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PRESS CONTACT:

Amy Killion: 703.559.9714

amy@bucklesweet.com

**ROUND HOUSE THEATRE'S
PRE-PROFESSIONAL ENSEMBLES PRESENT**

TEEN TAKEOVER WEEKEND

February 28 - March 2

FEATURING THE
TEEN PERFORMANCE COMPANY

***GALLOWS HUMOR* BY FIN DAVIS, A WORLD-PREMIERE
THE 23RD ANNUAL SARAH METZGER MEMORIAL PLAY**

AND A SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY
THE ROUNDLINGS COMEDY & IMPROV ENSEMBLE
OUR PARENTS PAID FOR THIS

Bethesda, MD (February 10, 2025): Round House Theatre's **Teen Takeover Weekend** returns from February 28 to March 2, 2025, showcasing performances by students participating in Round House's teen performance ensembles. The weekend will consist of three performances of the 23rd Annual Sarah Metzger Memorial Play by the **Teen Performance Company**, a free, pre-professional program for up-and-coming theatre artists, as well as a performance by **The Roundlings** comedy and improv ensemble, a pre-professional program for the next generation of comedians.

Please see below for complete history, program, and ticket information for the 2025 Sarah Play and The Roundlings.

The 23rd Annual Sarah Metzger Memorial Play: *Gallows Humor* by Fin Davis

Gallows Humor explores the dynamics of a group of high school students trapped in a classroom during a lockdown. Written by **Fin Davis** (senior, Eleanor Roosevelt High School) and directed by **Lark Jeffers** (sophomore, Montgomery Blair High School), this timely production—created and performed entirely by the **Teen Performance Company**—examines the profound impact of gun violence threats on American teenagers.

The play is the first ever TPC production written by a teen playwright, representing a major milestone in the history of the program. “In 2016, we made the commitment to program and commission plays specifically written *for* teens for the Teen Performance Company. And now, to have an outstanding play *by* a teen—especially a member of our program who was inspired to pursue playwriting by one of our masterclass teaching artists—is incredibly exciting,” says Artistic Director **Ryan Rilette**.

According to playwright **Fin Davis**, the idea for the show was one of several possible themes for teen-focused plays and gained new significance following a major lockdown in Davis’s school. “I have always had many thoughts about school lockdowns and the fear of school shooters or bomb threats. That lockdown, scary as it was, helped me write what is now the 2025 TPC play. As a playwright, I will always want to write about something that is meaningful and real. It’s because of Round House Theatre that I now know I can.”

The 2024-2025 TPC students are working closely with professional artists and practitioners as mentors, including **Ryan Rilette** (Director Mentor), **Naysan Mojgani** (Dramaturgy Mentor), **Dani Stoller** (Playwright Mentor), **Che Wernsman** and **Carrie Edick** (Stage Management Mentors), **Ian Anthony Coleman** (Cast Mentor), **Joseph B. Musumeci, Jr.** (Set/Props Mentor), **Danielle**

Preston (Costume Design Mentor), **Peter Liebold VI** (Lighting Design Mentor), **Matt Nielson** (Sound Design Mentor), and **Megan Behm** (Intimacy Choreography/Self-Care Mentor). This program is entirely underwritten by donors and is free to students.

History of the Sarah Metzger Memorial Play

The Sarah Play honors the memory of Sarah Emily Metzger, an active member of the theatre community in her school and at Round House, who was killed in an automobile accident during her freshman year of college. One of the Round House family's lasting memories of Sarah is that, while still a high school student, she independently mounted a full-scale theatre production. Sarah worked to raise funds, secure facilities, and a production staff, market and promote her production, and direct a full-length play.

After her passing, Sarah's family worked with Round House to create the Sarah Metzger Memorial Fund as a tribute to the inspiring young woman. Through the generosity of many contributors, the fund provides a portion of the financial resources each season for similarly passionate and motivated high school students to create a fully realized production with a professional theatre company.

"The Teen Performance Company and Sarah Metzger Memorial Play really epitomize what Round House Theatre and its education programs are about—encouraging young artists to develop their own voices as theatrical artists, while at the same time teaching important life skills," says Director of Education **Danisha Crosby**. "The structure of the program, including working with professional artists who mentor the students, allows the students to have a truly unique experience."

About The Roundlings

Begun in 2019, Round House Theatre's youth comedy and improv ensemble, **The Roundlings**, is a pre-professional program for the next generation of funny artists. Led by professional Wookie impersonator and part-time couch insurance salesman Kevin Corbett (member of DC's Reflecting Fools and former member of The Capitol Steps), The Roundlings focus on developing

stand-up comedy routines, writing sketch comedy, and enhancing their skills at performing improvisation.

On Saturday, March 1, **The Roundlings** present ***Our Parents Paid for This***, featuring song parodies and stand-up. “The Roundlings are clever, creative, and remarkably prepared for a zombie apocalypse. Our teenage audience will LOVE this comedy and improv show! Our adult audience will likely laugh heartily, while quietly wondering exactly when they became too old to understand why kids find this stuff amusing,” says director Kevin Corbett. “The Roundlings’ show will make you feel warm, maybe a little embarrassed, and ultimately relieved when it’s over. Basically, you’ll feel like you peed your pants.”

Tickets for ***Gallows Humor*** and **The Roundlings** performances may be purchased by calling 240.644.1100 or ordering online at RoundHouseTheatre.org. Round House Theatre is located at 4545 East-West Highway, one block from Wisconsin Avenue and the Bethesda station on Metro’s Red Line.

