



Public Schools of Plainfield New Jersey

Office of Community Engagement

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PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL PLAYWRIGHT TO TAKE THE STAGE To perform his original piece “Pulse” with classmates

Plainfield, NJ – December 12, 2018 – When Jonathan L. Price takes the stage on Friday, December 14 at Plainfield High School, he will be performing in a production of his own inspiration, “Pulse,” a play about a young man trying to break away from his past.

This is his second play performed on stage at Plainfield High School, and it’s an opportunity Price takes very seriously.

“I am very excited to have the opportunity to create something and to be able to project it on such a wide platform, such as the school, because this is something I want to do for the rest of my life. Having such an early start to do this is a fantastic opportunity.”

Price started writing in the first grade and he says as he got older and was introduced to new styles of writing such as screen writing and playwriting he kept progressing and writing more. He wrote his first play in the 8th grade, “Civil Stories,” an autobiographical piece for Black History Month. From there he began to take writing more seriously and kept writing until he got to Plainfield High School and his writing was transformed again by his current mentor and teacher, Ms. Tash Hawthorne. Ms. Hawthorne introduced him to theater and has given Price the room to grow and to write for his classmates.

“Jonathan is one of the most gifted young artists I have ever met. His passion and commitment to the craft are unwavering. What I admire most about him is his desire for betterment, whether as an actor or writer.”

“For Loose Ends, my play last year, I went from writing for two characters to creating six, after conversations with Ms. Hawthorne. She has been my mentor here at Plainfield High School.

Pulse is a play about a young man who was a drug addict and is trying to break away from what he was. The play has six characters and it’s a brief look at the life of a young man trying to change. Price says, “It’s about finding yourself and knowing that you are more than your past and you don’t have to be someone you used to be. You can always change no matter the obstacles. You are your own worst enemy and you have to know that so you can positively look at yourself.”

The 6-person cast of Pulse includes Jonathan L. Price (Sam); Adriana Inoa (Aaliyah); Johara McNeill (Mrs. Porter); Tashanae Curry (Carmen); Noah Torres (Alex); Ayyaan Muhammad (Phil).

Johara McNeill said Price inspired her to take Theatre Arts at Plainfield High School after he invited her to be in his play. She said, “He is such an inspiration. I am mostly a dancer and now I feel like I am both a dancer and an actor.”

Noah Torres, also feels Price has been an inspiration and performing on Pulse is something he is proud of. Torres had never performed before on a stage and now as an actor he said, “This is what I want to do as a career, thanks to Jonathan. Our class is like a family, we help each other. It’s a great place to be thanks to Price and Ms. Hawthorne.”

For Ayyann Muhammad, who considered himself a shy kid not knowing where he fit, he says being on stage with his classmates is a moment to be proud. He feels since joining Plainfield High School’s Theatre Arts class he has matured. “I can make decisions on stage to stay true to the character even though we are like family and this could affect us on stage, and that’s not easy, but I’m doing it.”

Price’s other work includes “Loose Ends” which he wrote and performed as a 10th grader.

Pulse will be performed at Plainfield High School Auditorium, Friday, December 14, 2018 at 7:00 PM and Price friends are excited to be in his company.

For more information, please call 908-731-4333 or email gmontealegre@plainfield.k12.nj.us.

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