

**THE AATE
PLAYWRIGHTS
NETWORK**

presents

**NEW PLAYS BY
MEMBER
PLAYWRIGHTS**

Summer, 2009

All playwrights who are current members of the American Alliance for Theatre and Education are invited to submit up to four synopses of 75 words each for this listing – a limit of two synopses of plays published in 2009-2010 plus two synopses of unpublished plays-in-progress. Listings may be edited for length and style. The AATE New Plays by Members list will be updated once a year, distributed in hard copy at the annual conference, and posted on the AATE Web site. Please see the following entries for preferred format.

Send new and updated information by June 1, 2010, to

Sandy Asher
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PUBLISHERS

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PLAYWRIGHTS AND PLAYS

SANDRA FENICHEL ASHER

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<http://usaplays4kids.drury.edu/playwrights/asher>

ARK 5, 2 acts or long 1 act, 4w, 3 m, 3 m or f, extras as desired, 1 set plus area staging. In this futuristic retelling of the Joan of Arc story, the ARK System has been in control of Earth Enterprise for nearly 100 years, bringing peace, order, and longevity, but costing its citizens their freedom to the point of enslavement. A mysterious "Michael" appears to Joan through her transcommunicator and calls her to lead the Resistance. Further convinced by Margaret and Catherine, Joan leaves the safety of her Life/Work Station to meet her fate. **Contact:** playwright.

JESSE AND GRACE: A BEST FRIENDS STORY, based on the poetry of Sandy Asher and David L. Harrison, 1 act, 2m, 2f with puppets; large, flexible cast without puppets; 1 act, area staging. Jesse and Grace have always been best friends. Now they're in 4th grade and when Grace gives Jesse a birthday poem, their classmates' teasing drives them apart. Then it's Grace's birthday. Everyone's invited to a skating party, but Jesse can't skate! Will he fall and humiliate himself? Will Grace dare to rescue him in front of taunting classmates? Can boys and girls really be best friends? **Contact:** Dramatic Publishing.

KEEPING MR. LINCOLN, long one-act; 2m, 2 m or w, playing a total of 27 roles; area staging, tourable. In this ensemble tour de force commissioned by the Lexington Children's Theatre, four actors – regardless of their own age, gender, or ethnicity -- take turns playing Abraham Lincoln and important people in his Kentucky childhood, Indiana youth, and Illinois and Washington, DC adulthood. The script celebrate his life through his own words, those of people who knew him, and those who went in search of him after his death, particularly his law partner, William Herndon. **Contact:** Dramatic Publishing.

THE PRINCESS AND THE GOBLIN, based on the book by George MacDonald. Long 1-act; 5f, 1m, 3 m or f live actors (doublecasting possible); 3m, 2 m or f puppets (or live actors); extras, if desired. Area staging. One day, Princess Irene discovers a strange, new stairway and follows it up to the Mysterious Lady, someone who will help her make the connections she craves. At the same time, the young miner Curdie is exploring suspicious doings within the mountain – home to the goblins. As Irene dares to climb higher and Curdie dares to dig deeper, their paths meet in surprising ways. **Contact:** playwright.

FLORA B. ATKIN

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TWENTY-EIGHT STEPS BELOW, an exciting and timely story from **Kibbutzim Hill**, 1 act, 3m, 3w who double in minor roles, two sets. A group of Jewish immigrants reluctantly take on a clandestine, harrowing, dangerous job in Palestine during the British mandate (1944-48), under the pretense of being a kibbutz making bread, doing laundry, and growing oranges. Both fact and fiction. **Contact:** Playwright. Also, **LET'S GO TO THE SEA**: An adaptation of "Twenty-eight Steps Below" for younger elementary school children. **Contact:** Playwright.

SHOORIK AND POUFCHIK A puppet show commissioned by the JCCGW, 4 puppeteer/players, 2m, 2w. A Jewish Russian immigrant boy and his dog face bewildering surprises when they arrive in the U.S. **Contact:** Playwright.

