

# YOUTH COMMUNICATION

True Stories by Teens

HERE  
THIS  
NOW.

## The Linhart Theater @ 440 Studios

440 Lafayette, 3rd Floor (between Astor Place & East 4th Street)  
SUBWAY: N, R, W to 8th Street / NYU, 6 to Astor Place



THE NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL FRINGE FESTIVAL  
A PROJECT OF THE FRINGE COMPANY  
AUGUST 11 TO 27, 2006  
FOR TICKETS (\$18) AND INFORMATION  
212.279.4488 • WWW.FRINGENYC.ORG

directed by Tamilla Woodard

adapted by Sharahin McClung and Tamilla Woodard from stories published by YOUTH COMMUNICATION  
graphics by Ilya Gerasimenko.

**Saturday**  
August 12th @ 7:30pm

**Sunday**  
August 13th @ 3:00pm

**Monday**  
August 14th @ 8:00pm

**Wednesday**  
August 16th @ 5:45pm

**Friday**  
August 18th @ 6:15pm

"I am that voice of YOUTH"

## **PERFORMANCES**

Directed by Tamilla Woodard

Adapted by Sharahn McClung  
and Tamilla Woodard

Choreographed by McKenzie Frye

Performed by Charles Everett, Shayna Padovano,  
Francisco Solorzano and DJ Tabu

**“Waiting for Harlem to Happen Again”**

Story by Hashim Warren

**“My Journey Home”**

Story by Anna Song

**“The Crew from the Parking Lot”**

Story by Ferentz LaFargue

**“Phat Flows, Honeys and the Booms”**

Story by Shawan Samuels

**“Mama Said”**

Stories by Jessica Maissonet and Clariza Sanchez

**“My Mother the Warden”**

Story by Artiqua Steed

**“Chinese Parents, American Me”**

Story by Ngan-Fong Huang

**“A Lesbian in the System”**

Interview by Carlford Wadley

**“My Crushing Secret”**

Story by Anonymous

**“Why I Love Gangsta Rap”**

Story by Slade Anderson

**“My Love, My Friend, My Enemy”**

Story by Graciela M. Báez

## **“Stop Sweatin’ Me”**

Story by Troy Shawn Welcome

## **“Tell Him Why”**

Poem by Lisa Frederick

## **“Seizure Boy Learns to 6-Step”**

Story by Mark Stumer

## **“Will There Ever Be Justice for David”**

Story by Grismaldy Laboy

## **“Why I Carry a Gun”**

Story by Anonymous

## **“Movin’ On Up”**

Story by Hattie Rice

## **“Who Iz Bonz Malone?”**

Interview by James Earl Hardy

Song: “My Shelter” by H.U.L. from *The Kore*



Youth Communication, founded in 1980, helps teens develop strong literacy skills, make good decisions, become informed citizens, and contribute to their communities. Nearly 100 teens participate in our intensive, year-round journalistic writing program. They publish their stories in our two magazines, *New Youth Connections*, and *Represent: The Voice of Youth in Foster Care*, where they are read by more than 200,000 of their peers. All of the true stories in *Hear. This. Now.* were written by teens in our writing program and originally appeared in our magazines.

As a nonprofit organization, Youth Communication’s work is supported by primarily by contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations. Youth Communication has won dozens of awards for its publications and work with teens. Executive Director and founder Keith Hefner won a MacArthur Fellowship for his work in 1989.

For more information, see [www.youthcomm.org](http://www.youthcomm.org)

## ACTORS (in alphabetical order)



**Charles Everett** began acting at age 9 in community theater in his native Connecticut. He continued his acting training with the historic Negro Ensemble Company of New York City and starred in their touring production of *Colored Peoples Time*. Other credits include *King of the Road* at Theater Row, Youth Communication's 25th Anniversary at Symphony Space, and a supporting role in the independent feature film *The Assassin*. Charles has been featured in numerous national television commercials as both an on-camera and voiceover talent. Charles has recorded and toured with rock band The Hotheads and is producing the debut album for hip hop group Black Astronauts.



**Shayna Padovano** most recently appeared as La Llorona in *La Llorona* which she co-wrote, co-directed and choreographed at the Boston University School of Theatre. Other credits include Ariel in Shakespeare's *The Tempest* at the Huntington Theatre, Gertie in *Fuddy Meers* at Boston University, Shy in the original play *White Rabbit* at the Valley Arts Festival in Amherst, MA., Eurydice in *Polaroid Stories* and Wasp in *Bartholomew Fair* both at the Accademia dell'Arte in Arezzo, Italy. Shayna holds a B.F.A in Theatre Arts and a minor in Italian Studies from Boston University.



