Quiet in the Studio! Radio Acting in the Classroom

BUFFALO, NY (2/1/11) – Students at Community Action Organization’s 21st Century after school program (housed at Public School #39) are creating and recording an original radio drama called Quiet in the Studio as part of a multi-session arts residency taught by award winning playwright Annette Daniels-Taylor. Young Audiences of Western New York is presenting the program in collaboration with Community Action Organization of Erie County, Inc.

Inspired by the old-time radio shows Little Orphan Annie and The Green Hornet, students in grades K-6 have developed an original plot that centers around a mysterious new substitute teacher, Miss. Ian, who transforms their classroom in unforeseen ways.

"When they start reading the script they helped write, as the characters they helped create, and editing their copy after rehearsals and listening to themselves after recording, they are hooked! They are hooked on radio theatre!," said Daniels-Taylor, lead teaching artist for the program. "They're so interested in refining what they've created. They seem to learn instantly how to improve what they've just done right after the first rehearsal reading."

Each Monday and Thursday, students learn about the tradition of radio programming for entertainment and to create their own storyline, characters, and script. Each student gains on the spot training in making sound effects with found objects, microphone technique, radio acting, and radio direction or "sign language."

"Quiet in the Studio teaches students team-building, listening skills, writing and editing, acting, public speaking, technology and creative thinking skills and practice," said Daniels-Taylor.

This program is funded by Community Action Organization of Erie County through a grant provided by the New York State Education Department. More information is available by contacting the Young Audiences WNY office at 716.881.0917.

ABOUT YOUNG AUDIENCES: Young Audiences of Western New York is a not-for-profit arts-in-education organization whose mission is to make the visual, performing, and literary arts a part of young people’s lives in order to enhance their development as creative and productive human beings. This mission is fulfilled every day within the eight counties of Western New York with performances, workshops, and residencies in educational, cultural, and community centers. In operation for 49 years, Young Audiences’ teaching artists support children learning core curriculum subjects through the arts, with over 100,000 artist contacts for children and families each year. Visit www.yawny.org for more information about Young Audiences of Western New York.

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ANNETTE DANIELS-TAYLOR

Annette Daniels-Taylor is a playwright, poet, actor, teacher, singer and costumer. In 2009, Daniels-Taylor won the Artie’s Emanuel Fried Award for New Play, A Little Bit of Paradise, which premiered at Road Less Traveled Productions in 2008. She is currently directing I am a Man, presented by Subversive Theatre at the Manny Fried Playhouse through February 5, 2011.

She has worked on or behind many notable Buffalo and NYC stages, including HBO's Def Comedy Jam, MTV, Apollo Theater, Black Entertainment Television, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo Ensemble Theatre, La Mama, and Nuyorican Poets Café. While working as a designer and stylist for Ruby Dee, Queen Latifah, Lenny Kravitz, and Russell Simmons, among others, she wrote and acted, and received a scholarship from the Lee Strasberg Theater Institute. She and her husband, artist Rodney Taylor, moved to his native Buffalo so that they could devote more time to their art and their four children.

Her poetry is included in Mom Egg, a collection of mother-inspired literature. Daniels-Taylor's performance Mama Songs for Children has toured WNY. Since 2006, she has been a coordinator for Mamapalooza Festival Buffalo. She is a co-founder of Down in My Soul Productions and a member of ASCAP and The Dramatists Guild. Daniels-Taylor is writer-in-residence at The Langston Hughes Institute. She is also a teaching artist for The Arts in Education Institute of Western New York, Irish Classical Theatre Company and The African American Cultural Center.

In 2009, as part of Young Audiences' Underground Railroad in Western New York residency, Daniels-Taylor created an original one woman show, Nancy Goes to Seneca Falls, which brings to life the journey of an escaped slave as she comes to make her life on the Erie Canal.

She is excited to work with and perform for young people, hoping to inspire them to write and perform themselves, as well as to help them see how relevant their history is to their present life; how different life was 100 years ago; and how important Buffalo was to this movement and its place in history.

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