

A NOTE ON CONTENT

During the course of each YAWP program, there is much discussion with students about the content of their plays, from language to subject matter. Students are asked – encouraged – to “write what they know,” to create characters their own age, who deal with concerns they share, using their own words. They are also told that we will not censor their work.

Non-censorship is fundamental to the success of the YAWP programs. We believe that creativity cannot thrive in an environment of restriction, and that validation of voice promotes self-esteem. We therefore use an approach of “How?” and “Why?” with students, as opposed to “Can’t” or “Shouldn’t.” Students who have been tentative about writing often feel liberated by this approach – and the YAWP Programs thus become a forum for all students to explore safely the issues that affect their lives, as well as an opportunity for parents, educators and community members to increase their awareness of the concerns facing young people today.

We do discuss what is gratuitous versus what is earned when it comes to creative expression, a discussion that continues at every opportunity throughout the creative process. We find that this helps students to consider and define for themselves the best, most effective way to convey their point or message. We also emphasize that our policy of non-censorship is limited to the confines of the YAWP classroom, and does not extend to, or advocate, violating a school or family code of conduct.

Finally, though, what ends up on the page - or the stage - is the playwright’s call, and this often results in content that “raises a few eyebrows.” The important element is that these plays are a reflection of young people’s voices today. We neither condone nor oppose the students’ choices, but we do believe they have a right to be expressed. Most importantly, we applaud their courage and creativity for taking the risk to be heard.

For more information about YAWP programs in the schools, as well as on our campus during the summer and school breaks, please visit

www.youngamericanwritersproject.com

Young American Writers Project

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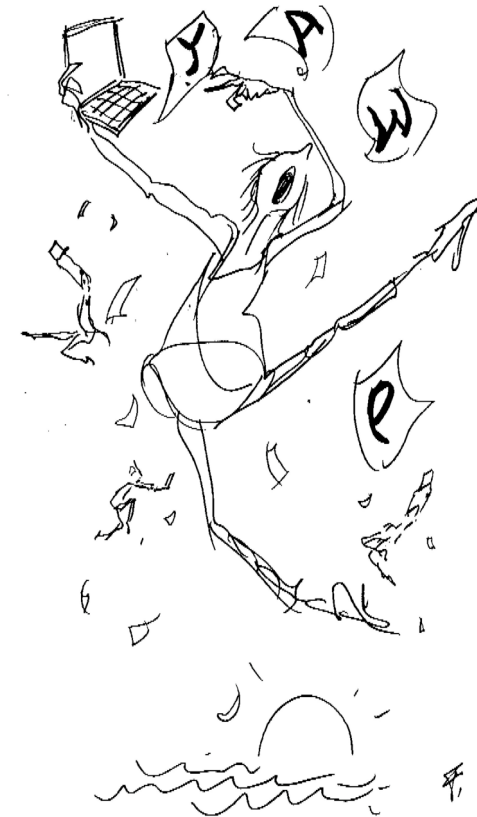
Southampton Arts

presents

YAWP

THE YOUNG AMERICAN WRITERS PROJECT

2012 Middle School Playwrights Performance



Six courageous, poignant and outrageous plays written by and starring middle school students from Bridgehampton School, Eastport South Manor Junior High School, The Ross School and Shelter Island School

Saturday, March 24, 2012 – 7:00 PM

**Avram Theater, Fine Arts Building
Stony Brook Southampton
Southampton, NY**

THE YOUNG AMERICAN WRITERS PROJECT

The Young American Writers Project (YAWP), created and sponsored by Stony Brook Southampton/Southampton Arts' MFA in Creative Writing and Literature, is dedicated to mentoring middle and high school students in the development of creative expression and critical thinking through writing.

The goals of YAWP include:

- To enhance critical thinking, collaboration and communication skills.
- To help each student find and develop his or her unique voice and point of view.
- To use creative expression as a way to solve problems and promote global awareness.
- To advance 21st century skills while supporting ELA requirements.
- To expose students to the unique creative programs and resources of Stony Brook Southampton, including the annual Writers Conferences.
- To develop and support the next generation of readers and writers.