RIC AVERILL**raverill@sunflower.com****<http://usaplays4kids.drury.edu/playwrights/averill>**

LOS ZAPATOS MAGICOS; PEDRO'S MAGIC SHOES, 1 act, 3m. 1 w. with doubling or 4 m., 1f., 5 m or f, without. Two sets; rich and poor houses separated by a cactus and the fiery top of the Mountain of El Diablo. To feed his family, save the valley and recover his Abuelo's (Grandfather's) heritage, Pedro must prove he is the greatest Trickster of all times. Based in part on Latino trickster tales, this story is told using about 15% Spanish. English speaking students will learn Spanish and Spanish speakers will find their own culture celebrated in this flavorful romp through America's Southwest. **Contact:** Playwright.

URNS, 1 act, 3 adult m., 2 adult f., 3 pre-teen f., 1 pre-teen m. + additional pre-teen f. ballet students. Unit set. **URNS** is about a girl who reconnects with her father through dance. After her mother dies, Marta throws herself into her dance and escapes into the classical music she plays through her iPod. When her father, Timo, returns home with his partner, Mark, he has to face not only Marta's resentment about his absence, but also her difficult passage through adolescence including her fights with friends and disappointment at not getting a lead role in the local dance/drama. **Contact:** Playwright.

AMIE BROCKWAY-HENSON**openeye@catskills.net**

THE HOBO JUNGLE, one act, 5 or 6 m, 2 or 3 w, area staging. Based on oral histories of former young hobos traveling the United States during the Great Depression, looking for work, food, and homes. Nineteen-year-old Curly and his eighteen-year-old wife Norma set up camp for the night near--but not too near--a railway station in Nebraska. Harry, their thirteen-year old nephew has been sent to town for provisions and comes back with two young friends and a story to tell. Running time is approximately 20 minutes. **Contact:** Playwright.

THE CRICKET ON THE HEARTH, full-length 1-act or 3 acts, approx. 90 min., 5 m, 5 w, 3 m or w. Adapted from Charles Dicken's "fairy tale of home in three chirps." Flexible staging. A fanciful celebration of winter and good cheer with such loveable and improbable characters as a musical Kettle, a wise and winning Boxer Dog, Dot and John Peerybingle and their "very doll of a baby" precariously cared for by nursemaid Tilly Slowboy, a toymaker and his blind daughter, a harsh taskmaster, a beautiful young girl and her peevish mother, a mysterious stranger, and the chirping Cricket itself. **Contact:** Playwright.

MAX BUSH**Maxb@egl.net****<http://usaplays4kids.drury.edu/playwrights/bush>**

FROM EVERY MOUNTAIN SIDE, 8f, 4m, unit set, 2 acts, 1 hr. 40 min. 17 year old Matt's school work and personal life are deteriorating. Susan (17), the half-American, half Chinese girl recently arrived from China, takes a strong interest in Matt, watching him in school, studying his drawings, and attempting to talk with him. Almost against his will he's drawn to Susan and begins to re-awaken. But their relationship is threatened by the juggernauts of international politics, eroding social liberties (both in America and China), growing global megabusiness, and a sense of personal responsibility. **Contact:** Dramatic Publishing.

SNOW WHITE, 3f, 4m, 7 dwarves, multiple locations, 55 minutes. This adaptation is based on the tale first written down by the Brothers Grimm when they were told the story in 1808. The handwritten manuscript version was lost until it was discovered in a monastery in Alsace in 1920 and contains many of the central elements of the later versions, as well as some surprising differences. **Contact:** Playwright.

LOOKING OUT, 6f, 7m; 90 minutes; suggested locations. Darius [black] and Alex [white], both 16,

practice a dance for acting class in an inner city park. Stevie [19, Jewish] and Jamal [19, black] try to talk them into helping in a theft. They decline. As Darius walks his girlfriend out of the park, a jogger, Bates [30's], falls into Alex's arms, bleeding. The mystery of who attacked Bates escalates. Any of the four young people could be involved. Darius and Alex try to protect each other and struggle to move beyond their circumstances, challenged by financial, filial, racial, and social seductions. **Contact:** Playwright.

THE FROG PRINCE 6f, 5m, plus entertainers m or f; 2 settings; 50-55 minutes. Based on the Brothers' Grimm tale. This play tells the story of why the prince was turned into a frog, the subsequent dropping of the ball down the well, the FrogPrince retrieving the ball, and the hilarious events that follow as a now humbled prince tries to woo the princess as a frog. **Contact:** Dramatic Publishing.

