



## THE YOUNG ARTISTS & WRITERS PROJECT

The Young Artists and 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 and visual arts.

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 pair professional writers and artists with middle and high school students in a variety of innovative, interdisciplinary writing programs as represented by the MFA in Creative Writing and Literature, including playwriting, personal essay, poetry, screenwriting, fiction and printmaking. Programs conclude with special projects, presentations and exhibitions, 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 2-month residencies, retreats on the Stony Brook Southampton campus and school break and summer workshops.

The Young Artists and 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 and artists.

### 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.

## SHELTER ISLAND SCHOOL, cont.

Grace Olinkiewicz	Theo Olinkiewicz	Brandon Payano
Jane Richards	Daniel Schultheis	Lydia Shepherd
Sincere Smith	Matthew Strauss	Emma Teodoru
Brandon Velazquez		

### YAWP SUMMER SCRIPTWRITING WORKSHOP

Paige Beck	Autumn Benitez	Isabella Burke
Daniela Clejan	Galen Hopper	Alison Magnus
Rachel McKelvey	Gabrielle Topping	Lauren Wetterau
Scout Winer	Lief Wood	

### 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 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 program. 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 are tentative about writing often feel liberated by this approach. The YAWP Programs thus become a forum for all students to safely explore 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 message. We also emphasize that our policy of non-censorship is limited to the confines of the YAWP classroom, and does not advocate, violating a school or family code of conduct.

Ultimately, 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.

## PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

### EASTPORT SOUTH MANOR JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Teaching Artists: Will Chandler, Tyler Penny  
ESMCA Reps: Kelly Dechene, Kim DeVito,  
Middle School Principal: Thomas Dick  
Superintendent: Patrick K. Brimstein, Ed. D.

#### Participating Students:

Joey Belfiore	Katie Daugherty	Liv Dechene
Marissa Jacobacci	Katherine Kimes	Lauren Kimes
Spencer McAuliffe	Linda Tesoro	

### THE ROSS SCHOOL

Teaching Artists: Lindsay Camp, Will Chandler, Nina Channing,  
Zinnia Smith

Classroom Teacher: Mark Tompkins

Head of School: Bill O'Hearn

Head of Middle School: Jeanette Tyndall

*The Ross School's participation in YAWP was made possible in part  
by the Estate of Spalding Gray.*

#### Participating Students:

Catalina Badilla	Benjamin Campbell	Marnie Colby
Greer Costello	Parker Firestone	Ramiro Garza
Cathy Geng	Michelle Ha	Leah Jannetti
Woo Jin Jon	Harry Kaya Prager	Jackson Larose
Cameron McAuliffe	Zya Moragrega Canas	Ayaka Nakasuji
Quintin Soloviev	Caly Stewart	Taylor Thomas
Emma Tiedemann	Billy Wang	Cecily Wang
Hunter Williams	Caleb Wright	Lilah Yektai

### SHELTER ISLAND SCHOOL

Teaching Artists: Lindsay Camp, Will Chandler

Classroom Teachers: Lynne Colligan, Devon Treharne

Principal/Superintendent: Len Skuggevik

#### Participating Students:

Bradley Batten	Wyatt Congdon	Katie Doyle
Junior Gil	Jason Green	Tyler Gulluscio
James Lupo	Nicholas Mamisashvili	Zebulun J Mundy

## SOUTHAMPTON GRADUATE ARTS

### OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

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

### YAWP PRODUCTION STAFF

Executive Director – Emma Walton Hamilton  
Program Director - Will Chandler  
Producer - Stephen Hamilton  
General Manager - Laura Lyons  
Costumes and Props - Yuka Silvera  
Sound & Projections - Jordan Roberts  
Lighting - Brian Clemente

### CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Playwriting – Will Chandler/Emma Walton Hamilton  
Screenwriting – Annette Handley Chandler  
Fiction & Personal Essay – Lou Ann Walker  
Poetry – Julie Sheehan

### Backstage Running Crew

Katharine Kimes, Lauren Kimes (ESM), Jane Richards, Brandon  
Velazquez, Theo Olinkiewicz (Shelter Island)

**The plays will be published in the YAWP Ezine:  
[www.Yawpezine.com](http://www.Yawpezine.com)**

**Videos of each play will be posted on:  
[@youtube.com/mfawriting](https://www.youtube.com/mfawriting)**

### **Special thanks to the following for their support of YAWP:**

State Assemblyman Fred Thiele, The Alec Baldwin Foundation,  
Frank and Theresa Maglio, Michael Avram,  
Kathleen Russo, The Estate of Spalding Gray,  
The ESM Community for the Arts, Jules Feiffer,  
Rich Ficara/Cedar Point Productions, Mike Gasparino,  
Peggy Grigonis, Hampton Ballet Theater School, Joe Russell,  
Shelter Island Education Foundation, Laura Lyons, Goodcircle.org

**1.**  
**GAME, SET & LIFE**

By Taylor Thomas  
THE ROSS SCHOOL

Taylor 21.....Taylor Thomas  
Taylor 8.....Jackson LaRose  
Director: Valerie diLorenzo

**2.**  
**POLITICAL PARK**

By Parker Firestone  
THE ROSS SCHOOL

Bertram .....Caly Stewart  
Tally ..... Leah Janetti  
Director: Carolann Di Pirro

**3.**  
**A UNIVERSAL QUARREL**

By Lauren Kimes  
EASTPORT SOUTH MANOR

Earth.....Joey Belfiore  
Sun.....Linda Tesoro  
Director: Megan Minutillo

**4.**  
**FINAL FRONTIER**

By Nicholas Mamisashvili  
SHELTER ISLAND SCHOOL

Captain R. ....Zebulun Mundy  
Lenny.....James Lupo  
Directed by Tina Jones  
Assistant Director: Jane Richards

**5.**  
**WHY DOES LIFE ALWAYS GET IN  
THE WAY?**

By Katharine Kimes  
EASTPORT SOUTH MANOR

Amber.....Marissa Jacobacci  
Life.....Spencer Mc Auliffe  
Director: Joe Minutillo

**6.**  
**CAPTIVE IN A CLOSET**

By Scout Weiner  
NIGHTINGALE BAMFORD / YAWP SUMMER WORKSHOPS  
Helen.....Katie Daugherty  
Annalise.....Liv Dechene  
Director: Megan Minutillo

**- Ten Minute Intermission -**