



POETRY

OUT LOUD

NATIONAL RECITATION CONTEST

2011 Arizona
Recitation
State Finals

EIGHT, ARIZONA PBS
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

March 16, 2011



Letter from the Executive Director

Welcome to the **Sixth Annual Arizona Poetry Out Loud State Finals**. Tonight's event is the culmination of months of participation by high school students and teachers all across the state of Arizona. Over 11,500 high school students and 50 schools participated in the program this year. Those of you here to witness tonight's recitations are in for a rare treat.

Many of you here already know what we are about to experience. Witnessing these students recite poems of their choosing is quite amazing. Through the commitment and dedication of teachers across our state, students who participate in Poetry Out Loud build public speaking skills, and learn about their literary heritage.



Pictured: 2010 Arizona Poetry Out Loud State Finalists representing 23 Arizona high schools at the State Finals competition. Photo Credit: Joe Jankovsky.

To the students who are here today to compete: Congratulations on your accomplishment. What you have achieved in representing your schools and your regions at the state finals is no small feat.

To the teachers and parents who accompanied the students today: Thank you. Thank you for your commitment to instilling skills in our students that will stay with them beyond this program and beyond today; skills that will help them be competitive in a 21st century workforce.

To our partners who make the program possible: Your dedication to serving your community and the Arizona arts industry is remarkable. Thank you for the opportunity you've provided these students.

To the audience: Poetry Out Loud is one of the many arts programs in our state that delivers the benefits of arts education to our young people. Through these programs, students often improve their academic performance, demonstrate greater leadership and social skills, and develop advanced creative problem solving. We invite you to learn more about how you can support and protect the arts for future generations of Arizonans at www.thechoiceisart.org.

Finally, it is with great gratitude that we thank Eight, Arizona PBS for working with us this year to provide a wonderful performing space in their studio, and for helping the recitations live on in the future broadcast.

Robert C. Booker, Executive Director
Arizona Commission on the Arts

Recitation Schedule

Welcome to the Sixth Annual Arizona Poetry Out Loud State Finals

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

7:00 – 9:00pm

Eight, Arizona PBS

555 North Central Avenue, 6th Floor

Phoenix, Arizona 85004

Welcome

Alex Nelson, Poetry Out Loud Coordinator

Robert C. Booker, Executive Director

Arizona Senator Al Melvin, District 26

First Round

Break

Second Round

Break

Announcement of Four Finalists

Final Round

Guest Reading

Announcement of State Champion and Runner-Up

Introduction

Poetry Out Loud is a national poetry recitation contest for high school students that begins in the classroom and culminates with the Poetry Out Loud National Finals in Washington D.C. By inviting the dynamic aspects of slam poetry, spoken word, and theatre into the English class, Poetry Out Loud encourages the nation's youth to learn about great poetry by studying, memorizing and performing some of the most influential and timeless poems of the English language. Through Poetry Out Loud, students can master public speaking skills, build self-confidence and learn about their literary heritage.

A program of the **National Endowment for the Arts** and **The Poetry Foundation**, Poetry Out Loud is delivered in all 50 states and three territories through partnerships with the State Arts Agencies. The Arizona Poetry Out Loud program is managed and supported by the Arizona Commission on the Arts.

This evening's event, the **2011 Arizona Poetry Out Loud State Finals**, is hosted by Eight, Arizona PBS and proudly presented by the Arizona Commission on the Arts in partnership with Arizona State University's Young Writers Program and the University of Arizona Poetry Center.

Participation in Arizona Poetry Out Loud continues to grow with over 11,500 students and 200 teachers from across the state participating in the program this year. We congratulate all participating teachers and students on a successful year of Poetry Out Loud in their classrooms and at their schools!

This year, 80 student finalists represented their high schools at three regional competitions: Central, Northern and Southern. Three finalists were selected at each regional competition and these nine students will be competing this evening for the title of **Arizona Poetry Out Loud State Champion**. The winner of the 2011 Arizona Poetry Out Loud State Finals will receive \$200 and the winner's school library 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.

In addition, the Arizona Poetry Out Loud State Champion will receive an all-expenses-paid trip (with a chaperone) to compete in the National Finals in Washington D.C., April 27-29, 2011. 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 Poetry Out Loud National Champion.

For more information on Poetry Out Loud, visit www.poetryoutloud.org or www.azarts.gov/pol.