**Francisco Solorzano\*** has appeared in the original short play, *The Hunger Arts* (Makor Theater), 40th Anniversary Revival of Lanford Wilson's *Balm in Gilead* opposite Anna Chlumsky, *The Water Engine* (Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Edinburgh, Scotland), 35th Anniversary production of *The Indian Wants The Bronx* at Israel Horovitz's Gloucester Stage Company. Originated role of Ismail in *A Mother's Love* by Israel Horovitz (Gloucester Stage Company, Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 78th Street Theatre Lab). Francisco is a founder and has been Artistic Director of Barefoot Theatre Company since 1999 and received a BFA in acting from Brooklyn College. He is honored to have been invited to join this badass, wonderful, & talented group. Special thanks to his peeps!, family and Victoria.



**Tasha Guevara (DJ Tabu)\*** – This is Tasha's third Fringe Festival and she has been doing the struggling actor thing in New York for the past four years. Tasha has several independent movies and commercials under her belt and serves as an acting teacher with the Creative Arts Team at CUNY and MCC Theater. She can be found DJing in and around the city and is working on her own record label/DJ management company with her partner Emma Holmes who is based in England. She would like to thank everyone involved in this production for this lovely opportunity to give a voice to teen writers.

\* These actors are appearing courtesy of Actors' Equity Association.

**Equity Approved Showcase**

## DIRECTOR & ADAPTORS



**Tamilla Woodard**, Director and Adaptor – Most recently, Tamilla directed *The Book of the Who* for MCC's Fresh Play Festival and *An Evening Honoring Toni Morrison* at Lincoln Center Jazz featuring readings and tributes by Sonia Sanchez, Phylicia Rashad, Bill T. Jones and Sweet Honey in the Rock among others. Also, this year: The premier of Stanton Woods' *Mr. Hoovers Tea Party* for Off World Theatre, the national tour of *We Got Issues!* and the remount of *Valiant*, winner of a 2004 Best Of Fringe award for performance, a Best Of listing in *New York Magazine* and recently nominated for an Innovative Theatre Award. She is honored to bring these voices to this stage.



**Sharahn McClung**, Adaptor – Sharahn was recently nominated for an IT Award for Ensemble for her performance in *Valiant* (adapted by Lanna Joffrey, directed by Tamilla Woodard) at the UNYYC. A reading of *Valiant* was also recently presented at The Williamstown Theatre Festival and has been invited to join the Culture Project's IMPACT Festival in the fall. Other credits: *Valiant*, FringeNYC 2004 "Best of Fringe Award" and *New York Magazine's* "Pick of the Week"; *Question Love* dir: Hayley Finn-FringeNYC 2004; *American Myth Project* (Primary Stages) directed by Andrew Lensye; *Women on Love* (The Culture Project & Six Figures Theatre Co.), *Linked* (Hypothetical Theatre Company), *Four* written by Christopher Shinn; *Beethoven N Pierrot* (Denver Center Theatre), *War Story* (Mill Mountain Theatre), *Unreal City* (Epiphany Theater Company).

HERE THIS NOW.

## CREW

**Darya Gerasimenko**, Set Designer/Stage Manager – Darya is happy to be returning to the Fringe. Darya stage managed *Valiant* with Fringe NYC 2004, and has worked various other backstage jobs in the theatre. She most recently stage managed and designed a version of *Here. This. Now.* for Youth Communication's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Symphony Space. As always, she wants to thank Tamilla for giving her yet another gig.

**Ilya Gerasimenko**, Graphic Designer – Ilya earned a degree in industrial and graphic design from a university that no one has ever heard of, in a country, which doesn't exist anymore. He has loved theatre since high school (was a puppeteer for a while,) but his rise to a professional level should be solely accredited to Tamilla Woodard. Projection designs: *Valiant*, *We Got Issues!*. Scenic painting, graphic design: Youth Communication's 25th anniversary at Symphony Space. Ilya enjoys just a few things more than working for Tamilla: turkish coffee, sweet martinis, tenor saxophone, and canine mutts.

**Stephanie Hasiostis**, Lighting Designer – A recent graduate of SUNY New Paltz, Stephanie has worked as an actress, stage manager and lighting designer for the past four years in both New York and London. Favorite past projects include *The Lovers*, *The Dreamers*, and *You: A Muppet Musical*, *The Laramie Project* and *MAPA 1439*. Currently she is stage-managing the national tour of *We Got Issues!*, a performance based dialogue on feminine politics and power, hitting the road this fall!

