

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 students, cont.

Jeremy Sabatel	Margaret Schultheis	Madison Springer
Madigan Teodoru	Benjamin Waife	

YAWP SUMMER SCRIPTWRITING WORKSHOP

Teaching Artists: Will Chandler, Danielle Berg

Loomis Hall	Amelia Lewis	Erin O'Connell
Ethan Morano	Luca Villano	Dante Zangrillo

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:

Melanie Braia	Nava Campbell	Samuel Evans
Alanah Johnson	Hugo Kapon	Destiny Lamison
Cesar Mendez	Makenzie Miller	Jonah Posner
Ryeasia Walker		

THE ROSS SCHOOL

Teaching Artists: Will Chandler, Robert Taylor
Classroom Teacher: Mark Tompkins
Head of School: Bill O'Hearn
Head of Middle School: Jeanette Tyndall

Participating Students:

Maria Arroyo Mora	Tracy Bao	Paolo Christie-Schrank
Chelsea Coard	Kendall Coard	John Fairchild
Ty Gelijns	Scarlett Gilmartin-Castillo	Chloe Hincapie
Owen LaPierre	Toby LaPierre	Sam Libutti
Lilly Moeller	Mariella Narvilas	Kieran O'Brien
Matthew Pasternak	Emilio Rocha Fuentes	Sophia Sanchez
Sophia Verde	Isabella Walsh	Aaron Wang
Frey Wood	Drake Worrell	Jasper Yektai

SHELTER ISLAND SCHOOL

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

Shelter Island Participating Students:

Alexandra Burns	Elijah Davidson	Bazzy Quigley-Dunning
Cassandra Espinoza Heimann	John Febles Torres	Mary Gennari
Henry Lowell-Liszankie	Luca Martinez	Andrea Napoles
Steven Pacheco Silverio	Angelina Rice	Hayden Rylott

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, Lighting & Projections - Frank Imperiale
Assistant Director - Morgan Vaughan
Publicity/Production Support - Andrew Botsford

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

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

Stage Crew

Toby LaPierre, Sophia Sanchez (ROSS),
Andrea Napoles, Madison Springer, Jeremy Sabatel (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 Hilaria and Alec Baldwin Foundation,
Daniel and Joanna Rose, Theresa Maglio,
Michael Avram, Jules Feiffer, Rich Ficara/Cedar Point Productions,
Mike Gasparino, Laura Lyons, Peggy Grigonis,
Shelter Island Education Foundation

1.
WELCOME TO STARBUCKS

by Sophia Verde

THE ROSS SCHOOL

JoyScarlett Gilmartin-Castillo

Ivan Sam Libutti

Director: Tristan Vaughan

Assistant Director - Sophia Sanchez

2.
ME, MYSELF, AND HER

By Hugo Kapon

BRIDGEHAMPTON SCHOOL

Jack Jonah Posner

Conscience Melanie Braia

Director: Matthew Conlon

3.
LIZZIE'S TRUTH

By Angelina Rice

SHELTER ISLAND SCHOOL

Lizzie.....Mary Gennari

Avery.....Cassandra Espinoza Heimann

Director: Carolann DiPirro

Assistant Director: Andrea Napoles

4.
THE PIT

By Dante Zangrillo

HAMPTON BAYS/The YAWP Summer Workshops

Gina.....Zoey Engledrum

Hazel.....Maya Sanabria

Director: Megan Minutillo

5.
DOMINIC DAVIS

By Alexandra Burns

SHELTER ISLAND SCHOOL

Dominic.....Luca Martinez

Laura.....Myla Dougherty

Director: Rebecca Edana

6.
SOAP OPERA

by Frey Wood

THE ROSS SCHOOL

Belinda..... Sophia Verde

Derek.....Drake Worrell

Director: Morgan Vaughan

Assistant Director - Toby LaPierre

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