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THESPIAN
PLAYWORKS

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Finalists and Semifinalists Named in National Playwriting Competition from International Thespian Society

CINCINNATI (April 24, 2019) – Four students are finalists and six students are semifinalists in the [Thespian Playworks](#) program for student playwrights. The four finalists will get to attend the [International Thespian Festival \(ITF\)](#), where they will collaborate with professional directors and dramaturgs in developing their plays.

2019 Thespian Playworks finalists are:

Gabi Garcia, *Ismene*, Troupe 5604, Sunset H.S., Portland, Ore.

Samuel Kaplan, *Memories of Vichy*, Troupe 5869, Denver School of the Arts, Colo.

Sarah Sparks, *Silent Night*, Troupe 6826, Orange County School of the Arts, Santa Ana, Calif.

Breanna Spink, *Leigh*, Troupe 4101, Lake Dallas H.S., Corinth, Texas

2019 Thespian Playworks semifinalists are:

Mira Springer, *Aftershocks*, Troupe 750, South Eugene H.S., Eugene, Ore.

Zara Roy, *And So We Go On*, Troupe 966, Portales H.S., N.M.

Josephine Palmarini, *And to Think That I Saw You on Madison Avenue*, Troupe 3950, School for Creative and Performing Arts, Cincinnati, Ohio

Zoe Meizlesh, *Fundamental*, Troupe 879, Sandia H.S., Albuquerque, N.M.

Jared Goudsmit, *Guillotine*, Troupe 748, Kirkwood H.S., Mo.

Jared Goudsmit, *Ham Steak for Supper*, Troupe 748, Kirkwood H.S., Mo.

Evelea Solgos, *No Time*, Troupe 2013, West Aurora H.S., Aurora, Ill.

[Thespian Playworks](#) is one of four programs in a suite called Next Generation Works designed to encourage and promote original writing by and for high school student members of the International Thespian Society (ITS). The programs also include [Thespian Musicalworks](#), [Thespian Filmworks](#), and [Thespian Criticworks](#).

ITS, which was established in 1929 and has 2.3 million members, is the honor society for middle and high school drama students; a Thespian is a student who has earned induction into the honor society. ITS is a program of the [Educational Theatre Association \(EdTA\)](#).

ITF is produced by EdTA to celebrate student achievement in the performing arts. The 56th event, which this year takes place June 24-29 at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, brings together more than 4,000 high school drama students and their teachers for a weeklong immersion in workshops; interaction with colleges, industry leaders, and Broadway professionals; and opportunities to be inspired by the best high school theatre in the nation.

At ITF, professional directors and dramaturgs will help the chosen finalists to workshop and present their plays with student actors in staged readings for an ITF audience. Based on their workshop experience, the students revise their scripts in preparation for publication and licensing by Concord Theatricals as well as publication in [Dramatics](#), the magazine published for high school theatre students by EdTA.

Thespian Playworks is sponsored by Concord Theatricals, Thespian Musicalworks is sponsored by TRW, and Thespian Filmworks is sponsored by New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts.

[About the Educational Theatre Association, home of the International Thespian Society](#)

The Educational Theatre Association is an international association with more than 135,000 active members. EdTA's mission is shaping lives through theatre education: honoring student achievement in theatre; supporting teachers by providing professional development, resources, and recognition; and influencing public opinion that theatre education is essential and builds life skills. EdTA is the home of the [International Thespian Society](#), an honorary organization established at nearly 5,000 schools, that has inducted more than 2.3 million theatre students since its founding in 1929. EdTA also produces the [International Thespian Festival](#) and publishes *Dramatics* magazine [online](#) for high school theatre students, and *Teaching Theatre*, a journal for theatre education professionals. The [Educational Theatre Foundation](#) is the philanthropic arm of EdTA.

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