DREW CHAPPELL
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THE BREEZE AT DAWN, 2m, 2f, 1m or f, 2 puppets, 30 minutes, minimal set. Why do some people like getting up in the morning and some not? What is special about the beginning of the day? This play follows two groups- three children and three adults- as they try to understand "life's biggest questions" early in the morning. As they encounter the story of a sleepy monk who went through his own struggles, they realize the boundaries of time and space may be blurrier than they thought. Conceived as a touring show for students K-2, w/ opportunities for creative design and direction. **Contact:** playwright.

FRUMI COHEN
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WESLANDIA, the Musical, 1 hr. Cast of 6-15. Unit set. Includes performance soundtrack CD. You're a kid in 6th grade. You don't like pizza or soda, video games or sleepovers. You invent things and worry about global warming. You have no friends, only tormentors. Even your parents try to bribe you to get a Mohawk haircut. One day you decide to plant a staple crop and see if you can start your own civilization like the ancient Greeks did, which makes everyone think you're weirder than ever. You're Wesley Woods, the main character in a popular picture book and now a new musical. **Contact:** Playwright.

THE POWER OF ONE, musical, cast of 8-26, 1 hr. 15 minutes. With performance soundtrack CD. Set in the imaginary town of Branchwood, PA, this script tells the story of a young girl's struggle against acts of ethnic intimidation. When Caroline takes a stand against acts of intolerance towards her best friend David, a Jewish boy, she faces an even greater struggle, the struggle against indifference. The story touches on the power of friendship and explores the idea that one person can make a difference. *The Power of One* is based on a real news event out of Billings Montana in 1993. **Contact:** Playwright.

ROB COHEN
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www.classplays.com

WALKING TO VENUS Musical for grades 2-8 . On a whimsical journey to Venus, four travelers encounter several alien tribal groups, each with distinctive personalities and a peculiar manner of problem solving. The travelers ultimately learn to think for themselves and discover the "joy of the journey". Cast size 20-50. 40 mins. CD available. Hear samples at website. **Contact:** Playwright.

THE NO-RULES CLUB Musical for grades 2-8. Students annoyed by rules at home and at school decide to form a No-Rules Club. Elections for president are held with each of the 5 candidates singing a campaign speech. However, the club soon realizes that some rules are necessary to keep order. The children summarize their experience in democracy in the rousing finale, "We Are Today". Casts size 20-50. 40 mins. CD available. Hear samples at website. **Contact:** Playwright.

DIANE CREWS

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THE CHRISTMAS MIRACLE OF JONATHAN TOOMEY, adapted from the book by Susan Wojciechowski. 2 acts, 1 hr., 45 min. 27 characters --- 6m, 6w/teens, 8 girls, 7 boys. Jonathan is the best carpenter in the valley, but lives like a hermit ... until Widow McDowell and her son Thomas come to town. By Christmas Jonathan has undergone a change that makes him unrecognizable to everyone! **Contact:** Playwright.

SLEEPING BEAUTY. 2 acts, 1 hr., 40 min., 33 characters – 4m, 4 teen males, 3 boys, 5w, 9 teen females, 7 girls, 1 frog. The traditional story is told, plus a good deal more. We meet the seven fairies personally and discover both their strengths and weaknesses. The folks from the future, including the Prince and his page, are clearly from another time. The fun that ensues during their search for the Princess's castle is not even hinted at in the original story. Fergus Frog, who foretells the birth of the Princess and helps us jump through the years, is the most charming amphibian you will ever meet. **Contact:** Playwright.

D.W. GREGORY

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www.dwgregory.com

PENNY CANDY: One act. 2 m, 7 w, expandable. The children of striking factory workers preoccupy themselves with the ups and downs of romance in this comedy set during the Korean War. Everyone expects Aidan to marry Regina-he writes such romantic letters from boot camp! Everyone that is, except Aidan's brother Neely, who is acting as secret go-between for Aidan and another girl-pretty but misunderstood Emily Abbott. Premiered at Imagination Stage. **Contact:** Dramatic Publishing.

