



PARTNERSHIP DECK

INTRODUCTION

Meet Our Young Artist Programs!

For more than three decades, The Blank has showcased unique voices of talented artists ages 19 and younger in Los Angeles. Our Young Playwrights Festival (YPF) is the premiere event for young writers to share their stories. As part of the YPF program, we give winning playwrights **FREE** world-class mentorship and learning opportunities with professional working writers that lead to professional careers in the arts.

YPF also provides immersive education through our **FREE** Stage Management and Design Apprenticeship program that provides young theatre technicians (high school and college students) with hands-on learning in a production setting led by industry professionals in Los Angeles.

Our Young Playwrights Academy (YPA) similarly offers expanded education and mentorship while providing nurturing and supportive classroom style instruction to young writers in Los Angeles. We historically awarded all YPF semi-finalists with a scholarship to participate for **FREE!**

INTRODUCING THE YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL

Each summer since 1993, we produce the 12 best plays by playwrights ages 9 to 19, chosen by industry professionals. YPF is presented **FREE** to the community, making theatre accessible to students across the city, allowing L.A. youth to see shows written by, about, and for their generation. Nowhere else can young playwrights receive the prize of seeing their vision come to life on stage in a professional production featuring known actors from film, TV and theatre. Participation is free!

THE BLANK THEATRE
YOUNG
PLAYWRIGHTS
FESTIVAL

EST. 1990



L-R: Khary Payton, Keliher Walsh, Craig Patton, Erica Richardson, Larry Bates, Angela Gibbs, John Burton, Angel Parker, Ben Tolpin

INTRODUCING THE YPF APPRENTICESHIP

Part of our mission at The Blank is to help the next generation of artists in Los Angeles develop professional skills through our apprenticeship program. Our Stage Management and Design Apprenticeship offers immersive training and industry networking to artists and technicians attending high school or college in L.A. who are looking to enter the creative economy in the field as a stage manager, producer, designer, technician or arts administrator. There are no fees required for students to participate in this program! With your support hope to turn this into a paid internship!



INTRODUCING THE YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS ACADEMY



The YPA experience creates a safe and nurturing atmosphere to empower young people to enhance their creative perspectives and enrich their writing. We believe artistic education must focus on eventually working in the professional world and, therefore, YPA offers practical learning from working writers.

From 2021 to 2025, we awarded scholarships to all with semi-finalist recognition in our Young Playwrights Festival, totaling about 150 students. With your support, we hope to bring YPA back and in person to help young artists build direct community connections in which to create!



L-R: Noah Wyle, Jessy Schram Bjorn Johnson, Ariella Carmell and JR Bourne

OBJECTIVE

What Do Our Young Artist Programs Aim to Accomplish?

These programs play a critical role in training and supporting the next generation of theatre artists in Los Angeles, many of whom have gone on to successful careers in theatre, publishing, film and television. We welcome students to write, without restriction, about whatever is on their mind - any topic, any genre, any length - and we provide mentorship to help them refine their voice and learn how to advocate for their work while being collaborative in the room. These young people are the future of the theatre. If we don't support their work today, we won't have a generation of artists tomorrow.



L-R: Bettina Diaz, Audrey Cymone, Jude Schwartz, Chloe Kuo, Mina Feldman, Victoria Hoffman and Joel Johnstone

TESTIMONIALS

What Do Past Participants Say About Our Work?

"The invaluable benefit of the Young Playwrights Festival is that it provides - at a crucial time - collaborations with professional theater artists. These experiences helped embolden me to pursue my dreams. For someone like me, whose parents knew nothing about the arts - it can mean the world to hear real artists say, without condescension: 'You're good at this. You're a writer. You can do this if you want to.' I cannot sing The Blank's praises enough. *YPF changed my life.*"

-STEPHEN KARAM

Tony Award Winner | Two-time Pulitzer Prize Finalist | Three-Time YPF Winner



Stephen Karam - YPF - 1998



Stephen Karam - Tony Awards - 2016

TESTIMONIALS

More Thoughts From YPF Alumni...

"Being part of this festival was the highlight of my childhood. To have the opportunity as a young person, I mean even now, I heard my words yesterday that have been bobbing around in my head as the writer for a year and change, and to hear actors say it out loud as a young person and as a teenager, it's life-changing, it's amazing."

- Four-time YPF winner, **Erik Carabasi**



"What the joy for us theater kids who are used to playing everything is, I feel that when we come to YPF we just get to play in theater camp. And so, to all of the playwrights and young aspiring actors and directors, you get to continue playing."

- YPF actor, **Parvesh Cheena**

Frasier, The Mandalorian, Crazy Ex-Girlfriend



"The work you are seeing today by these playwrights, you know, they are going to go on to be writers, showrunners, and directors in their own right - it's just such a wonderful program and I am so grateful to have been part of it, and to still be a part of it!"

