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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**TWO LOCAL STUDENTS WIN TARGET® TEEN ONE ACTS FESTIVAL**  
**Local youth selected to write, direct, produce, and act in shows at Berkeley Rep this April**

FEBRUARY 13, 2006 - Berkeley Repertory Theatre's School of Theatre is pleased to announce the winning plays for its fourth annual Target® Teen One Acts Festival: the scripts are *Synesthesia*, written by **Liz Phelps of Piedmont**, and *Joey Buttafuoco Eats a Pastrami Sandwich, or Louis Fleischman Learns to Walk*, penned by **Lauren D. Yee of San Francisco**. The plays will be performed on March 31, April 1-2, and April 7-8 at the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre, which is located at 2071 Addison Street in downtown Berkeley. Tickets, available only at the door, are \$5 for students and \$10 for adults.

"I'm thrilled by the diversity of this year's participants," remarks Rachel Fink, director of the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre. "Working on stage and behind the scenes, we have **teens from Albany, Berkeley, Danville, Oakland, Orinda, Piedmont, and San Francisco**. The Target® Teen One Acts Festival is a celebration of teen theatre – featuring plays written, directed, acted, and produced entirely by Bay Area youth – and the fourth year promises to be a huge success."

*Joey Buttafuoco Eats a Pastrami Sandwich, or Louis Fleischman Learns to Walk* tells the tale of a college student who competes on *Teen Jeopardy!* only to have his dreams shattered on national television. Yee, the author, graduated from Lowell High School and has gone on to study drama and English at Yale University. Her script will be directed by 17-year-old **Genevieve Michel of Albany**, a junior at Albany High; produced by 17-year-old **Jonathan Simrin of Berkeley**, a senior at Berkeley High; and stage managed by 15-year-old **Patrick Fitzgerald of Oakland**, a freshman at St. Mary's College High School.

A 17-year-old senior at Piedmont High School, Phelps also won last year's contest: her previous play, *High School in Four Letters*, was a hit at the 2005 festival. *Synesthesia* is both the title of her new script and the syndrome faced by its protagonist, a teenage girl who struggles with familiar adolescent challenges while experiencing the world through an unusual condition that confuses her senses. Her script will be directed by 17-year-old **Blake Longfellow of Danville**,

(MORE)

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## LOCAL TEENS WIN PLAYWRITING CONTEST / 2 OF 2

a junior at San Ramon Valley High; produced by 16-year-old **Chrissie Grover-Roybal of San Francisco**, a junior at Lick-Wilmerding High School; and stage managed by 16-year-old **Leslie Ribovich of Albany**, a junior at Albany High.

The shows will also be performed entirely by local teens. The cast for *Joey Buttafuoco* is as follows: 17-year-old **Kim Fischer of Oakland**, a junior at Lick-Wilmerding High; 15-year-old **Spencer Fortin of Albany**, a sophomore at Albany High; 15-year-old **Amalia Mesa-Gustin of Oakland**, a freshman at Oakland Technical High School; and 16-year-old **Hallie Sekoff of Berkeley**, a sophomore at Berkeley High. *Synesthesia* will be performed by 15-year-old **Kacey Berry of Berkeley**, a sophomore at Berkeley High; 15-year-old **Jenny Leon of Orinda**, a sophomore at Miramonte High; 18-year-old **York Ng of Piedmont**, a senior at Piedmont High; 14-year-old **Ulysses Pople of Albany**, a freshman at Albany High; and 15-year-old **Elena Wagoner of Berkeley**, a sophomore at Berkeley High.

The **Berkeley Rep Teen Council** is a theatre youth group organized by teens for teens. Its goal is to foster the theatre audiences and theatre professionals of tomorrow by opening channels of communication between teens, theatre professionals, and the community at large. The Teen Council provides the opportunity for youth to participate in all aspects of the dramatic process: on stage, backstage, and in front of the stage through an affiliation with Berkeley Repertory Theatre. Activities include poetry slams, improv nights, theatre workshops, a festival of one-act plays, and a theatre trip to New York City. **For more information**, visit [www.berkeleyrep.org](http://www.berkeleyrep.org), e-mail [teencouncil@berkeleyrep.org](mailto:teencouncil@berkeleyrep.org), or call 510.647.2972.

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### ATTENTION CALENDAR EDITORS:

- WHO: Local teens write, direct, act, and produce their own plays
- WHAT: **Target @ Teen Council One Acts Festival**  
featuring *Joey Buttafuoco Eats a Pastrami Sandwich* by Lauren D. Yee  
and *Synesthesia* by Liz Phelps
- WHEN: Friday, March 31 @ 8:00 PM  
Saturday, April 1 @ 8:00 PM  
Sunday, April 2 @ 2:00 PM  
Friday, April 7 @ 8:00 PM  
Saturday, April 8 @ 8:00 PM
- WHERE: Berkeley Rep School of Theatre  
2071 Addison St @ Shattuck, Downtown Berkeley
- HOW MUCH: \$5 for students, \$10 for adults
- INFO: 510.647.2972 or [www.berkeleyrep.org](http://www.berkeleyrep.org)

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