SALVATION ROAD - One act: 3 m, 5f. (2 m, 3f can double); area staging. When his sister vanishes into a religious cult, a cynical teenager is forced to abandon his studied detachment in favor of an earnest quest to find her. Part road trip, part mystery, this comic drama examines the fine line between faith and fanaticism. Premiering at the 2009 Philadelphia Fringe Festival. **Contact:** Playwright.

TALES BETWEEN THE THREADS: Long one act. 8 m, 11 f, 11-20 either sex, doubling. Story opens in 1940s Brooklyn, as 17-year-old Zabel entertains her younger siblings with a folk tale about a spoiled, Armenian prince and the bookish girl who reforms him. When her boyfriend Jack sneaks in to propose-in an offhand way Zabel considers insulting---the bedtime story morphs into a lesson for Jack in the value of a true partnership. Premiered at Imagination Stage. **Contact:** Playwright.

LOIS VEENHOVEN GUDERIAN

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NOAH, sacred musical in 1 act, adaptable for ages 4-12: 20-30 minutes, 4B, animal and narrator parts, 4 either G or B. Unlimited chorus/acting roles for small children in animal costumes, masks or holding stuffed animals. Classic Old Testament story retold with talking animals, humor and a message. For Bible, Sunday, and Synagogue schools; suggestions for simple costuming and related craft activities;

traditional/original songs for piano, guitar, voice or a cappella singing; open-ended creative teaching and learning. **Contact:** Playwright.

BRIAN GUEHRING
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THE GIVER 3m/3f, can be expanded) 65 minutes, simple set. A new adaptation of the Newbery Award winning novel by Lois Lowry. Jonas lives in a world where there is no fear, pain, war or choices. When Jonas turns twelve, he is singled out to receive special training from the Giver. The Giver holds all the memories of true pain and pleasure of life. Now it's time for Jonas to receive the truth. **Contact:** Playwright.

OLD YELLER, a minimum of 3m/2w, 1 act, 1 set. New adaptation of this popular Newbery honor book by Fred Gibson about 14-year-old Travis and a mangy, one-eared thieving mutt (portrayed by a puppet). Old Yeller wins Travis's heart by helping his family on the wild Texas frontier. When Old Yeller catches rabies, Travis is faced with the most difficult duty of his young life. **Contact:** Playwright.

GAY H. HAMMOND
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SOPHIE AND THE PIRATES: 50 minutes. 5M, 4W, 3 children. Unit Set. In this rollicking and endearing comedy, Sophie is a young girl who longs for adventure on the High Seas, but gets more than she bargained for when she is scooped up by a gang of wacky pirates. She learns how to be a sailor, to fight a wicked pirate lady, and to be a good captain . . . but most of all, Sophie learns that the biggest adventure is finding yourself. Suitable for all audiences. **Contact:** Playwright

ROBIN HOOD: 55 minutes. 6 M, 2 W. Flexible staging. The classic swashbuckling tale of Robin and his Merry Men as they woo the beautiful Maid Marian and outwit the Sheriff of Nottingham and evil Prince John. Arrows! Fights! Fun! And a thoroughly charming rogue of a hero. Premiered to acclaim at the Georgia Shakespeare Family Series. Suitable for all audiences, especially grades 2-6. **Contact:** Playwright.

JENNIFER FELL HAYES
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ENDURANCE 2 acts, 8 m , 2 w, w/doubling, extras as desired for chorus, simple staging. To survive the painful, lengthy medical procedure he has to go through twice a week to keep his older brother, Ray, alive, Fithian travels in his mind to the South Pole with Sir Ernest Shackleton, his hero. He feels trapped and resentful, and hostilities develop between the very different brothers, one, artistic and possibly gay, the other athletic and heterosexual. Finally the treatment stops working. Fithian is able to see Ray's courage and acceptance of death, and understand his brother is now part of him. **Contact:** Playwright.

FLOWERFACE, 2 acts, 3m, 6w, 2-6 m/w, simple staging. Gwynneth is grappling with her parents' divorce and her father's pending remarriage when her Welsh cousin, Rhys, comes to stay, bringing the gift of a small stone owl. When it gets broken, forces of old magic are unleashed, and an ancient Welsh legend touches contemporary New York life. A chorus of owls represent Gwynneth's feelings of misery and rage, and she must face them before she can become reconciled to her situation **Contact:** Playwright.

