

THE YOUNG ARTISTS & WRITERS PROJECT

The Young Artists and Writers Project (YAWP), created and sponsored by Stony Brook Southampton's 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 Participating Students:

Allie Brush	Jerry Card	Pacey Cronin
Emmett Cummings	Isabella Fonesca	Michael Hand
Daria Kolmogorova	Emma Martinez	Olivia Overstreet
Lily Page	Katherine Ramos	Franny Regan
Riley Renault	Dayla Reyes	Valeria Reyes
Evan Schack	Bella Springer	

YAWP SUMMER SCRIPTWRITING WORKSHOP

Teaching Artists: Will Chandler, Tyler Penny

Loomis Hall	Patrick Kirwin
Rachel McKelvey	Miles Thorson

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 flourish in an environment of restriction, and that validation of individual 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 vs. what is earned when it comes to creative expression, a discussion that continues 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

BRIDGEHAMPTON SCHOOL

Teaching Artists: Lindsay Camp, Will Chandler
Classroom Teacher: Lindsey Sanchez
Middle School Principal: Michael Miller
Superintendent: Robert Hauser

Participating Students:

George Caguana	Luis Carmona	Kevin Chunchi
Christian Cruz Potrerro	Alexis Davis	Mikhail Feaster
Darianne Garcia	Mariana Gutierrez Vallejo	
Cheyenne Lamb	Helio Paucar	Samantha Udave
Justin Urgiles Palacios	Kimberly Villa	

THE ROSS SCHOOL

Teaching Artists: Lindsay Camp, Will Chandler
Classroom Teacher: Mark Tompkins
Head of School: Bill O'Hearn
Head of Middle School: Jeanette Tyndall
The Ross School's participation in YAWP is made possible in part by the Estate of Spalding Gray.

Participating Students:

Kely Archambault	Elyse Beavers	Robert Caiola
Autumn Coard	Alex DeLeva	Sarah Dupree
Will Edwards	Ana-Sofia Gonzalez	Hope Hamilton
Lukas Hommert	Colin Handler	Isabella Hosey
John Hunt	Marrina Jacka	Alonso Monroy
Everett Rattray	Harper Reuss	Amelia Regan
Lilian Richter	Zanzy Rice-Reeves	Milla Steilmann
Maya Teixeira	Gabe Verde	Joshua Verde
Myles Zappola		

SHELTER ISLAND SCHOOL

Teaching Artists: Lindsay Camp, Will Chandler
Classroom Teachers: Lynne Colligan, Devon Treharne
Principal/Superintendent: Christine Finn

(cont.)

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
Costume Assistant - Alisha Kraus
Sound & Projections - Jordan Roberts
Lighting & Stage Management - Frank Imperiale

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

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

Stage Crew

Autumn Coard, Will Edwards, Isabella Hosey (ROSS),
Daria Kolmogorova, Franny Regan, Bella Springer (S. I.)

**The plays will be published in the YAWP Ezine:
www.Yawpezine.com**

**Videos of each play will be posted at:
[@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, Jules Feiffer,
Rich Ficara/Cedar Point Productions, Mike Gasparino,
Laura Lyons, Peggy Grigonis, Joe Russell,
Shelter Island Education Foundation

1.
THE SPACE SCHISM: Lost

By Evan Schack

SHELTER ISLAND SCHOOL

NikkiEmma Martinez
Chelsea Olivia Overstreet

Director: Chloe Dirksen

Assistant Director - Daria Kolmogorova

2.
DON'T JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER

By Alexis Davis

BRIDGEHAMPTON SCHOOL

RachelSamantha Udave
KylieAlexis Davis

Special thanks to Mikhail Feaster

Director: Tina Jones

3.
MY BEST FRIEND, ANXIETY

By Hope Hamilton

THE ROSS SCHOOL

Anxiety.....Maya Teixeira
Asha.....Everett Rattray

Director: Carolann Di Pirro

Assistant Director - Hope Hamilton

4.
GET OFF MY FLOWERS

By Isabella Hosey

THE ROSS SCHOOL

LifeMilla Steilmann
Death Zanzey Rice-Reeves

Director: Megan Minutillo

Assistant Director - Autumn Coard

5.
30 MINUTES

By Rachel McKelvey

PIERSON/The YAWP Summer Workshops

Carmen.....Lola Lama
Carmen 2.....Anna Francesca Schiavoni

Director: Valerie diLorenzo

6.
CANDY CATASTROPHE

By Will Edwards

THE ROSS SCHOOL

Joe.....Kely Archambault
Frank.....Alex DeLeva

Director: Joe Minutillo

Assistant Director - Will Edwards

This performance is dedicated to the memory of Frank Maglio
- friend, supporter and champion of young voices