Young Playwrights Festival
SATURDAY ~ January 30, Noon
By Emily Imanishi, Aishwarya Marathe, Lana Sage & Casey Tilgner
Program director Megan Ward Stevens Producer: Lakewood Theatre Company
Young Playwrights Festival celebrates its 5th year as a participant in Fertile Ground Festival. Past YPF selectees have gone on to receive regional and national recognition for their awards by The Blank Theatre’s Nationwide Young Playwrights Festival in Los Angeles, National Endowment for the Arts/American Theatre Wing 2020 Songwriting Competition and other state and local competitions. YPF is a collection of one act plays by student playwrights who have been selected to work with professional directors, actors and playwrights to gain insight, experience and feedback to develop their plays. YPF provides an opportunity for these playwrights to learn and discover from professional playwright mentors, Matthew Zrebski, C.S. Whitcomb and others on how to hone their playwriting skills through a series of workshops. YPF is under the direction of Megan Ward Stevens who is a member of the Lincoln Center Directors Lab in New York City and holds a B.A. Honors in Theatre, from Goldsmiths College at the University of London. She is the former Artistic/Literary Assistant and a festival producer for JAW: A Playwrights Festival at Portland Center Stage. The culmination of the YPF process is to experience the audience response at this presentation of their work. YPF sponsor for 2021 is the City of Lake Oswego.

WEDNESDAY ~ February 3, Noon
Acting Counsel
By C.S. Whitcomb
Directed by C.S. Whitcomb Producer: Lakewood Theatre Company
C.S. Whitcomb’s latest work, Acting Counsel starts when an aging actor comes to see a lawyer to write up a will and the attorney offers him a trade, “Full disclosure: I saw your Lear. Twice. I’ll do it for free if you’ll help me deliver a summation to the jury that might get an 18-year-old kid off Death Row.” And so begins an unlikely collaboration and friendship where the stakes are literally life and death. Where the Law meets the Theatre and hopefully justice will prevail. The reading stars Tobias Andersen and Tom Walton.
C.S. Whitcomb is one of Oregon’s most prolific playwrights whose plays have been produced off-Broadway, regionally and locally. The Seven Wonders of Ballyknock (2015) and Parnassis On Wheels (2018) both had world premieres at Lakewood Theatre Company. She wrote Stoker and Santos produced for Proscenium Live by Portland Shakespeare Project. Lear’s Follies was commissioned by Portland Shakespeare Project and had its world premiere, produced by them, at Artists Rep. She has been nominated for the Angus Bowmer Award, Emmy, Drama, Edgar Allan Poe, and Writers Guild of America Awards. She has written screen roles for Jason Robards, Ellen Burstyn, Anjelica Huston, Martin Sheen, Gena Rowlands and many others. She co-wrote the documentary THINK: The Legacy of Think and Grow Rich which had its red carpet premiere in L.A. in October. Her latest book, The Heart of the Film: Writing Love Stories in Screenplays was published in 2018. She teaches screenwriting locally and takes a group of writers on a Trans-Atlantic cruise every spring. cynthiawhitcomb.com (85 minutes)