DOROTHY HERSHMAN and DAVID HERSHMAN
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THE STARS ASSEMBLED, a play with music, full-length, flexible cast of 20 – 60+, area staging. An Intergalactic Circus does an emergency landing on Earth in order to retrieve the Circus Master's errant pet nibis who beamed himself down out of curiosity. Atticus, a ten year old boy staying with his grandparents in West Texas for the summer, finds the nibis and, after several adventures, receives the reward of a private showing of the Circus when he returns the pet. There is a robot chorus, fairafly dancers with hypnotic powers, wild pygerons and more. Recorded music and video CD available. **Contact:** Playwright.

LENORE BLANK KELNER
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www.interactstory.com

THE SHIRT OF HAPPINESS 1 w, 1 m w/doubling. 1 act (approx. 50 minutes) Based on Armenian and Italian folk tales. A sad prince goes on a quest to find the true meaning of happiness. He is told that if he can find a truly happy man and put on his shirt, then he too will be happy. He seeks out the rich and famous, but quickly learns that fame and fortune don't always bring happiness. Finally he finds a happy, loving peasant couple who have only one torn and tattered shirt between them. He believes that this shirt will magically make him joyful. **Contact:** playwright.

THE SECRET SCROLL 1 w, 1 m w/doubling. 1 act (approx. 50 minutes). Based on a Chinese folk tale. The Emperor's palace is filled with discord; the royal children simply will not behave. The Emperor is constantly in a rage. He brings wise ones from all over the world, and travels across China searching for a secret that will bring peace and harmony to his palace. He finally finds his answer in the home of a simple man, Tsao Wang, who understands the profound power of kindness. **Contact:** playwright.

BARRY KORNHAUSER
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MADLINE AND THE GYPSIES, based on Ludwig Bemelman's book of the same title. (4 adult m, 2 adult f, 12 girls, 1 boy, plus extras). Music by Michael Koerner. When Madeline and her friend, Pepito, get lost during a visit to the carnival and end up carried away by gypsies, their adventures with a traveling circus begin! But poor Miss Clavel won't rest until she has brought them safely home. Bursting with daring circus acts, whimsical doggerel, songs and sweet silliness, the play reminds us that both the worlds of order and of creative chaos have much to offer each other. **Contact:** Plays for Young Audiences.

BERT & ERNIE, GOODNIGHT! (2 m). A new musical featuring the legendary Sesame Street friends like you've never seen them before – in the flesh-and-blood, instead of fuzz-and-foam! The story is simple. Bert wants to go to sleep, and Ernie doesn't. The rest is...well, as you might expect, there isn't any "rest." Commissioned by the Children's Theatre Company by special arrangement with the Sesame Street Workshop and Vee Corporation. **Contact:** Playwright.

POWER PLAY (3 adults, gender flexible, plus 1 video character). Music by Ron Barnett, Video Design by Adam Larsen. When an unexpected power surge causes a school science movie to go bonkers in a big way, it's up to three bumbling electricians – and the audience – to save the entire universe (or at least the remainder of the period)! A quirky multi-media work in which a few clown characters of even fewer words, oodles of music, amazing colossal interactive video projections, and outrageous audience

participation, make for a smart, silly, and *shockingly* inventive theatrical adventure. **Contact:** Playwright.

CAROL KORTY

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<http://www.carolkorty.com>

PRECIOUS JADE Based on a Chinese tale recorded in southern China in the 19th century. Precious Jade is a spirited girl determined to make life interesting and bearable despite having been married into a dysfunctional family. Through her wits and recollection of advice from a dearly loved grandmother, she is able to gradually win over the members of her new family. Her final success lies in gaining the heart and support of her reluctant husband. And in the bargain, she outsmarts a condescending trader and an arrogant magistrate. Original music for the 19 songs by Shu Hui Chen. **Contact:** Playwright.

