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**NOBEL LAUREATE ALAN HEEGER TO AWARD \$10,000 PRIZE TO WINNER OF
PRESTIGIOUS *STAGE* INTERNATIONAL SCRIPT COMPETITION
FOR BEST NEW PLAY ABOUT SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

**WINNING PLAY, *PHOTOGRAPH 51*, BY ANNA ZIEGLER, CHOSEN BY
PULITZER, TONY, OLIVIER & NOBEL-WINNING JUDGES
DAVID AUBURN, DAVID LINDSAY-ABAIRE, JOHN GUARE, DR. DOUGLAS
OSHEROFF & SIR ANTHONY LEGGETT**

Nobel Laureate Alan Heeger (2000, chemistry) and *STAGE* founder/director Nancy Kawalek will present New York playwright Anna Ziegler with the 3rd *STAGE* International Script Competition prize for the best new play about science and technology.

The \$10,000 prize will be given during a short ceremony on Saturday, April 11 at 8:00 p.m. at the Fountain Theatre in Los Angeles, immediately prior to a performance of the winning play, *Photograph 51*.

Photograph 51 was chosen as the winner of the *STAGE* Competition by a stellar panel of judges, all multiple award-winners in their own right: Pulitzer Prize and Tony-Award winning playwright David Auburn; Tony, Olivier, and Obie Award-winning playwright John Guare; Nobel Laureate in physics and KBE Sir Anthony Leggett; Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright David Lindsay-Abaire; and Nobel Laureate in physics Dr. Douglas Osheroff. Ziegler's winning script was one of nearly 150 entries hailing from a dozen countries.

Photograph 51 – originally commissioned and produced by Maryland's Active Cultures Theatre – is currently receiving its West Coast premiere at the Fountain, a much heralded Los Angeles theatre. The Fountain Theatre production, directed by the award-winning Simon Levy, is at 5060 Fountain Avenue (at Normandie) in Los Angeles. For reservations and information, call (323) 663-1525 or go to www.fountaintheatre.com/perform.html.

The fourth round of the *STAGE* Competition has officially begun; the next deadline for entries is December 15, 2009. Scripts will be accepted from June 15, 2009 – December 15, 2009.

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STAGE – Scientists, Technologists and Artists Generating Exploration – is a unique collaboration between the Professional Artists Lab (the Lab), a dynamic artistic laboratory, and the California NanoSystems Institute (CNSI), an esteemed science institute, both housed at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Ziegler's *Photograph 51* asks, "What does a woman have to do to succeed in the world of science?" Set largely in 1953, the play concerns Dr. Rosalind Franklin, a brilliant and passionate scientist who pours herself into her studies of DNA. But when fellow scientists Watson and Crick find out about her groundbreaking discoveries, her work is suddenly not her own – and shortly thereafter they claim credit for a major breakthrough. A compelling drama about a woman's life in a man's world, *Photograph 51* asks how we become who we become, and whether we have the power to change.

Ziegler is a published and produced playwright whose work has been developed by the Sundance Theatre Lab, the Old Vic New Voices program, Primary Stages, Geva Theatre Center, McCarter Theatre, New Georges (where she is an Affiliate Artist), the Hampstead Theatre and Theatre 503 in London, Birmingham Rep, and Company B at the Belvoir St. Theatre in Sydney, Australia, among others. Ziegler received her MFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

In reference to this year's *STAGE* winner and finalists, John Guare, one of the illustrious judges, remarked, "It's a rare contest which has such strong entries. All of them are stage worthy. Bravos to all the playwrights."

Along with Ziegler, three other playwrights were singled out in the 3rd Competition as finalists. Oscar-winning and Tony-nominated writer and director Eric Simonson was cited for his new play *Fake*, which he will also direct as the first play of the 2009-2010 season at Chicago's distinguished Steppenwolf Theatre Company, of which Simonson is a member. Award-winning playwright Jennifer Maisel's play, *There or Here*, opened at New York's Hypothetical Theatre in September 2008 to a rave review in the New York Times. Newcomer Charlotte Rahn-Lee was also recognized as a finalist for her play, *Double Helix to Heaven*.

For more information:

STAGE: www.stage.cnsi.ucsb.edu

Professional Artists Lab: www.proartslab.ucsb.edu

California NanoSystems Institute: www.cnsi.ucsb.edu

The Fountain Theatre: www.fountaintheatre.com/perform.html

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