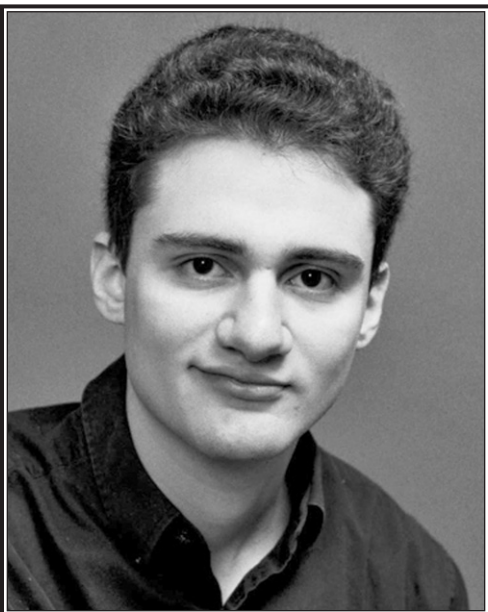


## DINING &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

## Local Playwright a Finalist in NYC Competition



Wynnewood resident Michael Bihovsky will present two scenes from “*The New Musical*” – for which he has written the script, music and lyrics – at the Jerry Orbach Theater in Manhattan on **September 23**.

Wynnewood resident Michael Bihovsky has been selected as one of eight finalists in the *Scene It! NY 2010* competition designed to showcase new musical theater works by aspiring young playwrights, composers and lyricists. Bihovsky, 23, graduated last year from New York University, where he majored in musical theater performance and composition. He will present two scenes from *The New Musical* – for which he has written the script, music and lyrics – at the Jerry Orbach Theater in Manhattan on **September 23**. He is the only entrant with more than one scene selected for the showcase.

This new competition, featured in *Playbill* and *Backstage* and to be emceed by comedian Adam Sank of NBC’s “Last Comic Standing,” was conceived by Pluto Productions and On Que Entertainment to discover and encourage new musical theater projects and to offer a platform for new artists to introduce their work to the general public as well as industry professionals who may be able to help advance their careers.

Largely based on Bihovsky’s experiences as a freshman at NYU and completed this past July, *The New Musical* features a contemporary pop-rock score richly enhanced by his completion of classical music theory

and orchestration programs at both NYU and Juilliard. “The heart of the piece is rock, with particular emphasis on the popular music of contemporary musical theater,” noted Bihovsky, who was greatly influenced by Jonathan Larson’s *RENT*. “But the vocal harmonies and embellishments in the orchestration all come back to the classical training. I think it makes for an interesting mix; it’s something I’ve never really heard before, but always wanted to.”

Michael began composing at the age of 16, although he started his career acting and singing—a skill-set he will actively use as the lead performer in *The New Musical in Scene It! NY*. “Basically, I’ve written this show to document my own bizarre life and experiences,” noted Bihovsky. “The characters and dramatic events have evolved over time, but the story is still pretty much my own, and I’d like to think no one can play me better than myself.” Other Philadelphia-area residents performing with him include Dana Gitlin of Bryn Mawr, Doreen Strauss of West Chester, Aaron Stall of Bryn Mawr, Chelsea Stotter of Merion and Natalie West of Cherry Hill.

“Obviously I’d be ecstatic to win this competition,” mused Bihovsky, “but mostly I’m just I’m so honored to have been selected as a finalist, and to be able to stage this piece for the first time. Anything else would just be frosting on the cake. On the other hand...I do love frosting.”

Bihovsky is currently giving private voice lessons and recording the songs from the show with a full cast. An earlier six-track demo can be heard on [www.michaelbihovsky.com](http://www.michaelbihovsky.com).