Contest Structure and Evaluation Criteria

2011 Arizona Poetry Out Loud includes three levels of competition: School Finals, Regional Competitions and the State Finals.

School Finals

Each participating high school held a school contest at the end of their Poetry Out Loud unit or program. The top two scoring students from each school final advanced to their region's competition.

Regional Competitions

A total of 80 students competed at three regional competitions; central, northern and southern. At each regional competition, students recited two poems; the scores of these poems were tallied and the three students with the highest scores advanced to the state finals.

State Finals

Nine students—three from each region—will perform recitations in tonight's event. Each student will recite two poems, one in each of the first two rounds. The scores of these two recitations will be tallied and the four students with the highest scores will recite a third poem in a final round of recitations. The score of the third poem will be added to each of the students' first set of scores. The highest scoring student will be named the Arizona State Champion; the second highest scoring student, the First Place Runner-up.

Scoring in Poetry Out Loud is cumulative between judges' scores and from round to round, however scores from previous competitions do not carry over to subsequent contests.

Each student will be evaluated on a scale from one (very weak) to six (outstanding) using the following criteria:

Physical Presence

Voice and Articulation

Dramatic Appropriateness

Level of Difficulty

Evidence of Understanding

Overall Performance

Additionally, a maximum of eight points will be assigned for accuracy.

For your reference, you will find a sample Contest Evaluation Sheet on the next page. We hope you enjoy the recitations!

Poetry Out Loud Contest Evaluation Sheet

Contest Evaluation Sheet

NAME OF STUDENT:

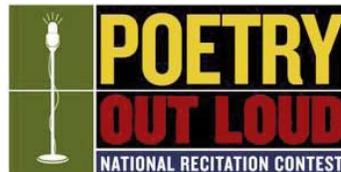
TITLE OF POEM:

	Very Weak	Weak	Average	Good	Excellent	Outstanding
Physical Presence	1	2	3	4	5	6
Voice and Articulation	1	2	3	4	5	6
Dramatic Appropriateness	1	2	3	4	5	6
Level of Difficulty	1	2	3	4	5	6
Evidence of Understanding	1	2	3	4	5	6
Overall Performance	1	2	3	5	7	9

TOTAL: _____ (maximum of 39 points)

ACCURACY JUDGE'S SCORE: _____ (maximum of 8 points)

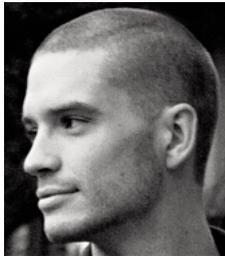
FINAL SCORE: _____ **(MAXIMUM OF 47 POINTS)**



Judges



Christopher Lane. Through his endless search for greater awareness, this award winning poet has decided not to fight it anymore—poetry has him in it's grip and he doesn't care if it ever lets go. Be that as it may, Mr. Lane still finds time to break free from its jaws and work on his book *The Sweetest Part of the Bread* (Bill Desmond Award, 2010), coach young poets from Sedona, read classic poetry to Alzheimer's patients and be a husband and father. In 2009 he received Sedona's Mayor's Arts Award. He hopes you'll have coffee with him soon, so there can be an exchange of metaphors.



Logan Phillips is a bilingual writer, performer and transdisciplinary artist from the Arizona/Mexico borderlands. He is author of five poetry chapbooks including *Arroyo Ink* (2009), and has toured throughout the US, Mexico and as far afield as Vancouver, Paris, Bogotá and Penzance, England. Co-artistic director of the binational multimedia performance troupe Verbo • bala Spoken Video, Mr. Phillips currently lives in Tucson where he coordinates the Tucson Youth Poetry Slam.



Robert X. Planet is an award-winning set and costume designer, writer, musician, actor and director, best known locally as the former drama critic and Thrills Editor at *Phoenix New Times*. Mr. Planet has worked extensively with iTheatre Collaborative, Tempe Little Theatre, On The Spot Productions, Mesa Arts Center, Carefree Theatre Company, Tombstone Repertory Theatre, Phoenix Theatre and others. He has produced and performed in *Planet Poe*, at ASU Kerr Cultural Center, Paperheart Gallery, Herberger Theatre Center, Alwun House and other venues.



