PRESS RELEASE
MEAA Student Theater to present student-written plays, *Berry Juice* and *Beekeeper*.

Sidney, ME- Maine Arts Academy Student Theater Company will present two original plays, *Berry Juice* and *Beekeeper*. The plays, written by MEAA seniors Evelyn Mercier and Camille Gefvert both deal with themes of isolation that many have been experiencing during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The productions will take place on Tuesday, March 9 at 7pm; Wednesday, March 10 at 4pm; and Thursday, March 11 at 7pm. Tickets are $20 for adults and $10 for students. Reservations must be made in advance, as audiences are limited to 30 people. Reservations can be made by visiting:  [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/139496789653](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/139496789653)

The plays deal with mature themes and are recommended for ages 12 and over. Due to COVID-19, performers and audiences will be masked during the performance.

*Berry Juice* follows the story of two friends living in a cabin in Appalachia. “My biggest inspiration was the isolation we’re experiencing right now” says playwright Evelyn Mercier. The message of the play is “Never underestimate the power of friendship.”  

*Beekeeper* follows the story of a family living in a futuristic world. “You can love something so much but that love cannot stop life from taking those things from you,” says playwright Camille Gerfvert, on the play’s message, “Live in the moment and treat the things you have with respect and appreciation.” The MEAA Student Theater Company focuses on collaboration between student actors, directors, playwrights, and technical team to achieve a common goal. According to student theater director Carina Higgins (senior), “What really drives this school is passion. Here we can really dive into our artistic fields with teachers who have worked in the professional world.”

The Maine Arts Academy Theater Program is run under the direction of Jeri Pitcher and focuses on the creation of original theater through a collaborative workshopping process. All proceeds from the plays will benefit the MEAA Student Theater Company and future productions. Contact: Jeri Pitcher,  [jpitcher@maineartsacademy.org](mailto:jpitcher@maineartsacademy.org)

Maine Arts Academy - *Maine’s only free high school for the arts* - serves over 80 towns this year. MeAA offers a rigorous academic and arts curriculum and bussing to all students. For more information, please visit our website at [www.maineartsacademy.org](http://www.maineartsacademy.org) or call 207-618-8908, extension 901.