



MEDIA ALERT

June 23, 2016

CELEBRITY ACTORS, CIVIC LEADERS SPEAK OUT TO EMPOWER TEEN GIRLS

WriteGirl marks a milestone year with guest speakers and performances of teen girls' work

WHAT: WriteGirl, a nonprofit creative writing and mentoring organization for at-risk girls in Los Angeles, will be holding its 15th Anniversary Celebration in Beverly Hills on Sat., June 25, with civic leaders, celebrity actors, and professional writers to celebrate the bold young voices of more than 100 WriteGirl teens.

WHO: Guest speakers include:

- **California State Senator Holly J. Mitchell**, representing the 30th district, which includes Culver City and parts of South Los Angeles
- **Los Angeles City Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson**, representing LA City Council District 8 of western South Los Angeles
- **Rosie Rivera**, TV personality, CEO of Jenni Rivera Enterprises

Performances by:

- **Felicia Day**, actress, comedian, writer and web series creator known for her role in *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*
- **Kelsey Scott**, actress known for her role in *How to Get Away with Murder*
- **Sherri Saum**, Emmy-nominated actress known for her role in *The Fosters*
- **Pamela Guest**, actress known for her role in movies such as *Mission to Moscow*, *Airplane II: The Sequel*, and *Married*

WHY: This year marks 15 years of transforming the lives of teen girls in Los Angeles. Executive Director Keren Taylor founded WriteGirl in 2001 with the goal of leveraging the skills of women writers to inspire and guide the teen girls in Los Angeles to tell their stories and discover their creative voices. WriteGirl began with just 30 teen girls and 30 women writers, and today, WriteGirl is a thriving community with 200 volunteer women writers serving more than 500 girls

annually. WriteGirl has helped nearly 1,000 girls get to college, and WriteGirl has alumnae studying and working around the world.

WHERE: Writers Guild Theater 135 S Doheny Dr. Beverly Hills, CA 90211

WHEN: Saturday, June 25, 2016

1:00 Doors open for silent auction

2:00 Show begins

3:00 Intermission/lunch

3:30 Performances continue

4:30-5pm Dessert Reception

MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES: Video and photos of girls performing their poetry and stories. Interviews with special guests, WriteGirl mentors and staff, and teen girls.

EVENT SPONSORS: Sharky's Woodfired Mexican Grill, Yummy Cupcakes/Burbank, HBK Investments, Dream Team Directors, City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs

RSVP (required): Katie Geyer, Communications Manager, (323) 327-2555, communications@writegirl.org.

ABOUT WRITEGIRL: [WriteGirl](http://WriteGirl.org), a Los Angeles-based creative writing and mentoring organization for teens, spotlights the power of a girl and her pen. Through workshops, readings, publications and mentoring relationships with professional women writers, WriteGirl offers girls techniques and insights into poetry, songwriting, fiction, journalism and more. WriteGirl encourages girls to develop communication skills, confidence and a positive outlook on themselves and their futures. This year, WriteGirl also expanded its reach with the launch of a new program for teen boys, under the name "Bold Ink Writers" bringing creative writing workshops into juvenile halls and camps, in partnership with the Arts for Incarcerated Youth Network. Celebrating its 15th season, WriteGirl was recognized by Michelle Obama with the 2013 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award for its success inspiring thousands of at-risk teens to enroll in college. In 2014, co-founder and CEO Keren Taylor was named one of CNN's Heroes.