TWO STUDENTS FROM GOODMAN THEATRE'S FIRST-EVER LOUDER THAN A BOMB TEAM—KRISTYN ZOE WILKERSON AND AJ SMITH—TO PERFORM THEIR ORIGINAL WORKS AT MARCH 25 AUGUST WILSON POETRY PANEL

***WILKERSON AND SMITH COMPETED IN THE INDIVIDUAL FINALS ON SATURDAY, MARCH 21***

(Chicago, IL) Kristyn Zoe Wilkerson and AJ Smith, two students from Goodman Theatre’s Louder Than A Bomb (LTAB) team, competed in the Individual Finals this past Saturday, March 21 at The Art Institute of Chicago. The Goodman Education’s Youth Poetry team advanced from the February 25 preliminary bouts and placed second at the March 15 semi-finals on. With more than 120 schools and 1300 young poets participating, Wilkerson and Smith were among the top 12 poets competing for the individual title based on their original poems. This Wednesday, Wilkerson and Smith will perform their works at the “August Wilson: From Poet to Playwright” panel, celebrating the rarely heard, unpublished poetry by August Wilson. The panel, part of the Goodman’s city-wide August Wilson Celebration, also features a theatrical performance by Universes, a nationally acclaimed theater ensemble. For more information on Louder Than a Bomb, click here. To reserve “August Wilson: From Poet to Playwright” tickets (free) and to view the rest of the lineup for The August Wilson Celebration, click here.

About Louder Than A Bomb and Young Chicago Authors

Hosted annually by Young Chicago Authors during February and March, LTAB attracts more than 1000 participants from 120 schools and community organizations. Of the 4000 young Chicagoans served through the various year-round Young Chicago Authors programs in writing, publication and performance education, approximately 68% are African American and 18% are Hispanic/Latino. More than 10,000 audience members and participants attend the month long festival programming across Chicagoland, now in its 15th year.

This Week’s Events in the August Wilson Celebration

The Goodman’s citywide celebration includes these events over the next week:

- TONIGHT: “August Wilson at Yale” (mod. Constanza Romero) at DePaul University | March 23 at 7pm
- Reading: Seven Guitars (dir. Aaron Todd Douglas) at Chicago State University | March 24 at 7pm
- Special Event: “August Wilson: From Poet to Playwright” (featuring Wilkerson and Smith) at The Poetry Foundation | March 25 at 7pm
- Reading: Joe Turner’s Come and Gone (dir. Reginald Lawrence) at Beverly Arts Center | March 28 at 2pm

For tickets and the rest of the lineup for The August Wilson Celebration, click here.

About the Goodman’s Education and Community Engagement

Goodman Theatre offers a variety of programming to enable Chicagoland learners of all ages to experience theater first-hand with working professionals, teachers and artists; Willa Taylor is the director of education and community engagement. Programs are offered to audience members of all ages to engage in deeper explorations of the work on the Goodman’s stages. The Student Subscription Series (SSS) engages more than 20 Chicago public high schools each year to creatively supplement students’ reading, writing, critical thinking and communication skills. Special matinee performances of Goodman productions are supplemented with exclusive teacher training workshops, educational guides and post-show discussions. CONTEXT: Discourse & Discussion is a series designed to engage the community in debate, dialogue and deeper exploration of themes within Goodman productions. Unlike a traditional post-show discussion which centers on the production, CONTEXT events focus on particular issues raised within the plays and explore how they resonate in today's culture. Cindy Bandle Young Critics (CBYC) is a joint venture between Goodman Theatre and the Association for Women
Journalists that introduces 11th grade girls to the art of theater criticism and the world of professional writing. Participants see every show in the Goodman’s season, interview theater artists and receive one-on-one mentoring from professional journalists. **General Theater Studies** (GTS) is a six-week summer intensive for 14-18 year-olds with a focus on critical thinking, literacy, oral history and storytelling. Designed to validate student voices, help them examine their creativity and introduce them to the creation of theater, GTS is an ensemble-building program that culminates in an original student performance. The **Goodman’s Youth Art Council** (GYAC) allows past participants in theater programs to stay involved in the institution. Members of this leadership development program are committed to exposing their peers to theatrical productions and act as ambassadors for the Goodman in their communities and schools. **GeNarrations** is a writing workshop for senior citizens in which participants develop personal narrative performance pieces based on themes raised by Goodman Theatre productions, which they are then invited to perform in a public forum. Visit [goodmantheatre.org/education](http://goodmantheatre.org/education) for more information.

**About The August Wilson Celebration**

Goodman Theatre partners with more than 20 Chicago theaters, schools and organizations to present **The August Wilson Celebration** (March 9 – April 18), an extensive exploration of the enduring impact of Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning playwright August Wilson, “theater’s poet of Black America” (*New York Times*). Celebration Curator Chuck Smith, together with Constanza Romero (Wilson’s widow), Ron OJ Parson (actor/director) and Dr. Harvey Young (Northwestern University), has assembled a five-week line-up of readings, educational seminars, discussions, poetry and more. For information and ticket reservations for the free Celebration events, visit [The August Wilson Celebration](http://augustwilsoncelebration.org). Note: some events may be sold out due to high demand and limited seating capacity.

— 30 —