

The Washington State Arts Commission Presents



**POETRY OUT LOUD**  
**Washington State Final Competition**

**Saturday, March 5, 2016**

**Broadway Center for the Performing Arts  
Theatre on the Square**

**Tacoma, Washington**

**The 2016 Washington State Poetry Out Loud Final is dedicated to the memory of Tom Zbyszewski.**

*Three years ago, as a senior at Liberty Bell High School in Winthrop, Tom was the first runner-up in our 2013 Poetry Out Loud State Final. He made a strong impression on our judges and our staff with his three excellent recitations, as well as with his warmth, his energy, his sense of humor, and his camaraderie with the other students. In August 2015, Tom was the youngest of three firefighters who died near Twisp, Washington, while battling the Twisp River Fire. He will be deeply missed.*

The Poetry Out Loud State Final is presented by the **Washington State Arts Commission**, with support from the **National Endowment for the Arts** and **The Poetry Foundation**.

Special thanks to the **Broadway Center for the Performing Arts** for their sponsorship of this event.



## **Welcome to Poetry Out Loud!**

When we started in 2005, we worked with just eight schools in one county. This year, 70 schools from 23 counties in Washington State participated in *Poetry Out Loud*.

After classroom-level competitions and school-wide competitions, these schools sent their top students to one of seven regional finals, held in Northwest Washington, Southwest Washington, Central Washington, Eastern Washington, Southeast Washington and the Puget Sound region.

**Students from each of these seven regional finals have advanced to the state final.**

**These thirteen students are competing for the title of Washington State *Poetry Out Loud* Champion for 2016.**

The winner of the state final will receive \$200, and the winner's school will receive a \$500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books. The second place finalist will receive \$100, with \$200 for his or her school library. The state champion will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to compete in the National Finals in Washington, DC, on May 3-4, 2016.

The *Poetry Out Loud* National Finals will award a total of \$50,000 in scholarships and school stipends, with a \$20,000 college scholarship for the National Champion.

**...and the Thirteen Washington State Finalists are:**

<u>Student</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>County</u>
<b>Jake Andrews</b>	Ellensburg High School	Kittitas
<b>Jennifer Cassidy</b>	Delta High School	Benton
<b>Michaela Cloyd</b>	Ridgefield High School	Clark
<b>Lillian Cooley</b>	Liberty Bell High School	Okanogan
<b>Alex Hanesworth</b>	Anacortes High School	Skagit
<b>Donia Kashkooli</b>	South Whidbey High School	Island
<b>Mehak Mann</b>	International Community School	King
<b>Emily Padgett</b>	Eatonville High School	Pierce
<b>Sameayah Pehlke</b>	Vancouver School of Arts & Academics	Clark
<b>Megan Reichel</b>	Crosspoint Academy	Pierce
<b>Leah Sainz-Jones</b>	Woodinville High School	King
<b>Thomas Snedeker</b>	Ellensburg High School	Kittitas
<b>Wesley Thomas</b>	Quincy High School	Grant

## Poetry Out Loud ♦ Washington State Final ♦ March 5, 2016

Host: Lucas Smiraldo

Music: The Kareem Kandi Band

Program: Introductions and Program Information  
Karen Hanan, Executive Director, Washington State Arts Commission  
Recitations, Round One – Thirteen Students  
*- Short Intermission -*  
Justine Haka, The Poetry Foundation  
Recitations, Round Two –Thirteen Students  
Announcement of Five Finalists  
*- Short Intermission –*  
Tod Marshall, Washington State Poet Laureate  
Recitations, Round Three – Five Students  
Announcements and Acknowledgements  
Presentation of Awards  
Q&A with All Student Participants



### **About Poetry Out Loud**

Recitation and performance are major current trends in poetry. There has been a recent resurgence of poetry as an oral art form, as seen in the slam poetry movement and the great popularity of hip-hop music. *Poetry Out Loud* builds on that momentum by inviting the dynamic aspects of slam poetry, spoken word, and theater into the English class.