Alberto Ríos, a recent finalist for the National Book Award, is the author of ten books and chapbooks of poetry, three collections of short stories and a memoir about growing up on the border, *Capirotada*. Mr. Ríos is the recipient of numerous awards and his work is included in over 200 national and international literary anthologies. His work is regularly taught and translated, has been adapted to dance and both classical and popular music. Mr. Ríos is a Regents' Professor and Katharine C. Turner Endowed Chair in English at Arizona State University.



Beth Staples received her MFA in fiction writing in 2007 from Arizona State University, where she now works at The Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing as Managing Editor of *Hayden's Ferry Review*, *Marginalia* and *Word of Mouth*. She also teaches fiction writing at ASU and Mesa Community College. Her work has appeared in *The Portland Review* and *Phoebe*. She has been a preliminary judge for the 2009 and 2010 Million Writers Award and recently judged *merj* magazine's student contest.

Student Finalists



Carly Bates, Arizona School for the Arts, Phoenix

"A Dream Within a Dream" by Edgar Allan Poe
"Hysteria" by Dionisio D. Martínez

Carly is a junior at Arizona School for the Arts. She enjoys playing the piano and clarinet and being a member of the jazz band. This is her first time competing in Poetry Out Loud, past the school level.



Reid Carter, Flagstaff High School, Flagstaff

"I Am Offering this Poem" by Jimmy Santiago Baca
"Battle-Hymn of the Republic" by Julia Ward Howe

Reid is a senior at Flagstaff High School. He is not certain about many of his future plans, but he is positive that he wants to work as some sort of writer. His interests are writing, swimming, writing, debating, poetry and more writing.



Travis Marino, Freedom Christian Academy, Queen Creek

"A Dream Within a Dream" by Edgar Allan Poe
"The Tyger" by William Blake

Travis is 16 years old, in 10th grade and attends Freedom Christian Academy. He has played competitive basketball for six years and was awarded MVP in 2010. Travis has participated in a dramatic presentation of "Drama on the High Seas" for his school and loves to write fictional novels, as well as poems.



Grace Barker, Kingman High School, Kingman

"Flirtation" by Rita Dove
"Her Kind" by Anne Sexton

To Grace, poetry is something beautiful and expressive, that gives insight into life; that is why she enjoys writing her own poetry. Grace loves to read and write, she loves music and her family. Grace hopes to spend her future as a doctor; she plans to attend a 4 year university where she can study pre-medicine, and create a future where she can help others.



Lindsey Bulloch, Mountain View High School, Mesa

"Revenge" by Letitia Elizabeth Landon
"The Lamb" by Linda Gregg

Lindsey is a senior and has been involved in over thirty theatrical productions, including *Disney's Aladdin*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *Cinderella*. She enjoys dancing, reading and singing classical and jazz music. She also has a love of learning and teaching. She plans to major in broadcasting/journalism.

Student Finalists



Alina Burniston-Perez, Sedona Red Rock High School, Sedona

"On the Death of Richard West" by Thomas Gray
"Memory as a Hearing Aid" by Tony Hoagland

Alina is an aspiring pianist. She enjoys sculpting, running and playing volleyball. She also loves bunnies and delicious food.



Steffi McNerney, St. Gregory College Preparatory, Tucson

"The Days Gone By" by James Whitcomb Riley
"The Uniform" by Marvin Bell

Steffi is passionate about literature and art; and poetry is the ultimate expression of both. She loves the power and emotional impact of poetry and the insights it brings about the world. She is absolutely thrilled to represent St. Gregory this year and hopes to impact someone else through the poems she has chosen.



Naomi Blackwell, Tucson High Magnet School, Tucson

"Alone" by Edgar Allan Poe
"Dulce et Decorum Est" by Wilfred Owen

Naomi was born in Hamburg, Germany, and is currently a senior at Tucson High who hopes to attend college after she graduates. She is a member of the Poetry and Spoken Word club at her school and enjoys writing poetry, as well as reading it.



