



# **NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

December 13, 2006

## **First DSBN Monologue Competition**

The District School Board of Niagara held its first Monologue Competition at the Shaw on November 21, 2006. Thirteen finalists from DSBN Secondary Schools performed their three minute monologues as actors do, in closed auditions, before qualified adjudicators, including Mike Shara, of the Shaw Festival, Gyllian Raby of Brock University, and a number of secondary school teachers.

Students showcased their ability to interpret classical and contemporary scripts, and to breathe life into them for oral expression. Not only did the monologue promote this kind of literacy, but it gave students an experience of the kind of audition they will probably face in their further studies and careers in the arts. As well, the Dramatic Arts Council of DSBN welcomed the opportunity to foster a closer relationship between the District School Board of Niagara and the local centers of dramatic excellence – Brock University and The Shaw Festival.

Out of the excitement, energy, and nervousness of the evening came many outstanding performances. First place was shared by Derek Johnston of Port Colborne High, and Genevieve Jones of E.L.Crossley. Genevieve said, "The process was delightful and educational. I met a lot of other young artists who shared similar interests with me....it was not about winning but it was about drama students coming together to show their art."

Nancy Wilson, Head of Guidance at Port Colborne High, commented that the networking with peers, critiquing by professionals, and the venue at Shaw made for an "invaluable educational experience."

Thanks to Rod Christensen, Amanda Tripp, and Mike Shara from the Shaw as well as Gyllian Raby from Brock University. Congratulations to all students and teachers for an outstanding evening.

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**\*\*\* A photo op with the two winners and Rod Christensen of the Shaw is available at 3:30pm, Thursday, December 14, at the Education Centre 191 Carlton Street, St. Catharines. \*\*\***

For more information contact:

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Warren Hoshizaki, Director of Education and Secretary