The National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation have partnered with State Arts Agencies across the United States to support the expansion of *Poetry Out Loud*, a program that encourages the nation's youth to learn about great poetry through memorization and performance. This exciting program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage.

After successful pilot programs in Washington, DC, and Chicago, *Poetry Out Loud* was launched as a nationwide program during the 2005-2006 school year. Here in Washington State, we've grown from just 8 participating high schools that first year, to 70 participating schools in the 2015-2016 school year.

Thanks to everyone who came to enjoy great poetry and to support our state finalists. Enjoy!

The **Washington State Arts Commission** (ArtsWA) is a state agency, established in 1961, whose purpose is to conserve and develop the State's artistic resources, as essential to the social, educational, and economic growth of the State of Washington. One of our strategic goals is to strengthen K-12 arts education as part of, and fundamental to, basic education. For more information: [www.arts.wa.gov](http://www.arts.wa.gov).

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### Student Poem Selections

Students will recite in alphabetical order, by last name. For the first round of recitations the order will be A-Z. In the second round they will recite N-Z followed by A-M. The five finalists who advance to the third round will recite in a randomly chosen order. All poems were selected from the *Poetry Out Loud* anthology, available at [www.poetryoutloud.org](http://www.poetryoutloud.org).

<u>Student Name</u>	<u>Poem Titles and Authors, In Order of Recitation</u>
<b>Jake Andrews</b> (First in Round One)	<i>On An Unsociable Family</i> by Elizabeth Hands <i>Zoom!</i> by Simon Armitage <i>Very Large Moth</i> by Craig Arnold
<b>Jennifer Cassidy</b>	<i>Revenge</i> by Letitia Elizabeth Landon <i>Dear Reader</i> by Rita Mae Reese <i>Hunger for Something</i> by Chase Twichell
<b>Michaela Cloyd</b>	<i>Dirge in Woods</i> by George Meredith <i>The Death of Allegory</i> by Billy Collins <i>Cadillac Moon</i> by Kevin Young
<b>Lillian Cooley</b>	<i>Bleeding Heart</i> by Carmen Giménez Smith <i>Without Regret</i> by Eleanor Wilner <i>The Snow Storm</i> by Ralph Waldo Emerson
<b>Alex Hanesworth</b>	<i>Personal</i> by Tony Hoagland <i>More Lies</i> by Karin Gottshall <i>Richard Cory</i> by Edwin Arlington Robinson
<b>Donia Kashkooli</b>	<i>The Golden Shovel</i> by Terrance Hayes <i>to the notebook kid</i> by Eve L. Ewing <i>The New Colossus</i> by Emma Lazarus
<b>Mehak Mann</b>	<i>Dear Reader</i> by Rita Mae Reese <i>Personal</i> by Tony Hoagland <i>Richard Cory</i> by Edwin Arlington Robinson
<b>Emily Padgett</b> (First in Round Two)	<i>I Know, I Remember, But How Can I Help You</i> by Hayden Carruth <i>Dover Beach</i> by Matthew Arnold <i>The Albatross</i> by Kate Bass
<b>Sameayah Pehlke</b>	<i>Mr. Darcy</i> by Victoria Chang <i>mulberry fields</i> by Lucille Clifton <i>A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning</i> by John Donne
<b>Megan Reichel</b>	<i>Love Song</i> by Dorothy Parker <i>There Are Birds Here</i> by Jamaal May <i>April Midnight</i> by Arthur Symons
<b>Leah Sainz-Jones</b>	<i>Solitude</i> by Ella Wheeler Wilcox <i>Beautiful Wreckage</i> by W.D. Ehrhart <i>And Soul</i> by Eavan Boland
<b>Thomas Snedeker</b>	<i>Numbers</i> by Mary Cornish <i>When I Have Fears That I May Cease to Be</i> by John Keats <i>Sheltered Garden</i> by H.D.
<b>Wesley Thomas</b>	<i>The Song of Smoke</i> by W.E.B. Du Bois <i>The Conqueror Worm</i> by Edgar Allen Poe <i>The Poet As Hero</i> by Siegfried Sassoon

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### *Our Judges:*

**Bruce Hall** is an artist and educator in Seattle. His passion is rooted in his background as both a middle school teacher in Seattle Public Schools and a theater artist. He holds a Masters in Education from Antioch University and a BA from UC Santa Barbara where he double majored in Dramatic Art and English. Bruce is a longtime member of Seattle's Annex Theatre where he currently hosts a monthly late night cabaret.