- YPF actor, **Dominic Burgess**

Palm Royale, American Horror Story, The Magicians



"It's an extraordinary thing to look out into this audience, look on the stage, look in this program, and see that YPF for me isn't past-tense. It's not a thing that happened to me 20 years ago that changed my life and set up my future, I mean it is that, but it's also the soil that I was planted into. It's the soil I've been growing in for 20 years and now it's my root system."

- Three-time YPF winner, **Kit Steinkellner**

Sorry for Your Loss, Z: The Beginning of Everything



YPF CREATIVE PARTICIPANTS

What Industry Professionals Participate in the Festival?

Past YPFs have featured actors such as:

NOAH WYLE (Emmy Award Winner - The Pitt, Falling Skies, ER, The Librarians, and more)
 ALYSON HANNIGAN (How I Met Your Mother, Buffy the Vampire Slayer)
 ANGEL PARKER (The People vs OJ, Marvel: Runaways, The Rookie, The Recruit)
 ARIEL WINTER (Modern Family, Sofia the First)
 BRIANNA BROWN (General Hospital, Devious Maids, Dynasty)
 CAMERON BRITTON (Mindhunter, A Man Called Otto, Umbrella Academy)
 CHRIS PINE (Star Trek, Wonder Woman, We Hot American Summer)
 CONSTANCE ZIMMER (House of Cards, Good Trouble, UnREAL)
 DALE DICKEY (True Blood, A League of Their Own, Claws)
 DAVID CASTAÑEDA (Umbrella Academy, Sicario, John Wick: Ballerina)
 DEBRA MESSING (Will & Grace, Ned & Stacey, Smash)
 DEE WALLACE (E.T: The Extraterrestrial, Just Add Magic)
 ELIZA DUSHKU (Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Bring It On, Dollhouse)
 JAMES MARSTERS (Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Marvel: Runaways, Smallville)
 JEREMY SISTO (FBI, Law & Order, Six Feet Under, Clueless, Waitress)
 JERRY O'CONNELL (Stand by Me, Star Trek: Lower Decks, Jerry Maguire)
 JOEL JOHNSTONE (Marvelous Mrs. Maisel, CSI: Las Vegas)
 JOSH RADNOR (How I Met Your Mother, Rise, Hunters)
 KAT McNAMARA (Shadowhunters, Arrow, The Stand, Batwoman, Supergirl, Maze Runner))
 KATIE LOWES (Scandal, Zootopia, Wreck-It Ralph, Inventing Anna, How We Roll)
 MARK VALLEY (Boston Legal, Harry's Law, Fringe, Body of Proof)
 MATTHEW MOY (2 Broke Girls, Stephen Universe, American Auto)
 MAX ADLER (Glee, The Trial of the Chicago 7, Switched at Birth)
 MEGAN WARD (General Hospital, Dark Skies, The Brady Bunch Movie)
 OCTAVIA SPENCER (Hidden Figures, The Help, Ma, Get on Up)
 PARVESH CHEENA (Transformers: Rescue Bots, Crazy Ex-Girlfriend, Frasier)
 PEJ VAHDAT (Bones, Empire, Arrow, Dynasty, Tracker, NCIS)
 ROB BENEDICT (Supernatural, Kings of Con, Lucifer)
 ROBERT SHEEHAN (Umbrella Academy, Misfits, Red Sonja, Geostorm, Love/Hate)
 RUTH CONNELL (Supernatural, The Dead Boys Detective Agency)
 TIM JO (This is Us, Reasonable Doubt, The Neighbors, Pitch)
 TOKS OLAGUNDOYE (Frasier, Veep, Castle, The Neighbors)

Past YPFs awarded notable playwrights such as:

