**ANNOUNCING THE WINNERS OF THE**

**41st ANNUAL MARILYN BIANCHI KIDS’ PLAYWRITING FESTIVAL**

Dobama Theatre is pleased to announce the winners of the 41st Annual Marilyn Bianchi Kids’ Playwriting Festival, the longest-running celebration of young playwrights in the United States. Selected from nearly 200 entries submitted by Northeast Ohio students, **the following plays will be produced in the Festival:**

**WHAT IS A UNICORN?** by Malai Green, 3rd Grade, Central School, Bedford

**COOKIE BATTLES** by Calvin Fischer, 4th Grade, Royal View Elementary, North Royalton

**OH GNOME!** by Isabella Rezny, 4th Grade, Royal View Elementary, Broadview Heights

**THE THINKING MACHINE** by Grady Bokoch, 7th Grade, North Royalton Middle School, North Royalton

**DETENTION IN A DIFFERENT DIMENSION** by Jeremy Campbell, 7th Grade, North Royalton Middle School, North Royalton

**SIDEKICK** by Mary Proctor, 8th Grade, Homeschool, Cleveland Heights

**VICKY VELOCITY AND THE STAR STRIKERS** by Anthony Koonce, 10th Grade, Homeschool, Cleveland Heights

**PROSPER** by John Rosa, 12th Grade, St. Martin de Porres High School, Cleveland

**MONEY MAKER** by Da’Shae Hall, 12th Grade, St. Martin de Porres High School, Cleveland

**9:50 TO CLOSE** by Adonis Fryer, 12th Grade, Shaker Heights High School, Shaker Heights

**In addition, the following entries have been deemed Plays of Meritorious Distinction:**

**DWARFS ORDINARY WALK IN THE WOODS** by Dale Agostino, 3rd Grade, Independence Primary School, Independence

**THE WEATHER MAKER** by Kaylee Alexander, 3rd Grade, Central School, Bedford

**WISH STAR** by Bryn Safran, 4th Grade, Roxboro Elementary, Cleveland Heights

**A LITTLE BIRDIE TOLD ME** by Ariana DiMaria, 4th Grade, John Muir Elementary, Parma

**DOGS AND HOT DOGS** by Alexander Brihn, 7th Grade, North Royalton Middle School, North Royalton

**MOVE OVER, THESPIS** by Rosalie Sajovie, 11th Grade, Garfield Heights High School, Garfield Heights

**CONCEALER** by Bronwyn Warnock, 11th Grade, Shaker Heights High School, Shaker Heights

**THE HOMOSEXORCISM** by Harlan Friedman-Romell, 12th Grade, Shaker Heights High School, Shaker Heights

**LOCKED UP!** by Ruben Arteaga, 12th Grade, St. Martin de Porres High School, Cleveland

**LA MUERTE DEL VERDADERO AMOR** by Isiah Ruiz, 12th Grade, St. Martin de Porres High School, Cleveland

All submitted plays received scores from at least three readers and were judged on the basis of imagination, human values, and the uniqueness of the playwright’s voice. Determining the winners was once again a uniquely difficult process.

“We want to thank all of the young artists who submitted plays to us this year,” says Carrie Williams, Dobama Theatre’s Education Associate and Festival Producer, “as well as all of the writers, educators, and theatre professionals who served as judges. The Festival would not be possible without the support of our community.”

“Northeast Ohio is absolutely brimming with artistic talent,” says General Manager and Festival Producer Colin Anderson, “and the submissions we receive each year are a testament to that. Selecting this year’s winners has been an enormous challenge, and one that we are both grateful and delighted to face.”

The Marilyn Bianchi Kids’ Playwriting Festival is an integral part of Dobama Theatre’s mission to provide educational and outreach programming. The Festival’s mission is to provide a platform for children to express their thoughts, hopes, dreams and creativity through the writing of original plays. Through the production of these plays, the Festival strives to form a community of local artists to provide the young playwrights with a glimpse into the production process.

Auditions will be held on Saturday, April 13th and Tuesday, April 16th for actors of all ages and types to perform in the above plays. For more information or to reserve an audition slot email Education Associate Carrie Williams at youngplaywrights@dobama.org.

**The Marilyn Bianchi Kids’ Playwriting Festival is made possible through generous sponsorship by**



The Festival is also generously supported by several charitable organizations including the David and Inez Myers Foundation, the Harry K. and Emma R. Fox Charitable Foundation, the Reminger Foundation, and the Music and Drama Club.

**All winners will be honored at the Opening Night Benefit on June 7, 2019 at 7:30 pm.**

**Tickets are $25 each. Tickets may be purchased by calling the Box Office at 216.932.3396 or online at dobama.org.**

**Additional Festival performances will take place on Saturday, June 8, 2017 at 2:30 pm and 7:30 pm and on Sunday, June 9 at 2:30 pm. All of these performances are free and open to the General Public, no reservations required.**