**Aira Jackson** is the Literacy/English Language Arts Director for the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. In her role as Director, she oversees a variety of literacy initiatives throughout the state of Washington aimed at increasing every student's literacy development with the goal of preparing them for college, career and life. Before joining OSPI, Aira worked at Educational Service District 123 in Pasco, WA as the K-4 Literacy Specialist. Aira was born and raised in Seattle and received her undergraduate and graduate degrees in Boston, MA where she taught 1st and 3rd grade with the Boston Public Schools.

**Tod Marshall** is the Washington State Poet Laureate for 2016-18. Born in Buffalo, New York, he grew up in Wichita, Kansas. He studied English and philosophy at Siena Heights University, earned an MFA from Eastern Washington University, and graduated with his PhD from The University of Kansas. He directs the writing concentration and coordinates the visiting writers series at Gonzaga University where he is the Robert K. and Ann J. Powers Endowed Professor in the Humanities. He enjoys backpacking and fishing and spends about a month of every year in a tent.

**Catalina Ocampo** is a member of the faculty at the Evergreen State College, where she teaches Latin American literature. Her work focuses on the role of creative writing in amplifying student voices, fostering critical thinking, and linking educational institutions with the broader community. As part of this work, she has led creative writing and storytelling workshops in a variety of college and community settings both locally and in Latin America, and works closely with Latina/o youth in Tacoma.

**Rebecca Redshaw** is an author and playwright. She adapted her novella, *Dear Jennifer* for the stage and it has been produced in the United States and Canada. She was awarded First Prize in the 2009 Lakeview Literary Review for her short story, *Somebody Special*. In addition to extensive articles and short stories published in national newspapers and magazines, she has seen productions of seven of her plays throughout the Northwest. Rebecca's as yet unpublished book of poetry, *Death and Other Facts of Life*, is a reflection of her work as a hospice volunteer. Rebecca is a member of the board of the Washington State Arts Commission.

**Kris Tucker** served as Executive Director of the Washington State Arts Commission for more than 15 years (1999-2014). She has served as a grant panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts, an active member of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, and a longtime Board member for WESTAF (Western States Arts Federation). She now is active in her community and serves as Chair for the Olympia Artspace Alliance which is working to build affordable space for artists in downtown Olympia.

### *Our Host:*

**Lucas Smiraldo** is a poet, spoken word artist and frequent master of ceremonies at events. He served as the Poet Laureate for the city of Tacoma for 2014-2015, and established the Laureate Listening Project; involving the poetry of over 60 citizens from throughout Tacoma. Luke serves as director of Vibrant School, and is actively involved with Schools Out Washington. He recently published his first book *The Thing That Gathers*, and is working on an autobiography entitled *Don't Move a Muscle*. Hosting *Poetry Out Loud* is one of the highlights of Luke's late winter.

## **Poetry Out Loud ♦ Washington State Final ♦ March 5, 2016**



### ***Poetry Out Loud Event Staff:***

Judges: Bruce Hall, Aira Jackson, Tod Marshall, Catalina Ocampo, Rebecca Redshaw, Kris Tucker

Musicians: The Kareem Kandi Band – Kareem Kandi and Michael Glynn

Host: Lucas Smiraldo

Prompter: Sarah Brauner

Production Assistant: Stacy Hicks

Broadway Center Staff: Klair Ethridge, Rich Tocher, Jeff Jainga

### **Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA) and Poetry Out Loud (POL) Staff:**

Karen Hanan, Executive Director, ArtsWA

Lisa Jaret, Arts in Education Program Manager, ArtsWA; POL Project Director

Judy Cullen, POL State Coordinator and Regional Coordinator for Puget Sound

### **Special Thanks to our Regional Partners:**

Central Washington: Yakima Valley Community College  
Dan Peters, Coordinator

Southeast Washington: Educational Service District 123  
Erin Dorso, Coordinator

Eastern Washington: Eastern Washington University  
Melissa Huggins & Kate Peterson, Coordinators