STEPHEN KARAM (Tony Award Winner, Two-Time Pulitzer Prize Finalist)
 ADA WESTFALL (Drama Desk Award Nominee)
 ADAM CHANZIT (Writer - Walden: A Life in the Woods)
 AIYANA WHITE (Writer/Co-EP - La Brea; Writer/Co-Producer - Lucifer)
 ALEXA DERMAN (Lambda Lit Fellow, Kernodle New Play Award, O'Neill Finalist)
 ALIZA GOLDSTEIN (Ebell Prize, LA Drama Critics Circle Ted Schmitt Award)
 ARIELLA CARMELL (Michael Collyer Memorial Fellowship in Screenwriting)
 AUSTIN WINSBERG (Creator/EP - Acapulco, Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist)
 CHRISTOPHER WOLF (gaming writer for WRONG Games and graphic novelist for Viper Comics)
 DAVID WATSON (Writer BAFTA Award winning series L8R, Royal Court in London, Manhattan Theatre Club)
 DYLAN SCHIFRIN (IAMA Emerging Playwrights, Jonathan Larson Grant Finalist)
 ELIANA PIPES (Dramatists Guild Foundation Fellowship)
 JAMES LA BELLA (Lambda Playwriting Fellow, Betsy Carpenter Award, EVVY Award for Best Writing)
 HONOR LEVY (Author - My First Book; Writer - The New Yorker, NY Tyrant, Flash Fiction America)
 JASMINE SHARMA (Center Theatre Group Writers Workshop, IAMA Emerging Playwrights)
 JUSTIN KURITZKES (Screenwriter - Challengers, Queer)
 KIT STEINKELLNER (Creator/EP - Sorry For Your Loss, Z: The Beginning of Everything)
 LAUREN YEE (Doris Duke Award, Steinberg Award, Kesselring Prize)
 LINDSEY ROSIN (Writer - Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist, Co-Creator - Cruel Intentions: The 90s Musical)
 LIZA KAPLAN (Senior Editor - Penguin Random House)
 MAX POSNER (Helen Merrill Award, Heideman Award, Lincoln Center's Lecompte de Nouy Award)
 MAX TAXE (Screenwriter - Moonshot, Ripple)
 MAX WOLF FRIEDLICH (Playwright - Job - Broadway, IAMA Under 30 Playwrights Lab)
 MICKEY MADDEN (Songwriter & Bassist - Maroon 5)
 MOLLY LAMBERT (Writer - The New York Times, The New Yorker, GQ)
 OANH LY (Writer/Co-EP - Chilling Adventures of Sabrina, Sweet Tooth; Writer: Criminal Minds, Revolution)
 RENEE HENDRIE (EMI Publishing, Alfred Publishing Company)
 STEPHEN KAPLAN (Barbour Award, O'Neill National Playwrights Conference, Woodward/Newman Award)
 TESSA LEIGH WILLIAMS (Writer/EP - The Shelley Society; Writer/Co-EP - Riverdale)
 VICTOR KAUFOLD (Playwright: The Why, Tethered, Muke the Inquisitive, The Death of Milton Hubbell, Bridesburg)
 YELENA MOSKOVICH (Author - A Door Behind A Door, The Natashas, Virtuoso)
 ZOE CHENG (Executive Story Editor - The Rookie)

TESTIMONIALS

Thoughts From Academy Alumni...

"She's really good at believing in my work, even if I didn't. She helped me see the good in what I was doing. She provided a lot of useful, personalized feedback that was so helpful! She told a lot of stories that kept classes engaging. I never felt bored! I am so thankful for YPA!"

- Three-time YPF winner, **Anna Parker**



"Everything about this course was amazing. I learned so much. The most useful thing I learned was the editing process. This was very valuable because it taught me what overwriting was and how to eliminate it from my work. My play improved drastically! Also, the "coming up with ideas" aspect was VERY valuable. Thank you!"

- YPF winner, **Aishwarya Marathe**



"Penelope clearly knows a ton about playwriting and developing work, and the brainstorming techniques she showed us gave me a ton of good ideas. She also just seems like a super kind, genuine person, and it reflects in her teaching."

- YPF winner, **Sydney Tate**



"I really appreciated how the instructor actually read our stuff. I know that that's a very basic thing, but all of the creative writing teachers I've had in the past never read what we wrote. The fact that Ms Saxena actually took the time to read my stuff in such depth that she had good, constructive feedback (not just "it's good") made me really happy and encouraged me to keep putting forth my best in this class."

- Two-time YPF winner, **Max Leventon**



YPA INSTRUCTORS

What Industry Professionals Provide Class Instruction for the Academy?

Vasanti Saxena



VASANTI SAXENA is a published writer whose work explores the fissures of family, relationships, memory and historical legacy. Her plays have appeared at Boston Court, Chalk Rep, Chicago Dramatists, Company of Angels, East West Players, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Lower Depth, New York Theatre, The Road Theatre, Silk Road Rising and more. She is a winner of the East West Players Pacific Century Playwriting Competition, O'Neill National Playwrights Conference and Princess Grace Award (semi-finalist). Fellowships and commissions include the Outfest Screenwriting Lab, Lower Depth Theatre's "Cycle of Poverty" commission, NYTW Emerging Artist of Color Fellowship, and an EST/Sloan commission. A graduate of Brown University, Vasanti holds an MFA in Playwriting from Columbia University.

Penelope Lowder



PENELOPE LOWDER is a USC alum, a published playwright, a current member of the Skylight Playwright's Lab (SkyLAB), and a former member of Guy Hanks and Marvin Miller Screenwriting Workshop, Los Angeles Theater Center Playwrights Workshop, Skirball-Kenis Writer's Workshop and the Robey Playwrights Workshop. Her plays have been recognized as L.A. Times Critic's Pick film adaptations have won numerous awards on the Indie Film Circuit. Penelope was a commissioned playwright for Center Theatre Group's 2022 L.A. Writer's Workshop led by Luis Alfaro, where she developed *Barbara George*, a play about African American erasure in Los Angeles. Penelope is proud to be a Golden and Ruth Harris Commission nominee.