JOANNA H. KRAUS

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SECRETS, 4w, 1m, unit set with levels. A taut tangle of emotions in which an 8th grader's comfortable life is shattered by a phone call and a voice that says, "I'm your mother." A complex view of adoption in which one secret leads to another. First Place Winner of the Beverly Hills Theatre Guild Marilyn Hall Awards for Youth Theatre. Professional premiere, Flint Youth Theatre, April, 2007. **Contact:** New Plays.

MARSHALINE LETCHER

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THE GREAT PIZZA PROBLEM, 3f, 3m; approximate running time of 45 minutes; for grades 3-5. Miss Lee is in a tizzy when it comes to teaching fractions. Her students just don't get it; they don't get the concept. She finds help at her local pizza parlor when Mr. Famiglia helps her come up with a "hands on" way of teaching fractions. **Contact:** Playwright.

MAURICE J. MORAN JR.

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METHOD IN HIS MADNESS 2 acts; running time 90 minutes. Stories and poems reflect the universe of Edgar Allan Poe: his popular poems interpreted in choral reading and dance; his horror tales such as "The Black Cat"; his detective fiction "The Purloined Letter" and a few rare pieces representing his strange sense of humor. The scenes can be performed by as few as 6 or 8 actors – or by as many as 34 actors and one or two dancers. Simple set – curtains or a few walls to outline the performance space; a few pieces of furniture or boxes/crates that can be re-used in successive scenes. **Contact:** Playwright.

JEREMIAH NEAL

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U:bug:ME! - A musical for family audiences. Minimum cast of 7-8. Runs approx 70 minutes. 8 Original songs available on CD. Pico the fly is a little mixed up... When his best friend Estavan tells him to shoo,

Pico flies away to a new land only to have singing cockroaches, a scary spider, and a wise old centipede teach him what it means to be a friend. Currently scheduled for world premiere at Coterie Theatre in Kansas City Summer 09. **Contact:** Playwright.

THE KID WHO RAN FOR PRESIDENT - A musical for teen and family audiences. Large Cast 15-30. Adapted from the book by Dan Gutman. Judson Moon is twelve-years old and he's running for President of the Yooouuuunited States! He's dressing sharp, shaking hands, raising money, and in big trouble! I mean, what would the world be like with a 12-year-old President? Currently scheduled for world premiere at the Rainbow Company Children's Theatre in Las Vegas, NV. **Contact :** Playwright.

JOHN DILWORTH NEWMAN

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WHIRLIGIG, 7 to 28 players, gender flexible. 75 minutes. Adapted from the novel by Paul Fleischman. Brent Bishop accidentally kills a girl and is sent by the victim's mother on a journey of redemption, building whirligigs as memorials to her daughter. The play includes four short stories about individuals who are inspired by Brent's creations. Seeking a second production. **Contact:** Playwright.

CROWNS AND COMMONERS, 7F, 3M, 2 hours, in verse. Seven maidens are summoned to serve the King's seven daughters. When they hear that the King is slain, the seven commoners masquerade as the princesses they resemble and must hold their own against the conspirators who surround them. Seeking a premiere production. **Contact:** Playwright.

THE SECRET SCHOOL, 7F, 4M, 75 minutes. Adapted from the novel by Avi. Students in a 1975 classroom enact the story of their enigmatic instructor. As a fourteen year old girl in 1925, Ida Bidson assumed the role of teacher in her one-room school house and had to prepare for her high school entrance exams while teaching her peers in secret. **Contact:** Dramatic Publishing.

YEARNINGS, 2F, 1M, 2 hours, in verse. Leigh is an independent young woman who has taken over the family farm. Rochelle is a young lady of means who makes a pilgrimage to Leigh's land. Fate offers them a chance to reverse their fortunes and live the opposite life for which they've yearned. **Contact:** Encore Performance Publishing.

MATT OMASTA

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GATHERING BLUE 2 acts, 5m, 5f, 2+ ensemble (m/f). Adapted from Lois Lowry's companion novel to The Giver. In a world where humanity has established a repressive authoritarian regime not through politicized suspension of civil rights and diminished human experience, but through overt and brutal tribalism, three young artists discover the true nature of their society and their own mysterious abilities to shape the future. **Contact:** Playwright.