**McKenzie Frye**, Choreographer – McKenzie is a Detroit native and Howard University graduate whose credits include *River Deep* (Peter Jay Sharp Theater), *Crowns* (Arizona Theatre Company), *Damn Yankees* (Lucille Lortel Theater/St. Louis Black Repertory Theatre-Woodie Award for Best Supporting Actress), *ABK for Life* (Columbia University), *Dreamgirls* (Arkansas Repertory Theatre), *Black Footnotes* (Ensemble Studio Theatre), *Harriet's Return* starring Debbie Allen (The Kennedy Center), and Donald Byrd's *Harlem Nutcracker*. What a talented trio *Here. This. Now.*



## **AUTHORS**

**Slade Anderson** wrote about politics, youth services, and youth culture for Youth Communication in 1993. "Why I Love Gangsta Rap" was reprinted in "Things Get Hectic" (Simon & Schuster). He is a graduate of the Colorado School for the Blind and lives in Las Vegas, Nevada.

**Graciela M. Báez** wrote for Youth Communication in 1991. She is pursuing her PhD at New York University after 12 years in Bilingual Corporate Human Resources Consulting. Her research includes a reconstruction of nationhood, cultural memory, social and political structures through feminine symbols and pre-patriarchal domination. She lives in Queens with her son and "rescues Goddesses one day at a time."

**James Earl Hardy** is a novelist, journalist, and critic. He is the author of the groundbreaking, best-selling "B-Boy Blues" series of six novels.

**Ngan-Fong Huang** wrote for Youth Communication in 1997. She is currently studying for a PhD in Bioengineering at University of California, Berkeley.

**Lisa Frederick's** poem "Tell Him Why" was published in the May, 1992 issue of *New Youth Connections*.

**Grismaldy Laboy** is the principal of the Gautier Institute for Law and Public Policy, a new small public high school in the Bronx. She is a graduate of the Brown University Graduate School of Education and has an MS in School Administration from Mercy College. She wrote for Youth Communication in 1996.

**Ferentz LaFargue** is a graduate of Queens College and Yale University, from which he received a PhD in African American Studies in 2005. "The Crew from the Parking Lot" was one of 21 stories he published with Youth Communication in the early 1990s. It was reprinted in *Starting With I* (Persea Books). He is a professor at The New School.

**Jessica Maissonet** and **Clariza Sanchez** participated in the Girls' Writing Workshop at Youth Communication in 1998.

**Bönz Malone** is a writer and actor, and he's been graffiti writer, record company executive, and the voice of Nike television commercials. He co-wrote and co-starred in *Slam*, which won the Grand Jury Prize at the 1998 Sundance Film Festival. He wrote *Stix & Stonz/Tupf St.*, a column which he created at Youth Communication for *Vibe* magazine.

**Hattie Rice** has been a writer at Youth Communication since July 2002. She has written about living with her mentally ill parents, adjusting to group homes and foster homes, studying for the SAT and hunting for the perfect college, and confronting her attraction to thugs and cherry cheese danishes. Hattie is now a freshman at SUNY-Binghamton.

**Shawan Samuels** wrote for *Represent* starting with the first issue, in July, 1993.

**Anna Song** has an MSW from the University of Chicago. She wrote for Youth Communication in the late 1980s. She lives in Hawaii.

**Artiqua Steed** wrote for Youth Communication from 1995-6. She published articles such as "I'm Black He's Puerto Rican. So What?," "Getting Guys Off My Back," and "My Mother the Warden." Artiqua lives in New York City and still finds time to write. She is married and has two children.

**Mark Stumer** wrote for Youth Communication in 2000. He is currently in the process of earning a J.D. from Albany Law School.

**Carlford Wadley** wrote for Youth Communication from 1994-7. He published stories about life in a group home, welfare reform, Japanese anime, comic books and music.

**Hashim Warren** is an editor at *Vibe* magazine. His story "Waiting for Harlem to Happen Again" also appears in the Youth Communication book *Growing Up Black*. Hashim is also the editor of the hip hop web site SOHH Blogs (sohh.com) and the creator of the web site [www.hiphop-blogs.com](http://www.hiphop-blogs.com). He wrote for Youth Communication in 1998.

**Troy Shawn Welcome** is Director at the Schomburg Satellite Academy HS in the Bronx. He worked at Youth Communication from 1994-6 and wrote stories about dating, family, mental health and school. His story, "My Father: I Want to Be Everything He's Not" was reprinted in *Starting With I* (Persea Books).

# YOUTH COMMUNICATION

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**Actors' Equity Association** ("AEA" or "Equity"), founded in 1913, is the labor union that represents more than 45,000 Actors and Stage Managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions and provides a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans, for its members. Actors' Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO, and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. The Equity emblem is our mark of excellence. [www.actorsequity.org](http://www.actorsequity.org)

