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## Dallas Theater Center Presents the Fifth Annual Skokos Learning Lab Showcase

A Collaboration with Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts

**Friday, May 23, 2014**

Potter Rose Performance Hall • Dee and Charles Wylie Theatre • 2400 Flora Street  
**One performance ONLY • Friday, May 23 at 5:15 p.m.**

**DALLAS (May 22, 2013)** – Dallas Theater Center is proud to host the fifth annual Skokos Learning Lab Showcase, the culmination of the Ted and Shannon Skokos Learning Lab collaboration between DTC and Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts (BTW), on Friday, May 23 in the Potter Rose Performance Hall at the Dee and Charles Wylie Theatre. The performance is free and open to the general public. No tickets are required.

DTC and BTW formed the collaborative partnership when DTC moved into the Wylie Theatre in 2009 and the students participating in this year's showcase were freshman when the program began. Twenty seniors from the theater cluster at BTW will perform alongside nine professional adult actors, all members of DTC's Diane and Hal Brierley Resident Acting Company. The one-hour performance features the student and professional actors performing scenes from contemporary and classical plays. The showcase is the final project for the year-long Advanced Acting Class at the high school; a college level master acting class team-taught by BTW teacher Charlton Gavitt, DTC resident actor and master teacher Christie Vela and additional members of the acting company.

"Working with the Booker T. Washington students is, for me, easily the best part about being a Brierley Resident Acting Company member," says Vela. "It is a privilege to interact with and affect the lives of some of the best young artists our city is sending out into the world"

The Skokos Learning Lab is comprised of a year-long Advanced Acting class for seniors, internships for non-acting theater students, and a variety of observation and theater-going experiences. Internships are offered to seniors in the areas of stage management, costumes, stage operations and directing. Over the course of a semester, students are matched with professional mentors at DTC who provide them with hands-on experience through working on rehearsals and set construction, and assisting in playwriting, directing, and stage operations. The theater-going component provides free tickets and workshops for all senior theater students at BTW to attend performances of each DTC production during the school year.

Students participating in the 2014 Skokos Learning Lab Showcase are Edwin Aguilar, Malena Aranda, Rosa Armendariz, Natalie Bates, Alicia Crowder, Jordan Ford, Kyra Michell Jacobs, Kayland Jordan, Ally Karpel, Christian Lopez, Isabelle Lueckemeyer, Natalie Marshall, Nicholas Mayfield, Rachael McNamara, Austin Nguyen, Samantha Potrykus, Ayade Rice, Cyrus Stowe, Ian Wallace and Ruby Westfall. Students will work with actors Daniel Duque-Estrada, Tiffany Hobbs, Alex Organ, Brandon Potter and Sally Nystuen Vahle.

Admission for the Skokos Learning Lab Showcase is free. The Skokos Learning Lab Showcase will take place on Friday, May 23 at 5:15 p.m. in the Potter Rose Performance Hall at the Dee and Charles Wylie Theatre in the AT&T Performing Arts Center.

**ABOUT SKOKOS LEARNING LAB:**

The Ted and Shannon Skokos Learning Lab is a unique educational partnership between Dallas Theater Center and Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual arts that began when DTC moved to the Dee and Charles Wylie Theater in 2009. By providing talented young theater students with unprecedented access to the artists and staff at Dallas Theater Center, the Skokos Learning Lab offers invaluable training by top professional theater artists while providing DTC with an opportunity to engage with fresh, young artists and see the world from their perspective. This year-long course for seniors in the theater cluster at BTW, focuses on advanced theater skills and introduces them to DTC's professional artists. Additional opportunities are provided for non-acting students to participate as interns at DTC in the areas of costumes, stage management, stage operations, and directing. All seniors in the theater department are provided with free tickets to attend DTC's full season of productions and participate in pre-show workshops and post-show discussions with the artists.

**ABOUT DALLAS THEATER CENTER:**

One of the leading regional theaters in the country, Dallas Theater Center (DTC) performs to an audience of more than 120,000 North Texas residents annually. Founded in 1959, DTC is now a resident company of the AT&T Performing Arts Center and presents its Mainstage season at the Dee and Charles Wylie Theatre, designed by REX/OMA, Joshua Prince-Ramus and Rem Koolhaas and at its original home, the Kalita Humphreys Theater, the only freestanding theater designed and built by Frank Lloyd Wright. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Kevin Moriarty and Managing Director Heather M. Kitchen, DTC produces a seven-play subscription series of classics, musicals and new plays and an annual production of *A Christmas Carol*; extensive education programs, including the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award-winning Project Discovery, SummerStage and partnerships with Southern Methodist University's Meadows School of the Arts and Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts; and community outreach efforts including leading the DFW Foote Festival and recent collaborations with the Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas Public Library, Dallas Holocaust Museum, North Texas Food Bank, Dallas Opera, and Dallas Black Dance Theater. Throughout its history, DTC has produced many new works, including *The Texas Trilogy* by Preston Jones in 1978, Robert Penn Warren's *All the King's Men*, adapted by Adrian Hall, in 1986, and recent premieres of *FLY* by Rajiv Joseph, Bill Sherman and Kirstin Childs; *Fly by Night* by Kim Rosenstock, Michael Mitnick and Will Connolly; *Giant* by Michael John LaChiusa and Sybille Pearson; *The Trinity River Plays* by Regina Taylor; the revised *It's a Bird... It's a Plane... It's Superman* by Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa, Charles Strouse and Lee Adams; *Give It Up!* (now titled *Lysistrata Jones* and recently on Broadway) by Douglas Carter Beane and Lewis Flinn; *Sarah, Plain and Tall* by Julia Jordan, Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin; and *The Good Negro* by Tracey Scott Wilson.

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