The YAWP programs send professional writers and writing teachers into middle and high schools with a variety of innovative, inter-disciplinary writing programs as represented by the MFA in Creative Writing and Literature, including playwriting, personal essay, poetry, screenwriting and fiction. Programs conclude with special projects and presentations, as well as potential publication in the YAWP Ezine.

Workshops are offered to schools across Suffolk County in 1-, 3- and 7-session formats, as well as in two-month residencies (such as the playwriting program), extended retreats and summer workshops.

The Young American Writers Project provides Southampton Arts and the MFA in Creative Writing and Literature with important community outreach, provides a teaching practicum for the MFA's very talented graduate students, and helps to shape the next generation of American writers.

YAWP PLAYWRITING

The YAWP Playwriting Program is a two-month school residency that introduces middle and high school students to the principles of dramatic writing. Inspired by Aristotle's Poetics, teaching artists guide students through a curriculum designed to develop ideas, characters, themes and dialogue, and assist each student in the discovery of his or her unique perspective and creative voice.

Every student who participates in the program completes a short, one-act play. One play from each class is selected by committee for professional staging at Avram Theater, Stony Brook Southampton. Students then audition to perform in, assistant direct or stage manage the plays under the mentorship of YAWP Program staff and professional theatre artists for two public performances.

Ross School Participating Students, cont.:

8B

Mairead Aripotch	Sailor Brinkley-Cook	Nathaniel Dombrowski
Emma-Scott Egbert	Emma Engel	Alex LaPierre
Chloe Merceron	Samuel Passavia	Sara Stewart
Kevin Weiss		

8C

Constance Caiola	Hunter Cohen	Elia Doyle
Carl Herman Grant	Elizabeth Grathwohl	Earl (Tommy) Jerido
Lucas Larese Desanto	Maeve Martin	Kendall Scala
Nutsa Ugulava	Katya Wolosoff	

SHELTER ISLAND SCHOOL

Teaching Artists: Dennis O'Connor, Pat Follert

Classroom Teacher: Logan Kingston

Superintendent & Principal: Robert Parry

Participating Students:

Sydney Clark	Christopher Corbett	William Garrison
Ray Karen	Julia Labrozzi	Elizabeth Larsen
Amira Lawrence	Tommy Lenzer	Dante Meing
Evi Saunders	Sophia Strauss	Evan Thilberg
Olivia Yeaman		

Special thanks to the following for their support of YAWP:

The National Endowment for the Arts, Jenjo Foundation, Joanna & Daniel Rose, May & Samuel Rudin Family Foundation, Assemblyman Fred Thiele, Congressman Tim Bishop, Carol Brown/Eastern Suffolk BOCES, Star Black, Jules Feiffer, Rich Ficara/Cedar Point Productions, Mike Gasparino, Stephen Hamilton, Hampton Ballet Theater School, Deborah Ann Light, Joe Minutillo, Joe Russell, Patti Sarrubi

The plays you saw here tonight will be published
online in the YAWP Ezine:
www.Yawpezine.com

Videos of each play will be featured on
The Southampton Arts You Tube Channel,
"Bob's Writing Shack" @ youtube.com/mfawriting

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

BRIDGEHAMPTON SCHOOL

Teaching Artists: Victor Giannini, Ashleigh Smith
Classroom Teachers: Tom House
Superintendent: Dr. Lois Favre
Principal: Jack Pryor

Participating Students:

Ameer Brunson	Cecilia Calieca	Kevin Feliciano
Madi Koral	Sarah Negrete	Emily Rewinski
Tyler Stephens		

EASTPORT SOUTH MANOR JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Teaching Artists: Danielle Berg, Chris Cascio
Classroom Teacher: Christopher Costanzo
Superintendent: Mark A. Nocero
Principal: Joseph A. Steimel

Participating Students:

Matthew Ardito	Zachary Blackford	Craig Carter
Diana Celano	Christopher Clemente	Victoria Damm
Kristine DeAngelis	Matthew Dunne	Kevin Flaherty
Gianna Franco	Alex Gravina	Isabella Gurello
Samuel Havens	Kelsey Huff	Kaitlyn Kelly
Boris Kosikov	Ryan Lennon	David Loehle
Jacob Morabito	Shannon Moran	Jonathan Negron
Dylan Puwalski	Jennifer Raab	Marianne Schramm
Samantha Squicciarini	Emma Steel	Gavin Trovato
Olivia Villano	Cameron Watson	Taylor Watson

THE ROSS SCHOOL

Teaching Artists: Will Chandler, Danielle Berg, Diana Gallagher, Travis Rave
Classroom Teachers: Mark Tompkins, Ria Maxwell
Head of School: Michele Claeys
Director of Middle School: Bill O'Hearn

Participating Students:

8A

Elijah Bacher	Jack Chrysler	John Colby	
Mark Frenzel-Sulyok	Robin Grathwohl	Karah James	
Evan Johnson	Dillon Kab	Savannah Phillips	Ella Weinstein

STAFF

SOUTHAMPTON GRADUATE ARTS OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

Robert Reeves, Associate Provost
Carla Caglioti, Executive Director & Assistant Dean

YAWP PRODUCTION STAFF

Director – Emma Walton Hamilton
Associate Director - Will Chandler
Producer - William Burford
Production Stage Manager - Sally Jane Kerschen-Sheppard
Costumes and Props - Yuka Silvera
Lighting and Sound - Peter Eilenberg

Production Running Crew

Ross School:	Elia Doyle	Emma-Scott Egbert
Elsie Grathwohl	Robin Grathwohl	Karah James
Alex LaPierre	Ella Weinstein	ESM: Katie Kelly

YAWP PROGRAM STAFF

Executive Director – Emma Walton Hamilton
Program Director - Will Chandler
Administrative Associate - Diana Gallagher
Playwriting – Will Chandler & Emma Walton Hamilton
Screenwriting – Annette Handley Chandler
Fiction & Personal Essay – Lou Ann Walker
Poetry – Julie Sheehan
MFA Administrative Coordinator - Adrienne Unger
YAWP Student Ambassadors - James Allen, Chela Novak

2012 HS Playwriting Program Teaching Artists

Danielle Berg	Christopher Cascio	Will Chandler
Pat Follert	Diana Gallagher	Victor Giannini
Matthew Miranda	Dennis O'Connor	Travis Rave
Ashleigh Smith		

OUR LITTLE SECRET

By SAMANTHA SQUICCIARINI
EASTPORT SOUTH MANOR

AbbyShannon Moran

BenAlex Gravina

Director: Megan Minutillo

Assistant Director: Kaitlyn Kelly

SO FAR AWAY

By MADI KORAL
BRIDGEHAMPTON SCHOOL

Lucy..... Madi Koral

Natalie..... Tyler Stephens

Director: Naimy Hackett

Assistant Director: Cecilia Calieca

THE ELEVATOR

By EMMA ENGEL
THE ROSS SCHOOL, 8B

Tim..... Hunter Cohen

Scott..... Nate Dombrowski

Director: Andrew Botsford

Assistant Director: Elia Doyle

**The plays will be performed
without an intermission**

THE DAY MOM KILLED CHRISTMAS

By KATYA WOLOSOFF
THE ROSS SCHOOL, 8C

Melody.....Sara Stewart

AnnaMaeve Martin

Father's voice: Hunter Cohen

Mother's voice: Kendall Scala

Director: Rosemary Cline

Assistant Directors: Karah James, Alex LaPierre

THE WISH LIST

By EVI ROSE KAASIK SAUNDERS
SHELTER ISLAND SCHOOL

Juliette.....Olivia Yeaman

Sarah..... Julia Labrozzi

Director: Logan Kingston

Assistant Director: Tommy Lenzer

DON'T GET CAUGHT

By EVAN JOHNSON
THE ROSS SCHOOL, 8A

Connor..... Jack Chrysler

Ryan..... Tommy Jerido

Voice of Brett: Ijie Bacher

Voice of Mother: Sailor Brinkley-Cook

Voice of Cassie: Constance Caiola

Party Guest: Kevin Weiss

Director: A.J. Lebenns