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This May, Pensacola Little Theatre presents the debut performance of a new play. Playwriting contest winner “Echoes” premieres during Spring Showcases.

PENSACOLA, Fla. – A new play by Maryland-based writer **Monique Hayes** will be performed for the first time during Pensacola Little Theatre’s Spring Showcases this May. Set on Halloween night, “Echoes” centers on a 12-year-old student dealing with issues of friendship, divorce and self-image. He and his friends discuss the pressures and joys of being 12 as they enter a mysterious manor house to investigate the legend of a magical mirror.

Spring Showcase performances will be held in the Pensacola Cultural Center’s Courtroom on May 12 and 13 beginning at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$5.00 per person, sold at the door. PLT’s educational programs are presented by Whitney Bank.

Hayes submitted her short play to the literary magazine Prick of the Spindle’s Outreach Initiative for Youth Drama Competition last summer. Prick of the Spindle is based in Pensacola and partnered with Pensacola Little Theatre to offer the prize-winning author the opportunity to have the play performed for an audience. The competition received nearly one-hundred entries from around the world.

Hayes received her MFA from the University of Maryland College Park, where she was a Creative Writing Fellow. Her fiction has appeared or will soon appear in *Prick of the Spindle*, *The Smoking Poet*, *Birmingham Arts Journal*, *Mused*, *Touch: The Journal of Healing*, *Midway*

Journal, and *Children, Churches and Daddies*. She lives in Washington, D.C., and plans to travel to Pensacola to see the world premiere of her play.

Pensacola Little Theatre's education director, **Michelle Hancock**, directed the play. The young performers who portray the three friends are **Kevin Kuktelionis**, who has been studying acting at PLT for several years; **Abbi Wade**, whose credits at PLT include roles in "Go, Dog. Go!" and "The Women"; and **Andy Stallings**, who is making his PLT debut. Portraying the play's two adult characters is Wade's mother, **Jessica Wade**, who volunteers regularly at PLT as a performer, director, and choreographer.

"Echoes" is presented in tandem with performances by students from Pensacola Little Theatre's acting classes. On both evenings, students in the Acting Lab program will present "Ludlow Fair," a Lanford Wilson play that examines how the roles of women were changing in 1966.

On Thursday, May 12, the evening begins with the comedy "Cinderella! Cinderella!" performed by the Let's Put on a Play homeschool class. On Friday, May 13, the opening performance is a sequence of monologues performed by students enrolled in Acting I.

For more information about the Spring Showcase or educational opportunities at Pensacola Little Theatre, phone Michelle Hancock at (850) 434-0257 ext. 107 or visit our website, PensacolaLittleTheatre.com. Summer camp registration is going on now, and enrollment for fall acting classes begins in July.