

# little festival of the unexpected

Now in its 23rd year, the LITTLE FESTIVAL OF THE UNEXPECTED is a week-long annual event, dedicated to public readings of new American plays. Playwrights are in residence throughout the festival as they continue to develop their scripts with input from actors, directors, dramaturgs, and audiences. For the past 5 years, the festival has also showcased the work of local high school playwrights with performances of short plays from the Young Writers Project. To date, the Little Festival has hosted 16 young writers from across central and southern Maine, many of whom saw their writing performed for the first time on any stage at the festival.



*Young Writers Project playwright Josephine Cooper at the 2011 Little Festival of the Unexpected.*

## for more information

check out [www.portlandstage.org](http://www.portlandstage.org) under "Submissions & Auditions" or e-mail [dburson@portlandstage.org](mailto:dburson@portlandstage.org)

2012

anything

anyone

anywhere

# YOUNG WRITERS PROJECT

YOUNG  
WRITERS  
PROJECT

**PORTLANDSTAGE**

PROFESSIONAL THEATER MADE IN MAINE

[www.portlandstage.org](http://www.portlandstage.org)

[www.portlandstage.org](http://www.portlandstage.org)

high school playwrights  
will be read, seen and  
heard by professionals  
during portland stage's  
celebration  
of new  
works for  
the stage!

all  
submissions  
must be  
postmarked  
no later than  
feb 1, 2012



Shown:  
Mike Houston in  
*Last Gas*  
by John Cariani.  
Photo by  
Darren Setlow

## submission guidelines

- Open to all students, grades 9-12.
- Plays or monologues no longer than 10 minutes (test the length of your script by reading it aloud)
- Original work only; adaptations of existing plays, movies, or books will not be accepted
- Submit your script with a title page including your contact information: name, address, phone, e-mail, school, and grade
- Include a character list
- DEADLINE: February 1, 2012.

Send a typed copy of your script to:

**PORTLAND STAGE**  
ATTN: Young Writers Project  
P.O. Box 1458  
Portland, ME 04104

- Handwritten scripts will not be accepted. Scripts will not be returned.

## selection process

- Scripts will be selected to be part of the 2012 Little Festival of the Unexpected, Portland Stage's annual new play festival in May.
- Your script will be read and evaluated by Portland Stage Affiliate Artists; local professional actors, directors and playwrights who call Portland Stage their creative home.
- Successful scripts will demonstrate creativity, originality and theatricality. Use your imagination to write about anything, anyone, anywhere.
- Portland Stage will announce selected plays on our website in early April at: [www.portlandstage.org](http://www.portlandstage.org). All writers who submit a script will be notified by mail of the selection results.

## if your script is chosen...

- Your play/monologue will be presented in a public, staged reading with professional actors during the **2012 little festival of the unexpected** in May in the Portland Stage Studio Theater
- As a **LITTLE FESTIVAL** Young Writer you will have the opportunity to:
  - Attend rehearsals for the reading of your script
  - Observe rehearsals for new full-length plays in development
  - Meet professional playwrights who are in residence in Portland during the Festival