



# RIVERSIDE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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# Amplifying the Arts

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This edition of Amplifying the Arts highlights the RCOE partnership with the Palm Springs Young Playwrights Festival (PSYPF). PSYPF promotes and encourages theatrical creative writing to all elementary, middle, and high school students within Riverside County. Each year it produces an annual festival that showcases selected works from students with staged readings using professional actors and directors.

This year, PSYPF received a record 39 submissions. Each play was reviewed by a special committee who selected the 2023 winners, who will receive a mentorship to enhance their playwriting skills, a staged reading public performance of their play, and a \$500 scholarship to help further their career in the arts.

The winning playwrights will now work with this year's mentor, playwright, screenwriter, and actor Phinneas Kiyomura, who will provide professional guidance to the student playwrights and coach them through the entire process of finalizing their plays. The three staged readings will be performed at the Fifth Annual Palm Springs Young Playwrights Festival by seasoned professional actors.

The festival will take place at The Palm Springs Cultural Center on June 4, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. Casting is underway and the selected performers will be announced later this year when tickets will be also become available. The event will be free to the public, although reservations will be required through [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com).

The 2023 winning plays are:

**ART**, written by Arlo Topete, age 18, from Valley View High School in Moreno Valley, California. ART is a story about one's journey of finally being free. Through flashbacks, Art shares his life experiences and the people who shaped him, negatively or positively, on finally coming out as trans.

**MANAGE**, written by George Sandoval, age 17, from Valley View High School in Moreno Valley, California. A doctor tries to help a patient manage his Dissociative Identity Disorder (multiple distinct personalities) looking to find the epicenter of why it was developed. But is the doctor correct?

**LOVE'S LABOUR'S MOTHS!**, written by Xuan-Anh Ly Biggs, age 18, from Riverside Polytechnic High School. A second-time winner, Xuan-Anh previously won in 2021 for her play, *The Homeless Rich Woman and the Playwright*. In this comedy, an actor's love for theater shines through as he auditions and jumps through hurdles to secure the role of Moth in a production of William Shakespeare's *Love's Labour's Lost*. Will it help if the actor is an actual Moth?

