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PUP (Playwrights Under Progress) Fest Brings 6 New Plays to Life

DALLAS, TX - Junior Players and Kitchen Dog Theater are excited to announce that Playwrights Under Progress (PUP) Fest, the culminating event of their annual partnership with the **Dallas Independent School District** known as the **Dallas Playwriting Arts Collective (D-PAC)**, will return to the stage this year for its 23rd anniversary. Six scripts written by local high school playwrights have been selected for this year's production and will be presented as staged readings on Saturday, June 8, at 2 pm at Dallas College - Richland Campus (12800 Abrams Rd, Dallas, TX 75243). PUP Fest will be performed within the black box theatre: Room F108 in Richland Building F - Fannin Hall. Parking is available in Lot W.

This year's scripts include: **Before You Go** by Claire Hood (Greenhill Upper School), **Boy Club** by Olivia Stanley (Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts), **I Might Have Loved You** by Viviana Riveria Santiago (Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts), **It Was Meant to Be** by Rebecca Frias (David W. Carter High School), **Like Father Like Daughter** by Cindy Robledo (W.H. Adamson High School), and **Visibility** by Chandler McGuire (Woodrow Wilson High School). These six scripts were selected from a field of submissions from a variety of high schools from all over the Metroplex.

PUP Fest allows high school playwrights the opportunity to be mentored by some of Dallas' most renowned playwrights. Each script that is chosen is paired with a cast of teen actors and directed by local professional actors and directors. This year, PUP Fest mentors are local playwrights **Erin Ryan Burdette** and **Omar Padilla**, and this year's master class instructors are **Kenneisha Thompson** and **Omar Padilla**. Serving as PUP Fest 2024 directors are **Bethany Meorado, Claire Carson, Emily Ernst, Raven Garcia Lawes, Rodolfo Lopez, and Sasha Maya Ada Davis**.

Performances will take place in the black box theatre in Richland Building F at Dallas College – Richland Campus on **Saturday, June 8, 2024 at 2 pm**. The performance is **free** and open to the public. To join the performances, **audience members must RSVP in advance at juniorplayers.org/RSVP**. More information can be found by visiting www.kitchendogtheater.org or www.juniorplayers.org.

PUP Fest 2024 is supported, in part, by City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture, Dallas Afterschool, Dallas Independent School District, Diane and Hal Brierley Foundation, Fichtenbaum Charitable Trust, George Family Foundation – Next Generation Fund, Harold Simmons Foundation, Holloway Family Foundation, Karve Media & Creative Services, Louise W. Kahn Endowment Fund at The Dallas

Foundation, Moody Fund for the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, SullivanPerkins, TACA, Texas Commission on the Arts, Texas Instruments Foundation, Texas Travel Industry Recovery Program, The Shubert Foundation, and individual donors.

About PUP Fest: Junior Players and Kitchen Dog Theater started Playwrights Under Progress (PUP) Fest in 2002 as a new piece of Kitchen Dog Theater's New Works Festival. An annual anticipated event, PUP Fest is also a component of the Dallas Playwriting Arts Collective (D-PAC), a partnership between Junior Players, Kitchen Dog Theater, and the Dallas Independent School District to provide innovative programs and opportunities for high school playwrights. PUP Fest was recognized in September 2003 with a Special Award from the Dallas-Fort Worth Theater Critics Forum.

About Junior Players: Junior Players was founded in 1955 and is the oldest non-profit children's theater organization in Dallas. Over its existence, Junior Players has striven to meet the changing needs of the community. From 1955 to 1989, Junior Players presented traditional children's theater productions performed entirely by children and teenagers. In 1989, the Board of Directors changed the focus of Junior Players activities, deciding that, Junior Players can best serve the youth of Dallas by providing free programming accessible to all the children of North Texas. Junior Players, therefore, exclusively provides free arts education programs in local recreation and cultural centers, housing projects, elementary and middle schools, and through social service agencies serving youth at risk.

About Kitchen Dog Theater: For 33 seasons, Kitchen Dog Theater (KDT) has provided a place where questions of justice, morality, and human freedom can be explored, whether they are found in the classics, contemporary works, or new plays. KDT provides a vibrant home base for Dallas theater artists by maintaining a 35-member Artistic Company of the area's best theater artists. Over the years, Kitchen dog has received over 400 awards, including D Magazine's "Best Theater Company" for 2019. KDT is proud to be one of only two theaters in Texas to receive National Endowment for the Arts "Art Works" Awards in eight of the last 10 years. A mission-driven company, Kitchen Dog is also staunch champion of new work and is a founding member of the acclaimed National New Play Network, producing timely, provocative plays that may have otherwise never been seen in Dallas.

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