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## Third annual Five Bowls of Oatmeal fundraiser to feature original plays by young people

By AnnArbor.com Staff



A glimpse of 2011's Five Bowls of Oatmeal festival.

Photo provided by Penny Seats Theatre Company

The third annual festival of student-written one act plays, called Five Bowls of Oatmeal, happens on Nov. 18 at 3 p.m. at Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington St. in Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$5 for adults, while kids under 18 are free.

Presented by local nonprofit [826michigan](#) and the University of Michigan MFA program in creative writing, the festival will feature members of [The Penny Seats Theater Company](#) performing staged readings of one-act plays with the help of foam-core props and a hefty dose of wackiness.

The plays, written by children and youth who participate in 826michigan's free programs, will each star a bowl of oatmeal as well as a full complement of colorful characters. Proceeds from the festival will benefit 826michigan's free creative writing and tutoring programs for students age 6-18 in Washtenaw County.

"With this, the third year of Five Bowls of Oatmeal, it's truly become a tradition," said 826michigan executive director **Amanda Uhle** in a press release. "And we couldn't be happier about it. As 826 National founder, **Dave Eggers**, said after last year's festival, it's very powerful for our students to see their work performed on a 'real' stage - the beautiful setting at Rackham Auditorium - by 'real' actors - our talented friends at the Penny Seats Theater Company. Five Bowls of Oatmeal has become an important part of our work with nearly 2,500 students aged 6-18 by providing another avenue for us to publish and celebrate these young writers' impressive work. We're grateful to our sponsors, Ann Arbor State Bank and Schiff Hardin LLP, for making a third year of Five Bowls of Oatmeal possible and we hope the community will join us in celebrating again!"

For more information about Five Bowls of Oatmeal: The Return of Oatmeal and to purchase tickets, visit [fivebowls.brownpapertickets.com](http://fivebowls.brownpapertickets.com). To learn more about 826michigan and its free creative writing and tutoring programs for students 6-18 in Washtenaw County, call 734-761-3463 or visit [www.826michigan.org](http://www.826michigan.org).