DOYLE OTT and RICHARD JENNINGS

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AESOPS FABLES Musical with performance soundtrack CD. One act (45 min), flexible casting 4 to 14 m or f. 2-person trunk-show version available for TYA school tour. An adaptation of Aesop's Fables told through vaudevillian song, dance and comedy, with music and lyrics by Dramalogue award winning theatre

composer Richard Jennings. Suitable for very young audiences: preK- 6th grade. Performed by Fairyland Children's Theatre Summer 2008. **Contact:** Playwright.

MARY ELIZABETH PETERS

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UP UP UP : THE MYSTERY OF BALLOONS. 1 act, 2m, 2w, 3 chorus (or more). Eight year-old Peter Haskins, his friends Laura and Curtis, and their Balloon Catchers Club embark on a journey of imagination when Curtis lets go of Peter's prized possession, his red balloon. Their precocious imaginations carry them to the circus, ice cream parlor, beach and outer space. Through their journey, they explore the loss of their friend Jamie, and realize that in order to let a balloon be free, you have to let it go. **Contact:** playwright.

RAPUNZEL! 1 act, 3 m, 3w. This playful and musical re-telling of the classic fairytale begins with the early love of a young couple as their dreams of starting a family are eclipsed by an evil townspeople, Matilda Meanerwolf, and her cat cunning cat, Wolfie. When John and Sara finally start a family, their baby Rapunzel is stolen from them, and they must use magic, mischief and even love to get her back before she is married to the Evil Prince . . . but is this what Rapunzel wants? **Contact:** Playwright.

SUSANNA PITZER

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CLUCKY, THE BRAVE LITTLE HEN 1 act, 45 minutes, 6 actors (m or f) w/ multi-casting, 21 parts, minimal set. Clucky escapes from the chicken factory to follow her dream of living free-range. The chase is on as factory workers try to recapture Clucky, who is aided on her journey by a nature-challenged young girl, a farming grandmother, and the free-range rooster of her dreams. During this high energy romp, Clucky learns about sustainable farming, the cycle of life, composting, different farm animals, and how delicious vegetables can be. **Contact:** Playwright.

GRIMM SISTERS, 2 acts, 1 hour 20 min, 40f, 16m, or 47f, 9m, many roles can be doubled, 2 interior sets, 1 exterior set, plus 2 playing areas. Mother/Daughter relationships are complicated and come in a variety of forms, biological, step, adopted. With humor, we see them all in "Grimm Sisters." The witches from "Sleeping Beauty," "Rapunzel," and "Snow White" are also the daughters of the witch from "Hansel and Gretel." Each of these women has a clear dream and a flaw that gets in the way of her dream. In the end they must each accept themselves, and also their 'daughters'. **Contact:** Playwright.

JEAN PRALL ROSOLINO

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<http://www.youthstages.com/Programs/Performances/bears.asp>

THE THREE BEARS 1W (or 1M) 30-minute touring show for audience ages 3-5 years. Simple set with table and three chairs of different colors, three beds of different colors, props of different colors. This all-new take on the classic story is a one-woman show with the audience as Baby Bear! The actress plays Mama Bear, Papa Bear, and Goldilocks. With Mama Bear's guidance, the children- as Baby Bear- get dressed, do morning exercises and chores, and, of course, discover "Someone's been eating my porridge." A terrific first theatre experience for the youngest audience members! **Contact:** Playwright.

R.N. SANDBERG

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THE BODY OF CHRISTOPHER CREED. Two acts. 5-7M/5-7F (Extras as desired.) A group of high school students search for and try to come to terms with the disappearance of an eccentric classmate. Adapted from an award winning young adult mystery novel. Workshopped with the Chicago Theatre for Young Audiences. Produced by First Stage Milwaukee's Young Company. **Contact:** Playwright.