Dahn Hiuni



DAHN HIUNI is a published playwright, visual artist, graphic designer and academic. His work has been recognized with the West Hollywood's Pride Arts Festival Playwriting Competition, and New York Fringe's Award for Excellence in Playwriting. He was recently awarded the prestigious Desert Playwrights' Retreat. As a solo performance artist, Mr. Hiuni was presented at P.S. 122, Franklin Furnace, Artists Space and Thread Waxing Space. His work appeared in The New York Times, The Huffington Post, Playbill, and The DGA magazine, The Dramatist. As professor, he has taught at Pratt Institute, School of Visual Arts, FIT, Hofstra, Bucknell, SUNY, and at the National Theatre School of Canada. He holds an MFA in performance art and an interdisciplinary PhD in performance studies, both from Penn State.

Dan Giles



DAN GILES is a playwright from Massachusetts. He is a second-year fellow in The Juilliard School's Lila Acheson Wallace American Playwrights Program. His plays have been produced and developed at Ensemble Studio Theatre, Next Door at New York Theatre Workshop, New Light Theater Project, First Floor Theater, Haven Theatre, The Great Plains Theatre Commons, and others. He is a recipient of the Clifford Odets Ensemble Commission from Lee Strasberg/NYU, the New Light New Voices Award, an Alfred P. Sloan Screenwriting Award, and the Kennedy Center's Mark Twain Prize for Comic Playwriting. He's an alum of Harvard College (AB in English), Carnegie Mellon (MFA), and Youngblood at Ensemble Studio Theatre.

TESTIMONIALS

Thoughts From Stage Management and Design Apprentices...

"Jackson has learned a ton and has really enjoyed being with the group. It's been such a confidence boost for him to learn from and work with professionals. It's been a wonderful experience all around, and I'm so glad Jackson committed to it."

- Apprentice Parent, **Julie Brennan**



"Honestly, I never really knew what a stage manager did because at my school we don't get to do stuff backstage. So it was amazing to be able to not only see it first hand, but to do it. And oh boy was I absolutely terrified. But the YPF team helped me trust that I was capable. They believed in me so I did too!"

- Apprentice, **Sam Hart**



"I was a YPF apprentice when I was in college. I was particularly interested in lighting design and was so excited to get to work on lights for a show, on a real lighting board with people who do it for a living. I took what I learned and now I also do it for a living. I get paid to do what I love. And it wouldn't have happened without the YPF apprenticeship. Thank you YPF!"

- Apprentice, **Devin Harris**



"I want to be a writer. Understanding how things work on this side has taught me so much about how to be a writer that thinks about the bigger picture of what it takes to make a play happen. I am so inspired and have so many more ideas now because I'm not just thinking about my writing from the audience perspective. I'm also thinking about design and what it takes on the deck. Thank you so much for this experience!"

- Apprentice and YPF winner, **Sammy Shames**



PARTNER BENEFITS

How Does Partnering With The Blank Help YOU?

Many of our participants go on to meaningful careers in theatre, film and TV as playwrights, screenwriters, editors, dramaturgs, designers and more. By partnering with The Blank's young artist development programs, you create an early relationship with the next generation of Los Angeles based artists who are brand and tech savvy. Our networks extend to include 12 winning playwrights each year, up to 60 Academy students, and all of their professional mentors, directors, casts, instructors and LA based audiences who represent a relevant industry segment impressed by the generosity of your foundation and brand. In joining our community, your support will be featured on our online accounts and printed material, as well as the socials of those who are part of our **#YPFamily**.



L-R: Seamus Dever, Kila Kitu, Quincy Cho, Melissa Carvajal, Matthew Scott Montgomery, Lola Podolner, Tianna Cohen, Ella James

BENEFITS AT A GLANCE

Are there other benefits to partnering with The Blank?

TAX DEDUCTION

The Blank is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization so your grant or in-kind donation (gift cards, etc) are tax deductible!

BRAND VISIBILITY

Gain exposure to a dedicated audience passionate about access to arts education and careers in writing.

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

Connect with industry leaders, influencers, and decision-makers in the entertainment field.

MISSION RESPONSIBILITY

Showcase your commitment to youth development, arts education and the Future of Theatre!

YPF34 IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THESE GENEROUS PARTNERS:



THE CAPLIN FOUNDATION



The Jeffrey P. McKee Foundation

Thank you!

AMERICAN ONLINE GIVING
FOUNDATION

CONTACT



Thank You!

Please don't hesitate to reach out for inquiries or collaboration.
Thank you for your interest!

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JOIN OUR #YPFAMILY AND SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF THEATRE!