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For Immediate Release
Excellent TV & Photo Opportunity
Event: Tuesday, May 1

**Mayor Michael Nutter Joins Philadelphia Young Playwrights For
May 1st Benefit to Salute Student Voices, Community & Corporate Supporters**
Celebration includes Professional Performances of Student Work and Guest Honorees

WHEN: **Tuesday, May 1**
6:00 p.m.: Cocktail Reception, Golf Outing Preview in upstairs lounge
7:00-7:20 p.m.: Mayor Nutter introduces Corporate All-Stars
7:20-8:00 p.m.: Performances, Patron Award, Adele Magner Memorial Award, and closing with an address from South Philadelphia HS Principal **Otis Hackney, *We Write South Philly High***

WHERE: **World Café Live**
3025 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104

WHO: Mayor Michael A. Nutter; Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown; Honorary Chairpersons Karen B. Davis and Larry and Shelly Beaser; Penny Nixon, Chief Academic Officer, School District of Philadelphia; Virginia and Harvey Kimmel; Suzanne and Ralph Roberts; Jeremy Nowak, William Penn Foundation President; Karin Copeland of the Arts & Business Council; Forrest McClendon, Tony-nominated actor for *Scottsboro Boys*; Patron Award winners Nancy and Kevin Stuski, Young Playwrights Board and Producers' Circle members, Youth Council, teachers, teaching artists, program students, and more.

PHILADELPHIA – **Philadelphia Young Playwrights** will welcome special guest **Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter** to its annual benefit at **World Café Live on Tuesday, May 1 from 6-8:30 p.m.** Hosted by members of the Young Playwrights Youth Council, ***Write On! A Celebration of Student Voices*** will include a special video address from 2012 Pulitzer Prize winning playwright **Quiara Alegria Hudes**, professional performances of student plays and an awards ceremony to commemorate the transformative experiences of students and teachers in the Philadelphia Young Playwrights program and recognize the support that makes these programs possible.

Since 1987, Philadelphia Young Playwrights has brought together classroom teachers and professional teaching artists to tap the potential of youth and inspire learning through playwriting in the Philadelphia School District. Outside of the classroom, the Annual Playwriting Festival and Play Development Series provide all students K-12 with the opportunity to participate in the playwriting process and take ownership of their writing, reinforcing the belief that every student has something to say worth hearing. Sophomore **Haley Gordon** and senior **Benjamin Tindal** will be among the Youth Council members weaving stories throughout the evening, from students, teachers and teaching artists, about the personal impact and professional enrichment that comes from working with the Philadelphia Young Playwrights program.

In recognition of the community backing that makes these programs possible, Mayor Nutter will join Young Playwrights in saluting **Corporate Arts Education All-Stars** – honorees such as **Lincoln Financial Group, Verizon, PECO, Joe Hand Promotions, Ernst & Young, John Kennedy Dealerships, Target** and other companies that have pledged their support to arts education programming throughout the city.

Young Playwrights will also present the **2012 Patron Award** to **Kevin and Nancy Stuski** to acknowledge their unparalleled commitment and longtime support of Philadelphia Young Playwrights. Nancy and Kevin co-founded the **Annual Golf Outing in Memory of Matthew Stuski** in 2006. This event raises funds to help support the mission of the Young Playwrights program in honor of the Stuski's son, Matthew. A preview of the upcoming Golf Outing will feature a putting green in the upstairs lounge at World Cafe Live during the *Write On!* celebration.

The evening will conclude with the presentation of the **Adele Magner Memorial Award**, which is given to a team consisting of a student, a teacher and a teaching artist for whom Young Playwrights has made a significant impact in their lives. This award was established to honor the memory of Adele Magner, founder of Philadelphia Young Playwrights. This year the award will be given to two teams: **Student Manna-Symone Middlebrooks, Teaching Artist Kate McGrath, and Teacher Josh Block of Science Leadership Academy** and **Student Joshua Lynch, Teaching Artist Aime Kelly, and Teacher Christine MacArthur of Central High School**. The closing address will be delivered by South Philadelphia High School principal **Otis D. Hackney III**, winner of the 2011 Barrymore Award for Excellence in Theatre Education and Community Service for his work with *We Write South Philly High*, a collaborative production with 1812 Productions, Philadelphia Young Playwrights, The South Philadelphia High School Alumni Association, Asian Arts Initiative and The Wilma Theater.

For more information, visit www.phillyyoungplaywrights.org or call 215-665-9226.

About Philadelphia Young Playwrights

Founded in 1987 by Adele Magner, and led today by Executive Producing Director Glen Knapp, Philadelphia Young Playwrights is an award-winning program that taps the potential of youth and inspires learning through playwriting in more than 50 public and private K-12 schools each year. A leader in the region's educational programs for youth and built upon its primary belief that all students have something important and valuable to say, Young Playwrights has enriched the Greater Philadelphia community, touching the lives of thousands of students, teachers and parents for the past twenty years. Since 1987, approximately 60 professional playwrights have led workshops, and nearly all of Philadelphia's professional theater companies have participated by performing, producing, or directing student works. Nearly 60,000 students have seen peers' work produced in class or by professionals. Young Playwrights' Literary Committee includes more than 60 educators, writers, parents, and former Young Playwrights students who read and critique each student script.

To learn more about the Philadelphia Young Playwrights program, access the 2010-11 Press Kit online here www.canarypromo.com/pyppresskit or email rose@canarypromo.com to request a hard copy.

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Please call in advance to schedule an interview or camera.

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Electronic Press Kit: www.canarypromo.com/youngplaywrights