



Public Schools of Plainfield

New Jersey

Office of Community Engagement

Gloria Montealegre, MPA
1200 Myrtle Avenue
Plainfield, NJ 07063
(908) 731-4333 Fax: (908) 731-4336

PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT DEBUTS WRITING & DIRECTING ORIGINAL PLAY “A HOLLOW PLACE”

*Free performances by the PHS Players
April 12 and April 13 at PHS Auditorium*

Plainfield, NJ- April 5, 2019– Plainfield High School students, the PHS Players, will perform “A Hollow Place,” a play written and directed by Ay-yaan Muhammad, a classmate, who will be making his writing and directorial debut on Friday, April 12 at 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 13 at 3:00 p.m. at Plainfield High School Auditorium.

Ay-yaan Muhammad never expected to write his own play. His teacher Tash Hawthorne, who has had him in class since his was a freshman, remembers, “He was quite a challenge. He did not speak, he was extremely shy, and he would not look at you in your eyes when you were speaking to him. I am so proud of him, and I can only imagine how his career is going to be after Plainfield High School.”

Muhammad said he wrote this play because it is his last chance to write as a Plainfield High School student since he is graduating in June. “This will be the last time I will get the opportunity to write for the school. Well my first and last time.”

He said he based his play on women because of the many women in his

life.

“This play has a lot of themes, a lot of symbolism and other things involving black women. I wrote this play for women and for the leads, Kenya and Jhaneyja, to be able to relate and understand a lot of what is going and what is being talked about. I wanted to show the black women in my life, that raised me, something they can relate to and something that would maybe help them. That’s why this play means so much to me.”

Muhammad is the second student in Ms. Hawthorne’s dramatic arts class, who has written and produced his own play this school year. Last year, Jonathan Price, also made his debut as writer and director with his play, “Pulse.”

A Hollow Place tells the story of a young woman haunted by the ghost of her great-great-great grandmother’s former slave. It’s a psychological play analyzing the past’s effect on the present and future. Cast members are Ameenah Carvin, Jhaneyja Fowler, Noah Torres, Jonathan Price, Adriana Inoa, Kenia Castellanos and Ay-yaan Muhammad.

Performances will be Friday, April 12 at 8:00 p.m. and Saturday at 3:00 p.m. The public is invited to attend. Admission is free.

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

###

Photos Attached:



L-R Noah Torres, Kenia Castellanos, Ay-yaan Muhammad, Jonathan Price, Adriana Inoa, and sitting is Jhaneyja Fowler.



Ms. Hawthorne with the PHS Players – Theatre Dramatics class



L-R Kenia, Ay-yaan and Jhaneyja



L-R Adriana Inoa, Jonathan Price, Noah Torres