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ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT (*GALLOWS HUMOR*)

Fin Davis (Playwright) is a senior is thrilled to be the playwright for Round House Theatre’s Teen Performance Company 2025 production. Fin previously participated in TPC as an actor in Dani Stoller’s *Girlhood* (2023), originating the roles of Liz and Gemma. Fin has also performed in the Off-Broadway production of *Happy Birthday, Anna Loggins* (2024) in which they originated the role of Ludde. In terms of playwriting, Fin was the first-place winner of Mosaic Theater Company’s 2024 High School Playwriting Contest for their play, *You’re Still My Sister*. When they’re not writing new plays or auditioning for new shows, they spend a lot of their time writing poetry and music.

TPC CAST:

Adetola Akintade as Gina

Scout Amakali as Charlie
Allison Evans as Emma
Ace Kippola as Michael
Rhea Ranchhoojee as Olivia
Omari Russell as Theo
Kenai Sanders as Alex
Julia Tchikine as Abby
Giorgia Toti as Casey
Parker Van Huff as Sophie

TPC CREATIVE TEAM:

Playwright: Fin Davis
Director: Lark Jeffers
Assistant Director/Dramaturg: Evvaleen Robinson
Props/Set Designer: Alexander Weiss
Set/Props Designer: Ana Lucia Ewachiw
Costume Designer: Eve Cintron (
Lighting Designer: Abby Graeff
Sound Designer: Lois Proeller
Stage Manager: Stevie Lewis
Assistant Stage Manager: Brighida Abella Reynolds
Assistant Stage Manager/Lightboard Operator: Megan Stickles
Run Crew: Aster Kuklova (

THE ROUNDLINGS:

Director/Improv Leader: Kevin Corbett
Teaching Artist: Kiyana McManus

Ensemble:

Isaac Aaron
Ana Lucia Ewachiw
Vaiel Corbett
Zarina Aronson
Gibson Jerone Haynes
Zeke Fraser-Plant
Charle Gaughan
Greta Hoffman
Milana Jones
Ellis Kashatus
Birdie Kelly
January Lidz (
Simon McKenzie
Astyr Sinnreich

Aidan Stowell
Jo Valadez

PRODUCTION INFORMATION (FOR LISTINGS)

Gallows Humor

Written by Fin Davis

When Grace Hopper High School is unexpectedly put in a lockdown, the students of Ms. Anderson's class find themselves trapped in a classroom together. As the lockdown continues, they bicker, make jokes, reconnect, and help each other cope with the growing uncertainty about what is happening outside the classroom door. Written by teen playwright Fin Davis, this world premiere is an insightful look at how the looming threat of gun violence affects the daily lives of American teenagers.

Dates:

- Friday, February 28 at 7:30pm
- Saturday, March 1 at 8pm
- Sunday, March 2 at 2pm

Location: Round House Theatre, 4545 East-West Highway in Bethesda (one block from Wisconsin Ave and Metro's Bethesda station).

Tickets: \$25 [here](#) (free for students ages 13-college; request tickets [here](#))

My Parents Paid for This

Date: Saturday, March 1 at 2pm

My Parents Paid for This is written and developed by The Roundlings. The performance is their own original comedy sketches, song parodies, and stand-up comedy. The new show features audience interactivity, spontaneous silliness, and hopefully...a lot of laughs.

Location: Round House Theatre, 4545 East-West Highway in Bethesda (one block from Wisconsin Ave and Metro's Bethesda station).

Tickets: \$25 [here](#) (free for students ages 13-college; request tickets [here](#))

ACCESSIBLE TICKETS

• Free Play – free tickets for students ages 13 through college: Round House Theatre's Free Play initiative ties into our greater strategy to develop theatre audiences of tomorrow by providing rich, meaningful arts experiences today. For more information, visit RoundHouseTheatre.org/FreePlay or email Education@RoundHouseTheatre.org

• Blue Star Theatre Program: Active-duty military personnel, veterans, and their immediate family qualify for a \$10 discount off the single ticket price. Learn more at RoundHouseTheatre.org/On-Stage/Tickets

- Group Sales: Groups of 10 or more can save 10% off the single ticket price and are exempt from single ticket fees. These tickets must be reserved and purchased in advance by calling 240.644.1100 or emailing GroupSales@RoundHouseTheatre.org.

ABOUT ROUND HOUSE THEATRE

Round House Theatre is one of the leading professional theatres in the Washington, DC area, producing a season of new plays, modern classics, and musicals each year at our theatre in Bethesda. Round House has been nominated for 227 Helen Hayes Awards and has won 52, including four Outstanding Resident Play Awards and the Charles MacArthur Award for Original New Play in 2016.

Round House's lifelong learning and education programs serve more than 5,000 students each year at its Education Center in Silver Spring, in schools throughout Montgomery County, and at our Bethesda theatre. Cornerstone programs include Free Play, which provides free tickets for students age 13-college, the Teen Performance Company, which culminates in the student-produced Sarah Metzger Memorial Play, Summer Camp for students in grades K-12, and a full slate of classes for adults and youth. Round House Theatre Education inspires creativity, exercises imaginations, and promotes artistic risk-taking, while developing critical thinking, cooperation, and confidence. We believe every child is an artist and encourage them to explore all aspects of theatre—acting, movement, design, and play creation—and the unique ways to tell stories through theatre. All our students experience the joy of creating and sharing theatre.

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