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### **Philadelphia Area High School Student to Compete in the 39<sup>th</sup> English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition in New York**

Philadelphia, March 6, 2022 — Luce Shea, student of Liz Carlson-Guerin from Friends' Central School in Wynnewood achieved first place at the English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition Philadelphia Branch tournament. Due to restrictions imposed by COVID, Lucy Shea will join more than 50 other contestants from around the country to participate in a digital version of the ESU National Shakespeare Competition semi-finals. If conditions allow, the 10 finalists will be brought to New York City for the finals.

Niamh Williams earned second place, and Kaije Williams was awarded third place in the Philadelphia Branch competition. Each student performed a Shakespearean monologue of their choice and recited a sonnet. Competitors were judged on their understanding of their selected texts and on their ability to communicate their interpretation to the audience. Judges for the Branch Competition included Jon Kean, Nick Schwazman and Ray Smith.

There will be a reception on Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at The Arden Theatre – Hamilton Family Art Center, 62. N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Philadelphia, where the top three winners will perform their monologues in the presence of their family, ESU members and supporters. The students will receive gifts from the branch and their scholarship checks. For reception registration information, please email [philaESU@gmail.com](mailto:philaESU@gmail.com).

The **English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition** is a performance-based education program in which high school students nationwide read, analyze, perform, and recite Shakespeare's works. Through the program, students develop communication skills and an appreciation of the power of language and literature. In the Competition's three progressive levels, students perform in their own schools, at ESU Branch community competitions, and at the National Shakespeare Competition in New York City. Since 1983, more than 300,000 young Americans of all backgrounds have taken advantage of this opportunity to bring the timeless works of Shakespeare to life and learn to express his words with understanding, feeling, and clarity.

## ESU National Shakespeare Competition

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Lucy Shea, as the winner of the ESU Philadelphia Branch competition represent the Branch remotely in the ESU National Shakespeare Competition on April 25, competing with more than 50 other winners from Branch competitions nationwide. Via the internet, each will perform a monologue and sonnet before a panel of distinguished judges as well as their fellow contestants. Based on their performances, ten students will advance to a final round, which will take place in New York City if conditions allow. Those finalists will perform their selections and compete for the first place award, which is an all-expenses-paid scholarship to attend the Midsummer Conservatory at the British American Drama Academy in Oxford, England. For additional information regarding the English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition, please visit [www.shakespearecompetition.org](http://www.shakespearecompetition.org).

**Founded in 1920, The English-Speaking Union** is a non-profit, non-political educational organization that employs English as a catalyst to foster global understanding and good will through educational and cultural exchange programs. The ESU carries out its work through a network of 58 Branches nationwide along with affiliates in the United Kingdom and 60 other countries. For additional information about the English-Speaking Union, please visit [www.esuus.org](http://www.esuus.org).

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