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Ford's Theatre Education Celebrates Oratory and Student Voice

National Oratory Fellows: A Celebration of Oratory
Monday, May 6, 2024 at 3:30 p.m.

Stand Up, Be Heard: A Celebration of Student Voices
Monday, May 20, 2024 at 7 p.m.

Free Tickets Available Now

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Ford's Theatre Education presents the culminating performances of 2023-2024 Oratory programs this May in *National Oratory Fellows: A Celebration of Oratory* and *Stand Up, Be Heard: A Celebration of Student Voices*. These performances will feature National Oratory Fellows and student delegates, and elementary school, middle school and high school students as they perform speeches on the Ford's Theatre stage. Tickets to performances can be reserved online at www.fords.org. Day-of tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis from the Ford's Theatre box office.

"Our May oratory events celebrate the exploration, expression and empowerment that has been fostered in classrooms nationwide with our fellows and teaching artists over the past academic year," said **Ford's Theatre Irani Foundation Director of Education Tricia Patrick**. "By applying the lessons of historic speeches to their lives, learning the Ford's Approach to Oratory and speaking out on issues that matter to them, students have life-changing learning experiences unlike any other. It's vital to foster the next generation of leaders, communicators and changemakers, and we can't wait for you to hear their voices."

Limited space is available for media to attend the events on May 6 and 20. Interested media should contact Daniella Ignacio at dignacio@fords.org.

Stand Up, Be Heard is supported in part by funding from a **PwC Charitable Foundation Reimagine** grant.

Ford's Theatre education programs are supported by **Bloomberg Philanthropies, BP America, D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities, The Hearst Foundations, HII Mission Technologies,**

National Park Service, Mr. Verdun S. Perry, PwC, Southern Company and Visa Inc. with additional support from **United**.

National Oratory Fellows: A Celebration of Oratory

Monday, May 6, 2024 at 3:30 p.m.

Join Ford's Theatre for an afternoon of powerful speeches from National Oratory Fellows and student delegates from across the country. On May 6, 2024, four teacher fellows and 18 student delegates will take to the Ford's stage to recite texts that have made history. Speakers can also choose to share speeches they have written about topics important to them. Hear from tomorrow's leaders, today.

Teachers and students have been working with a Ford's Theatre teaching artist over the school year, integrating the practice of public speaking into their everyday classroom curriculum. Through a rigorous selection process, two students are selected to represent their school and local community and travel to Washington, D.C. for a once-in-a-lifetime experience with the invitation to speak on Ford's Theatre's historic stage. States represented will be **Maryland, South Dakota, Oregon, New Hampshire, Washington, Pennsylvania, New York, Kansas and New Jersey**.

The [Ford's National Oratory Fellowship](#) is a transformative journey that enables teachers to support the growth of critical thinkers who can navigate the world within and beyond the classroom. This arts-integrated program encompasses theatre techniques, fosters civic discourse, discussions and debates and promotes open classroom communication. The program is anchored in a yearlong partnership with a Ford's Theatre teaching artist, who models, coaches and provides support throughout the learning process. The outcomes are expansive, equipping both teachers and students with tools to be effective advocates for themselves and others, shaping the next generation of engaged and active citizens.

Learn more and get free tickets: bit.ly/CelebrationOfOratory.

Stand Up, Be Heard: A Celebration of Student Voices

Monday, May 20, 2024 at 7 p.m.

Join Ford's Theatre for an evening celebrating youth voices, as students share original and historic speeches on the Ford's Theatre stage. Student orators from **Benjamin Tasker Middle School, John Eaton Elementary School** and **Paul Charter School** in Washington, D.C., taught by National Oratory Fellows **Clarice Armstrong, Giani Clarkson and Angelo Parodi**, will take the stage. In this program, students use the power of public speaking to learn from changemakers from the past and to craft their own texts that expound on topics that are important to them. **Watch** as they take to the stage and captivate you with their presence. **Listen** as the orators share their perspective on today's world – and show why youth voices matter.

The [Stand Up, Be Heard](#) program is a transformative initiative that empowers young people to confidently express themselves through civic engagement, research, historical thinking and public speaking. By fostering critical thinking and self-expression, the program encourages students to engage in meaningful dialogue about individual and collective agency, culminating in the crafting of powerful speeches. Selected students from each classroom have the opportunity to present their speeches on the iconic Ford's Theatre stage.

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Learn more and get free tickets: bit.ly/FordsStandUpBeHeard.

Ford's Theatre Society

One of the most visited sites in the nation's capital, Ford's Theatre reopened its doors in 1968, more than a hundred years after the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. Operated through a partnership between Ford's Theatre Society and the National Park Service, Ford's Theatre is the premier destination in the nation's capital to explore and celebrate Abraham Lincoln's life and legacy.

Ford's Theatre Society was founded under the guidance of executive producer **Frankie Hewitt**, who, during her 35-year tenure, established Ford's as a living, working theatre producing performances that highlighted the diversity of the American experience. Since the arrival of **Paul R. Tetreault** as Director, critics and the theatre-going public have recognized Ford's for the superior quality of its artistic programming. With works from the Tony-nominated *Come From Away* and the nationally acclaimed *Big River*, to the world premieres of *Meet John Doe*, *The Heavens Are Hung In Black*, *Liberty Smith*, *Necessary Sacrifices*, *The Widow Lincoln* and *The Guard*, Ford's Theatre is making its mark on the American theatre landscape. In the past decade, the mission of Ford's Theatre Society expanded to include education as a central pillar. This expansion led to the creation and construction of the Center for Education and Leadership, which opened in February 2012. Under the current leadership of Board of Trustees Chairman **Phebe N. Novakovic** and through the lens of Lincoln's leadership and legacy, Ford's today endeavors to advance Lincoln's "unfinished work" with programs and performances that cultivate empathy, encourage dialogue and bridge divides in American life.

For more information on Ford's Theatre and the Ford's Theatre Society, please visit www.fords.org.

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#FordsOratory #RememberLincoln #LincolnMatters

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