Southwest Washington: Educational Service District 112  
Kelly McPherson, Coordinator

Northwest Washington: The Skagit River Poetry Project  
Molly McNulty, Coordinator



### **Many thanks to the Lead Teachers who coordinated *Poetry Out Loud* in their schools:**

AC Davis High School - Marah Jean Walden; Anacortes High School - Brian Backman; Annie Wright School – Annie Green; Arlington-Highland Christian School - Wendy Tavenner; Avanti High School - John Hanby; Battle Ground High School - Heather Smithline; Bellingham High School - Margaret Freeman; Bickleton High School - Silvia Navarre; Burlington Edison High School - Jeremy Voigt; Camas High School - Terry Nyquist; Cedar Tree Classical Christian School - David King; Crosspoint Academy – Victoria Stamp; Darrington High School – Joe Eckerson; Delta High School - Kelly Hamby; East Valley High School - Tammy Hovren; East Valley High School - Lynda Matthews; Eatonville High School - Margie Hoffman; Eisenhower High School - Danyelle Cook; Ellensburg High School - Del Enders; Ephrata High School - Samantha Byam; Global Connections High School – Suzanne Womble; Governor John R. Rogers High School - Nikki Shannon; Graham-Kapowsin High School - Anne Bennett; Hayes Freedom High School - Stephanie Spencer ; Heritage High School - Steve Massart; International Community School – Brynne Garman; Jenkins Jr/Sr High School – Michael Schut; Kamiakin High School - Joyce Donais; Kentlake High School – Susan Best; Kentwood High School - Eric Lynch; La Connor High School – Rebecca Echert; Lakeside High School - Alecia Sing; Liberty Bell High School - Adam Kaufman; Life Christian Academy - Danielle Graham; Mead High School - Dori Whitford; Methow Valley Independent Learning Center – Sara Mounsey; Mount Vernon High School - Nicole Preston; Mt Spokane High School - Carolyn Saccomanno; Naches Valley High School – Ali Bernard; North River High School - Rita Bodwell; Oak Harbor High School – Linnell Gribble; Okanogan High School - Dennis O'Connor; Olympia High School - Carolyn Gilman; Onalaska High School - Susan Roden; Peninsula High School - Lynda Richards; Prescott School – Carina Stillman; Puget Sound Community School – Crysta Swartz; Puyallup High School - Sarah Sherry; Quincy High School – Kathy Hardiman; Rainier High School - Ashley Russ; Raisbeck Aviation High School – Wayne Storer; Richland High School – Linda Stairet; Ridgefield High School - Brittany Rodin; River Ridge High School - Angelina Downs; Sehome High School - Shannon Casey; Selah School District - Jeff Weeks; Selkirk High School – Donovan Johnson; Shorewood High School - Timothy Murray; South Whidbey High School - Jaryl Cave; Squalicum High School - Amy Cushman; Stadium High School - Connie Wyma; Stanwood High School - Ella Blackwood; Stevenson High School - Becky Harmening; The Oaks Classical Christian Academy - William Stutzman; Trout Lake School - Ellen Simonis; Vancouver School of Arts and Academics – Jody Adams; Vashon Island High School - Stephen Floyd; Westside High School - Mike Hartley; Windward High School – Diana Austin; Woodinville High School - Yvonne McCord.

### **For More Information:**

The National *Poetry Out Loud* program: [www.poetryoutloud.org](http://www.poetryoutloud.org)

Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA): [www.arts.wa.gov](http://www.arts.wa.gov)

Contact person for *Poetry Out Loud* in Washington State: Lisa Jaret, [lisa.jaret@arts.wa.gov](mailto:lisa.jaret@arts.wa.gov)