

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Tammy Champo,
Se Habla Espanol
Public Information Officer
Division of Youth Services
801-269-7506
tmcpherson@slco.org



Kearns After-School Program to Showcase At Capitol Theater

Funding made possible through National Learn and Serve Grant and sponsors

Salt Lake City, UT — Fights. Bullies. Peer pressure. Mounting responsibilities. Every day issues for many youth. Now the Kearns youth will show how they're learning to deal with them.

The Kearns Junior High After-School Program, in a culmination of it's first year, will be performing an original production at the Capitol Theater on June 9 at 7 p.m.

"Many of the youth involved have never had the opportunity to be inside Capitol Theater to watch a show, let alone be in one" said Nicholina Womack, program coordinator. "This has never been done before, for after-school programs, for Center for the Arts, for Capital Theater. This is a new venture."

Switch, written and performed by the youth, follows four youth who are making difficult decisions and in the end "switch" their beliefs and learn what it truly means to be an ally, empowered, united, to be a leader and have fun. The production also showcases what the youth have learned throughout the year, including break dancing, mural art, salsa, hip hop and poetry.

"I'm hoping that this performance will catch the attention of our state legislators and other community advocates to stress the need for after-school programming.," Womack said.

Organizers hope the performance in the world-class facility will be just the first year of many, making it an annual event the youth work towards and look forward to all year.

The youth will also get a chance to leave their mark on the walls beneath the historic theater. Alongside the murals of all major touring shows that have performed at Capitol Theater, *Switch* will also create a mural where all of the performers this year and in years to come can sign their names.

Funding for the production was made possible in part through a Learn and Serve grant that addresses teen violence. The production is also financed through Salt Lake County, and community partnerships and sponsors, such as Center for the Arts and the Kearns Community Council.

For tickets, contact ArtTix at 355-ARTS or online at www.arttix.org. For information about sponsorships, volunteer opportunities and pre-show tickets, contact Tammy at 269-7506 or tmcpherson@slco.org.