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Twelfth Annual WiseWrite Festival Celebrates Young Writers' Accomplishments

**Fifth-Grade Students From Local Schools See Their Work
Brought to Life on The Rep's Mainstage April 11**

March 31, 2008, St. Louis, Missouri — Where can you find appliances improbably come to life, clever animals playing tricks on hapless humans and surprising plot twists and turns crafted by creative kids? Works by fifth-grade students from Cote Brilliante and Hudson Elementary Schools will take center stage at The Rep on **Friday, April 11, 2008**, for the **Twelfth Annual WiseWrite Festival of One-Act Plays**.

Presented continuously on the Browning Mainstage of the Loretto-Hilton Center for the Performing Arts (130 Edgar Road, Webster Groves) from **9 AM until 12:30 PM**, the event is **free and open to the public**.

For more information about the WiseWrite Festival, call **(314) 968-7340**.

Each year, The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, in collaboration with Springboard to Learning & Young Audiences of St. Louis, sends teaching artists into area schools to help fifth grade students improve literacy and written communication skills by learning to write plays. Students are exposed to all aspects of the creative process and also introduced to the world of the theatre by working performing arts professionals and through performances by The Rep's Imaginary Theatre Company.

At the end of the program, each student playwright receives a published copy of his or her own play and, as a celebration of the hard work invested by the more than 100 young playwrights, attend the WiseWrite festival at The Rep. During the festival, volunteer theatre professionals — including actors from The Rep's professional acting family — and drama students perform selected plays. Also in attendance are proud parents and friends and the fourth-grade classes which will participate in next year's program.

The WiseWrite play writing program is an unique collaboration between The Rep and Springboard to Learning & Young Audiences of St. Louis which provides art, cultural, humanities and science programs in schools and community organizations that inspire students and teachers to embrace knowledge and new experiences that broaden their horizons. Springboard to Learning & Young Audiences of St. Louis is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and the region's largest provider of in-school enrichment programs. More then 230 unique educational programs are offered to close to 100,000 students in the greater St. Louis area annually.

The WiseWrite program is just one of The Rep's many programs designed to introduce young people to the magic and power of live theatre and to making the arts an important, integral part of their lives. Each year, nearly 50,000 bi-state area students participate in an array of theatrical activities, including student matinees of Mainstage productions (supported by curriculum-appropriate Study Guides), classroom visits by a corps of experienced volunteer docents, performances by The Rep's touring Imaginary Theatre Company, participation in the theatre's free ArtStart programs, and more.

WiseWrite is presented with generous assistance from the Caaroline and DeWitt Van Evera Foundation, the Boeing/Arts and Education Council Collaborative, the John R. Goodall Charitable Trust, the Clifford Willard Gaylord Foundation, and Mary Ann Lee.

For more information about the WiseWrite program, the Twelfth Annual Festival of One-Act Plays, or any of The Rep's educational programs, call **(314) 968-7340** or visit **www.repstl.org**.

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Founded in 1966, The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis is a fully professional theatrical operation belonging to the League of Resident Theatres, The League of St. Louis Theatres and is a constituent member of Theatre Communications Group, Inc., the national service organization for the not-for-profit professional theatre. It operates independently of, but under a mutually beneficial agreement with, Webster University. The Rep operates under an agreement between the League of Resident Theatres and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States. The Rep hires directors and choreographers who are members of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers and stagehands who are members of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees. Financial assistance for this theatre has been provided by the Arts and Education Council of Greater St. Louis; the St. Louis Regional Arts Commission and the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency. This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency, which believes that a great nation deserves great art. The Rep is also grateful for support by more than 1,300 generous individuals and families throughout the communities we serve. Thank you.

