



**For Immediate Release**

**Cleveland Media Contact:**

Diana Greenberg  
216-233-7033 mobile  
Diana@dbgpr.com

**15-Year-Old Angileece Williams Winner of Scenarios USA's  
"What's the REAL DEAL about Masculinity?"  
National Writing Contest**

March 4, 2010, Cleveland — 15-year-old Angileece Williams, a composed, conscientious sophomore at Saint Martin de Porres High School is about to experience something few teenagers do ... Hollywood is coming to Cleveland, and a big time director is at the helm.

In 1999, the New York-based non-profit organization Scenarios USA embarked on a novel approach to address the challenges facing American youth by letting the youth lead the way. Each year, Scenarios USA selects three communities to host a writing contest inviting local youth to submit stories on issues — such as gender, race, relationships, drug and alcohol use, HIV/AIDS, and sexuality — that young people struggle with on a daily basis. The writers of the winning stories are paired with professional Hollywood directors to turn their stories into short films. To date more than 12,000 students nationwide have written stories and 19 movies have emerged from the process. Nearly 15 million people a year view Scenarios USA films on TV, the web, at film festivals, and in classrooms.

Students in Cleveland – along with students in New York City and the Rio Grande Valley in south Texas – had been selected for this (and last) year's Scenarios USA writing contest. Throughout the fall of 2009, workshops were held in schools throughout Cuyahoga County, and young people confronted this year's Scenarios USA theme: "What's the REAL DEAL about Masculinity?"

By the time the contest deadline had been reached in late November 2009, more than 3,000 students across Cuyahoga County had participated in the writing curriculum. 49 schools and 10 community organizations, including the Juvenile Justice Center, participated. Angileece's screenplay, *Life's Poison*, was chosen from 243 entries written by students in grades 6 - 12 representing schools and communities from Parma to Warrensville Heights with significant involvement from Cleveland Metropolitan School District.

Scenarios USA encourages students to find their voices and express their opinions and experiences in their stories. Co-Founder and Executive Director, Maura Minsky, notes that "For 11 years, Scenarios USA has asked young people to help their communities understand the reality of their lived experiences by turning insight into writing and writing into film. In the process they have become a key part of moving the conversation forward on issues shaping their lives."

An introspective and sensitive student, Angileece Williams wrote *Life's Poison* hoping to inspire other teenagers. "The message that I hope people get from the story is that it's okay to be who you truly are on the inside," she confessed. "I want high school boys to realize they do not have to hide their feelings because they're worried about how other people are going to perceive them. What makes someone strong is showing what they feel on the inside, and not being afraid to do so."

Angileece will work with critically acclaimed writer-director-producer Malcolm D. Lee, who graduated from Georgetown University in 1992 and later studied at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. With his screenplay, *The Best Man*, Lee made his directorial debut at the age of 28. He then directed the action comedy *Undercover Brother* with Eddie Griffin. His third feature, *Roll Bounce*, debuted September 2005. Lee's critically acclaimed films, *Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins* and *Soul Men* bowed in 2008. Aside from directing films, commercials for various clients, and episodes for Chris Rock's *Everybody Hates Chris* television series, Lee is currently writing and developing several films and television projects. "I really look forward to helping the writer (Angileece) share her voice with the rest of the country." stated Lee.

Angileece's short, *Life's Poison*, will premiere with the other Scenarios USA winners' shorts at a special showing in New York City this fall and will then be broadcast on TV and shown in schools across the country.

Scenarios USA will host a press event honoring Angileece announcing her winning screenplay at Cleveland City Hall on March 22, 2010. Contact Diana Greenberg at 216.233.7033 for details, which will soon be released. For more information on Scenarios USA, please visit [www.scenariosusa.org](http://www.scenariosusa.org).

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Note: Media representatives may request a copy of last year's winning film, *MANchild*, written by 17-year-old Earlaina Kemp from Cleveland (Martin Luther King, Jr. High School). The film was directed by Rawson Marshall Thurber (*Dodgeball: An Underdog Story*).

*MANchild* examines masculinity by addressing family, friendship, peer pressure, and rites of passage. The DVD also includes behind-the-scenes interviews with the director, the student writer, and actors that provide insights into the Scenarios USA filmmaking process, and the impact the films have had. Contact [steph@scenariosusa.org](mailto:steph@scenariosusa.org) to request a copy of the DVD.