CONVIVENCIA. Two acts. 4-5M/2F plus a number of extras, many of whom have lines. 1492. The lives of three young people (Muslim, Jew, Christian) are turned upside down as the Spanish army re-conquers Granada from the Muslims. Music, dance, and poetry heighten the forceful dramatic struggle of these three trying to survive the dangers of war and persecution as they find a way to live together. **Contact:** Playwright

CAN'T BELIEVE IT. 70 minutes. 2-4 m, 4-8 f. Teresa thinks Ron is the perfect guy with the perfect life. How can a shy kid like her even talk to him? But when their paths cross and each gets caught doing something they shouldn't, they have to think about what they believe about themselves and each other. Winner of a Bonderman National Playwriting Award, this realistic comic drama raises questions about honesty, trust, and personal responsibility in the lives of the adult as well as the teen characters. **Contact:** Dramatic Publishing

ROXANNE SCHROEDER-ARCE

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THE LEGEND OF THE POINSETTIA A Mexican American Christmas story in which Estrella (Star), age 14, seeks to find harmony as she struggles with the cultures that surround and pull at her. The traditional story of the poinsettia helps her find her way. **Contact:** Playwright.

LAURA TURNER

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MARSQUEST, 1 act, 80 minutes, 7 – 11 m or f, 6 young m or f, area staging. History and Science intersect with the ageless story of exploration written in cooperation with N.A.S.A. MarsQuest is a multi-media journey that follows the hopes and dreams of six international young men and women on their quest for the Red Planet. As the young hopeful astronauts mature they meet up with DaVinci, Sir Isaac Newton, and the Wright Brothers among others. Modern dance can be used to illustrate the physics principals and add to the musical moments. Intended for an audience of 4th grade through adult. **Contact:** Playwright.

THE WIZARD OF WARTVILLE, 1 act, 70 minutes, 3 or 5 m, 6 or 4 w (parts for audience members may be omitted/reassigned), area staging. Based on a popular children's book by Don Madden, this musical tells a wacky tale of an eccentric old professor's relationship with Mother Nature herself. As the slobby characters of Wartville toss their litter, Mother Nature gives the Professor the "power over trash" which eventually causes mayhem. All ends well as the townspeople learn their lesson. Tours easily and is intended for an audience of K through 6th grade. **Contact:** Playwright.

DAVID WOOD

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DANNY THE CHAMPION OF THE WORLD This new adaptation of Roald Dahl's celebrated book is currently on a very successful two-year UK tour, and will play at the Bloomsbury Theatre, London for Christmas 2007/8. Can be played by a cast of 7 or 8 (or more!). "... ingenious adaptation ... the rapture shown by Dad and Danny when they succeed is lovely to behold" (The Times). Interesting moral dilemmas involving poaching, shooting for sport and land ownership. **Contact:** Samuel French.

THE LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER'S LUNCH 40 minute musical adaptation of popular UK book by Ronda & David Armitage. The lighthouse keeper's wife send sandwiches from her cottage to her husband in the lighthouse, using a rope and pulley. Seagulls get wise to this and start scavenging the sandwiches! What's to do? Written for 2 adults (or older children) and 60 or more children (actors, choir, narrators, puppeteers, dancers). **Contact:** Published by Josef Weinberger, complete with CDs of music for rehearsal and performance, www.josef-weinberger.com.

THE TIGER WHO CAME TO TEA Adaptation with songs of Judith Kerr's classic UK picture book (1968), due to be published soon in the United States by Candlewick Press. Currently on long UK tour, playing London West End season 2009/10. Sophie and her mother answer a ring at the door – a tiger comes to tea and eats them out of house and home! Surreal fun for children of 3 years and older. Running time 50 minutes. **Contact:** Playwright or tom@casarotto.co.uk.

GEORGE'S MARVELLOUS MEDICINE Adaptation of Roald Dahl's book in which George tries to improve his very nasty Grandmother by inventing a medicinal concoction of all sorts of unlikely ingredients. UK Premiere November 2009, when Birmingham Stage Company commence a long tour, including Bloomsbury Theatre, London, Christmas 2009/10. **Contact:** Playwright or tom@casarotto.co.uk.

JAMES ZAGER

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HOMER'S THE ODYSSEY. 1 act, ensemble cast (5-20 actors), single set, running time: 50 minutes. Based on books 9-11 of the Odyssey know as The Wonderings of Odysseus the play includes: The Island of the Lotus-Eaters, The Cyclops, The Bag of Wind, The Laestrogionians, Circe's Spells, The Land of the Dead, Circe's Warnings, The Sirens' Song, Scylla & Charybdis, The Island of the Sun-God, and Calypso's Cave. Written for middle school audiences. **Contact:** Playwright.