

**Kenny Leon's True Colors Theatre Company  
Next Narrative Monologue Competition  
Atlanta Regional Finals  
Press Release**

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**LANIYAH KELLY WINS ATLANTA REGIONAL FINALS IN TRUE COLORS THEATRE'S  
INAUGURAL NEXT NARRATIVE MONOLOGUE COMPETITION**

*Dunwoody High School Student Heads To New York City May 2nd  
To Represent Atlanta In First National Finals For New Competition*

ATLANTA (**April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022**) – Kenny Leon's True Colors Theatre Company today announced that LaNiyah Kelly from Dunwoody High School, Dunwoody, Ga., won the Atlanta Regional Finals and a \$600 cash prize in its new Next Narrative™ Monologue Competition (NNMC), a national program for high school students that features the works of a host of contemporary Black playwrights.

Zaria Williams, who attends New Manchester High School, Douglasville, Ga., finished in second place with a cash prize of \$400. Third place and a cash prize of \$200 went to Jayden Griffin from Atlanta Classical Academy, Atlanta. Kelly and Williams will both receive all-expenses-paid trips to New York City for the May 2, 2022, NNMC National Finals to be held at the historic Apollo Theater.

"We could not be more thrilled with the success of our first Next Narrative Monologue Competition Atlanta Regional Finals," said True Colors Managing Director Chandra Stephens-Albright. "We had an incredible group of contestants and extraordinary support from our sponsors, The Zeist Foundation, Wells Fargo Foundation, and Delta Community Credit Union, that helped to make this an outstanding initial regional competition. A special thank you goes out to Stefaniyemiya Ingram, who provided \$100 cash prizes to each of the seven finalists that participated in the program."

Created from True Colors Theatre's Artistic Director Jamil Jude's deep passion to bring new works by Black playwrights to the American theater stage, the 2022 compendium includes 41 monologues by 20 playwrights, representing the wide diversity of the African diaspora. Created especially for the competition and high school students, none of the monologues are from existing work.

"Along with our publishing partner, Theatrical Rights Worldwide, our vision was to develop a new repertoire of theatrical expression grounded in the Black aesthetic, but uniquely crafted and available to young thespians everywhere seeking age-suitable and relevant audition content," said Jude. "With the support of some of the nation's leading Black playwrights and in partnership with NNMC coordinator, Larsen Kennedy, and our regional partners, we believe we have gotten off to an incredible start on our journey to inspire the next generation."

Other NNMC regional finals are being held in Boston, Dallas, Detroit, Milwaukee, New Haven, New York, Pittsburgh, and Seattle. Up to 18 students across country are expected to compete in the inaugural Next Narrative Monologue Competition National Finals next month. For more information on the NNMC,

please visit: <https://truecolorstheatre.org/next-narrative-monologue-competition/> . For more information on True Colors Theatre Company please visit: [www.truecolorstheatre.org](http://www.truecolorstheatre.org).

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#### About True Colors Theatre Company

Kenny Leon's True Colors Theatre Company is a nonprofit regional theater company based in Atlanta, GA. True Colors Theatre Company's mission is to celebrate the rich tradition of Black storytelling while giving voice to bold artists from all cultures. We add dimension and relevance to our work on the stage through community events and education programming. The vision of Artistic Director Jamil Jude is for the company to "thrive at the intersection of artistic excellence and civic engagement." For more information on True Colors, visit [www.truecolorstheatre.org](http://www.truecolorstheatre.org).