the WiseWrite program

ST. LOUIS, MO March 26, 2009 – Dramatic timing, plot twists and character development are just three elements student playwrights have learned during their experience in the WiseWrite residency presented by Springboard to Learning & Young Audiences of St. Louis in collaboration with The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis. Fifth graders from Herzog (Saint Louis Public Schools) and Hudson Elementary Schools (Webster Groves) have applied these concepts to their original pieces of works of which a select few have been chosen to be performed live on **Friday, April 3, 2009** at The Repertory Theatre St. Louis of St. Louis during the 13th Annual WiseWrite Festival of One Act Plays.

The plays will be performed continuously between **10:00 am and 1:00 pm**. This event is free and open to the public.

“Something magical happens when students see their own words coming out of the mouths of professional actors on the main stage,” said Stellie Siteman, teaching artist and local actress. “This important program not only teaches children how to write but it can be a major inspiration for those special few that might choose playwriting as a profession.”

For the last 6 months, teaching artists have been sent into area schools to help fifth grade

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students improve literacy and written communication skills by learning to write plays. Students are exposed to all aspects of the creative process and also introduced to the world of the theatre by working performing arts professionals and through performances by The Rep's Imaginary Theatre Company.

At the end of the program, each student playwright receives a published copy of his or her own play and, as a celebration of the hard work invested by the more than 100 young playwrights, attend the WiseWrite festival at The Rep. During the festival, volunteer theatre professionals — including actors from The Rep's professional acting family — and drama students perform selected plays. Also in attendance are proud parents and friends and the fourth-grade classes which will participate in next year's program.

WiseWrite is presented with generous assistance from the Caaroline and DeWitt Van Evera Foundation, the Boeing/Arts and Education Council Collaborative, the John R. Goodall Charitable Trust, the Clifford Willard Gaylord Foundation, and Mary Ann Lee.

We invite you to join us at WiseWrite! Call Cory Smallwood at her office 314-289-4128 if you have any questions.

About Springboard to Learning & Young Audiences of St. Louis

The mission of Springboard to Learning & Young Audiences of St. Louis is to provide art, cultural, humanities and science programs in schools and community organizations that inspire students and teachers to embrace knowledge and new experiences that broaden their horizons. Springboard to Learning & Young Audiences of St. Louis is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that offers more than 177 unique educational programs to close to 78,000 students in the greater St. Louis area.