



Sitar Arts Center student Forrest Penrod, 13, was recently named a winner of Arena Stage's 9th Annual Student Ten-Minute Play Competition for his original script *The Trouble with Restaurants*. Selected from over 700 submissions from the Washington Metropolitan area, Forrest's play was one of ten chosen for the honor.

Forrest's introduction to playwriting began in the fall of 2005 when he enrolled in the Arena Stage Playwriting class at Sitar Arts Center, which the two organizations offer in partnership. It was here that he discovered his love for drama. "Before I took the playwriting class at Sitar Arts Center, I was interested in dancing and singing, but I didn't know about acting," he said. "The class changed my view completely and made me realize my love for writing and books." He quickly excelled at the art of crafting plays, and since winning the competition has decided that he might like to pursue a career in theater.

As a winner, Forrest has had the opportunity to attend masterclasses at Arena Stage, where he is working with professionals in the field to further develop his script. The play will be performed by professional actors during Arena Stage's Student Playwrights Project at the Warehouse Theater on Wednesday, May 21st and Thursday, May 22 at 7:30pm. All performances are free, but reservations are required. To save your seat, please call 202-488-3300.