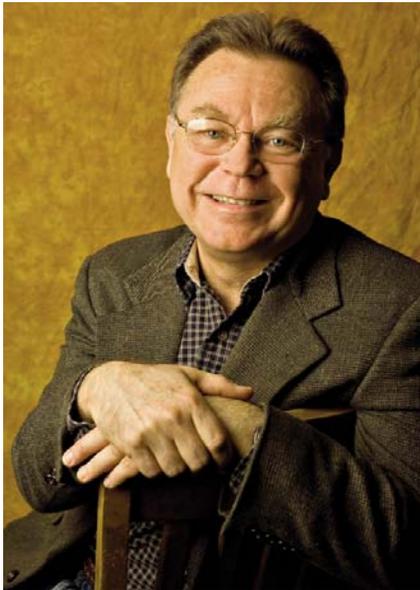
Samantha Neville, Tucson High Magnet School, Tucson

"Chorus Sacerdotum" by Fulke Greville
"I Am the People, the Mob" by Carl Sandburg

Samantha was born in Tucson at UMC in 1995. Over the course of her education she has acquired a love of literature and performance. She enjoys playing the piano, learning Romance languages, writing, reading books on Greek Mythology and running. She is currently a freshman at Tucson High.

Special Guest

Featured Reading by Celebrated Arizona Poet



Alberto Álvaro Ríos, born in 1952 in Nogales, Arizona, is the author of ten books and chapbooks of poetry, three collections of short stories and a memoir. His books of poems include *The Theater of Night*, winner of the 2007 PEN/Beyond Margins Award, along with *The Smallest Muscle in the Human Body*, a finalist for the National Book Award, *Teodoro Luna's Two Kisses*, *The Lime Orchard Woman*, *The Warrington Poems*, *Five Indiscretions*, and *Whispering to Fool the Wind*. His three collections of short stories are, most recently, *The Curtain of Trees*, along with *Pig Cookies* and *The Iguana Killer*. His memoir about growing up on the Mexico-Arizona border—called

Capirotada—won the Latino Literary Hall of Fame Award and was chosen as the OneBookArizona 2009 selection.

Mr. Ríos is the recipient of the Western Literature Association Distinguished Achievement Award, the Arizona Governor's Arts Award, fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, the Walt Whitman Award, the Western States Book Award for Fiction, six Pushcart Prizes in both poetry and fiction, and inclusion in *The Norton Anthology of Modern Poetry*, as well as over 200 other national and international literary anthologies. His work is regularly taught and translated, and has been adapted to dance and both classical and popular music.

His most recent book, *The Dangerous Shirt*, is just out from Copper Canyon Press.

Mr. Ríos is a Regents' Professor at Arizona State University, where he has taught for over 28 years and where he holds the further distinction of the Katharine C. Turner Endowed Chair in English.

Thank You

The **Arizona Commission on the Arts** would like to thank the following 2011 Arizona Poetry Out Loud partners and sponsors.

Central Region Partner

Arizona State University's Young Writers Program (YWP) provides the k-12 community with arts-based, standard-aligned creative writing opportunities through mutually beneficial partnerships. The Young Writers Program utilizes a variety of arts-based strategies designed to create early positive arts experience that increase chances for student achievement.

Southern Region Partner

The **University of Arizona Poetry Center** in Tucson is a living archive, founded in 1960, to maintain and cherish the spirit of poetry. The Poetry Center promotes poetic literacy and sustains, enriches and advances a diverse literary culture. An internationally renowned poetry library, the Poetry Center sponsors numerous programs, including readings and lectures, classes and workshops, writing residencies, discussion groups, contests, exhibitions, K-12 educational resources, field trips and online curricula.

Broadcast Partner

Eight, Arizona PBS specializes in the education of children, in-depth news and public affairs, lifelong learning and the celebration of arts and culture—utilizing the power of noncommercial television, the Internet, educational outreach services and community-based initiatives. The PBS station began broadcasting from the campus of Arizona State University on January 30, 1961. Now more than 80 percent of Arizonans receive the signal through a network of translators, cable and satellite systems. With more than 1 million viewers each week, Eight consistently ranks among the most-viewed public television stations per capita in the country.

National Sponsors

The **National Endowment for the Arts** is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts—both new and established—bringing the arts to all Americans, and providing leadership in arts education. Established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government, the Arts Endowment is the largest national funder of the arts, bringing great art to all 50 states, including rural areas, inner cities and military bases.

The Poetry Foundation, publisher of *Poetry* magazine and one of the largest literary organizations in the world, exists to discover and celebrate the best poetry and to place it before the largest possible audience. The Poetry Foundation seeks to be a leader in shaping a receptive climate for poetry by developing new audiences, creating new avenues for delivery and encouraging new kinds of poetry through innovative literary prizes and programs.



Arizona
Commission
on the Arts

Young
Writers
Program
*Office of Youth Preparation
Education Partnerships*

