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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Nationwide World Premiere Comes to Harding Fine Arts Academy**

Oklahoma City-- Drama students at Oklahoma City's Harding Fine Arts Academy (HFAA) will be performing in a unique drama production later this month. The play PROSPECT HIGH: BROOKLYN, written by Daniel Robert Sullivan and a team of New York City teenagers, will premiere in 23 high schools across the country. HFAA was chosen to be one of the exclusive high school in the country to perform this production. The "rolling" productions began for the 2015 - 16 academic year in September in Indianapolis at the Broad Ripple High School. The production has rolled along across the United States to high schools from Syracuse and Tallahassee in November and Harrisburg and Milwaukee in December.

The production will roll into Harding Fine Arts Academy (HFAA) on January 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 beginning at 8:00 pm. The performances will end in New York City in the spring of 2016.

Conceived by Daniel Robert Sullivan (Tommy DeVito in Jersey Boys, Author of Places Please!), Roundabout Theatre Company in New York City and co-written by a team of New York City teenagers, the play focuses on four intelligent, highly-charged students and one seriously apathetic teacher. PROSPECT HIGH: BROOKLYN was created with the intent of offering a new collection of serious, true-to-life material for teenage actors. The play addresses themes of apathy, revenge, deep friendship, casual racism, self-harm, and the power of both good and bad advice from teachers, all against the backdrop of an enormous Brooklyn high school.

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“The National New Play Network introduced the concept of a rolling world premiere in 1998, and I’ve always thought it would be great to offer that kind of arrangement to high schools,” says creator Daniel Robert Sullivan. “There is so much energy and power in teenage theatre-makers, but that positive force is often felt only locally,” he said.

After much research, 23 of the boldest high school theatre departments from across the country were chosen to participate in this rolling production.

“PROSPECT HIGH: BROOKLYN is well suited for our student actors because it touches on subjects relevant to what kids face today- gender issues, maintaining grades, getting into college, violence and bullying,” says HFAA Drama Instructor, Brenda Williams. “When we first read the play, the kids were amazed at hearing some of their own stories being told,” she said.

Not only are students taking the acting roles in the production but have been assigned to direct it as well.

“This is an incredible opportunity for our students and our school, says Williams. “We are receiving national publicity with our production, which is also the challenge. We have to rise to the occasion!” she said.

PROSPECT HIGH: BROOKLYN contains adult language and situations.

Ticket prices are \$5 for Adults, \$3 for Senior Citizens / Military and \$2 for Students.

For more information on the production or Harding Fine Arts Academy contact Linda Lightner at 405-702-4322 or by going to [www.hardingfinearts.org](http://www.hardingfinearts.org).

Harding Fine Arts Academy is an Oklahoma City charter high school that prepares students for college in an academically challenging, arts-integrated environment and has recently been named a 2015 Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

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