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## Press Release

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HUGO MEDRANO, PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### GALA's Arte America Series

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### 2009 Young Playwrights' Theater (YPT) Express Tour

Washington, DC – GALA Hispanic Theatre continues its 33<sup>rd</sup> season with the public showcase presentation of the **2009 YPT Express Tour**, which is touring to more than 50 community venues including schools, theaters, museums, and hospitals in April and May 2009. The showcase features *My Dream, Marian's Dream* by the students of Ferebee-Hope Elementary School; *Mom and Mr. Nachos* by Luis Hernández of Elsie Whitlow Stokes Community Freedom Public Charter School; *Ally in Blunderland* by Sophie ReVeal of Fillmore Arts Center and Key Elementary; and *Choosing Change* by the students of Oak Hill Academy.

The **2009 YPT Express Tour**, part of **GALA's ArteAmerica** series in collaboration with the Washington Performing Arts Society, will be presented on May 6 through May 9, 2009 at 7:30 pm at the **GALA Theatre**, 3333 14<sup>th</sup> Street, NW 20010. **FOR TICKETS, CALL 202-234-74714** or (800) 494-8497 or visit [www.galatheatre.org](http://www.galatheatre.org) Parking is available at a discount in the Giant parking garage on Park Road, NW. The ArteAmerica Series is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts.

#### ABOUT THE PLAYS

*My Dream, Marian's Dream* dramatizes the events surrounding Marian Anderson's historic performance on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Students from Ferebee-Hope Elementary School in Southeast Washington, DC wrote about Marian Anderson's courageous performance and expressed how her story inspires their own dreams of success, peace and understanding. The play is directed by Jennifer Nelson, artistic programming advisor at Ford's Theatre.

*Ally in Blunderland* was written by **Sophie ReVeal** and is directed by **Mary Hall Surface**, who earlier this season directed her own adaptation of *Alice in Wonderland*, *Alice*, for Round House Theatre. This version features Ally, a hardworking student who excels in school, sports, everything! But when she runs too fast and falls down a rabbit hole during a soccer game, her adventures in Blunderland teach her that maybe she should slow down, stop to smell the roses every once in a while and learn to enjoy the everyday wonders of home.

*Mom and Mr. Nachos* was written by **Luis Hernández** and is directed by **Abel López**, GALA's Associate Producing Director. Mr. Nachos is a little different from everyone else in his school. First, he's actually made of nachos. Second, he's chased by some really mean bullies who always try to eat him. And third, his Mom is a secret black belt in karate. In this fun and whacky adventure a son and his mom triumph over any adversity---even the meanest bullies on the block.

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*Choosing Change* was written in collaboration with the students at Oak Hill Academy and Mentoring Today. This piece explores life before, during and after contact with the DC Juvenile Justice system. Through poetry, prose and interactive storytelling, this play shares the heart of those who travel through the system – and how the system is regaining its heart. *Choosing Change* is directed by **David Andrew Snider**, YPT's Producing Artistic Director.

The YPT Express Tour acting company includes **Carl James, Wendy Nogales, Karen Novack, Fatima Quander, Fernando Romero** and **Brandon White**. Production design is by **Brendan McDougal**, costumes are by **Heather Lockard**, and sound designs are by **Elisheba Ittoop**.

Young Playwrights' Theater teaches students to express themselves clearly and creatively through the art of playwriting. Through interactive in-school and after-school programs, YPT activates student learning and inspires students to understand the power of language and realize their potential as both individuals and artists. By publicly presenting and discussing student-written work, YPT promotes community dialogue and respect for young artists.

## TICKET INFORMATION

The **2009 YPT Express Tour** is on stage at **GALA Theatre**, 3333 14<sup>th</sup> Street, NW. Performances are May 6 through May 9, 2009 at 7:30 pm. Single tickets are \$15. Groups of ten or more are \$12.

**FOR TICKETS CALL (202) 234-7174 OR 800-494-8497**  
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**GALA** is celebrating its 33<sup>rd</sup> season of presenting the range of Hispanic theatre, music, dance, spoken word, poetry and the visual arts from Latin America, Spain, the Caribbean, and the United States. **GALA** is supported in part by the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts, the D.C. Mayor's office on Latino Affairs, private foundations, corporations and individuals. **GALA** is a member of Theater Communications Group, the National Association of Latino Arts and Culture, the National Performance Network, the Association of Performing Arts Presenters, the League of Washington Theaters, the Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington, and the Latino Federation of Greater Washington. **GALA** is an acronym (Grupo de Artistas Latin Americanos) and should be written in all capital letters. The name of our venue is **GALA Theatre**. Please refrain from using any other terms.

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