

CELEBRATING
YOUTH COMMUNICATION'S
25TH ANNIVERSARY

THE PREMIERE OF:

THEY CALLED ME "CRACK BABY" AND OTHER STORIES



PLUS A SHORT FILM ABOUT
THE WRITING PROCESS

YOUTH
COMMUNICATION
25TH
ANNIVERSARY
True Stories by Teens

January 18, 2006

Peter Norton Symphony Space

New York City

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January 18, 2006

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Thank you for joining us to celebrate Youth Communication's 25th Anniversary.

This evening's celebration honors the 2,000 young writers and illustrators who have produced Youth Communication's magazines over the years, some of whom are in the audience tonight. We extend a special welcome to you.

Tonight you'll see a short film about the editorial process behind the stories. Actors will then present dramatic performances of stories from our general interest magazine, *New Youth Connections*, and our foster care magazine, *Represent*.

Youth Communication could not exist without the generous support of board members, foundations, corporations, government agencies, and individuals like you. We are deeply grateful for your support.

Enjoy the show.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lee Kravitz".

Lee Kravitz
Board President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Keith Hefner".

Keith Hefner
Executive Director

224 W. 29th St., 2nd fl., New York, NY 10001 212-279-0708 www.youthcomm.org

TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

Welcome—Giselle John

FILM

Produced and Directed by Marilyn Ness and Amy Brown

Edited by Kristi Barlow

Ric Burns, Executive Producer

PERFORMANCES

Directed by Tamilla Woodard

Adapted by Tamilla Woodard and Sharahn LaRue McClung

“Waiting for Harlem to Happen Again”

Story by Hashim Warren

Performed by Charles Everett

“My Journey Home”

Story by Anna Song

Performed by Tiffany Jewel

“The Crew from the Parking Lot”

Story by Ferentz LaFargue

Performed by Mauricio Alexander



“Letters to Parents”

Submitted by readers who will remain anonymous

Performed by Charles Everett, Tiffany Jewel,
and Mauricio Alexander



“They Called Me ‘Crack Baby’”

Story by Antwaun Garcia

Performed by Charles Everett



“My Crushing Secret”

Story by Anonymous

Performed by Mauricio Alexander

“Why I Love Gangsta Rap”

Story by Slade Anderson

Performed by Charles Everett and Mauricio Alexander



“Letter to Saddam Hussein (1991)”

Reader letter submitted by Theresa Bayer

“Letter to President Bush (1991)”

Reader letter submitted by Keith Cruz

Performed by Tiffany Jewel



“Will There Ever Be Justice for David?”

Story by Grismaldy Laboy

Performed by Tiffany Jewel

“Why I Carry a Gun”

Story by Anonymous

Performed by Tiffany Jewel & Mauricio Alexander



“Bum-Rushed by My Past”

Story by Natasha Santos

Performed by Tiffany Jewel



“Who Iz Bönz Malone?”

From an interview conducted by James Earl Hardy

Performed by Mauricio Alexander, Charles Everett & Tiffany Jewel

Closing

Giselle John

Keith Hefner

Lee Kravitz



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YOUTH COMMUNICATION

THE DIRECTORS, CAST AND CREW

Actors



Mauricio Alexander, a native Washingtonian, is an actor/rapper now living in NYC. His credits include performances at the Puerto Rican Traveling Theatre, Nuyorican Poets Cafe, the Public Theater, the Tisch School of the Arts NYU Festival of New Works and several national commercial and voice-over spots. He has also opened for or appeared on hip-hop releases with Hasan Salaam, Open Thought, Akim Funk Buddha, Mental Notes, Red Clay, Mind Spray, Caridad de la Luz (La Bruja), and Doo-Wop Moderno.



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, and starred in their touring production of *Colored People's Time*. Charles recently made his Off-Broadway debut at Theater Row in *King of the Road*. An established voiceover talent, Charles has been featured in numerous national television and radio commercials, and can be heard as the voice of the Aardvark in the upcoming feature film *Ice Age II*.



Tiffany Jewel is currently completing her M.F.A. in Acting at Columbia University. She has also gained valuable training at the University of Virginia and the Orlando Shakespeare Festival. Tiffany recently appeared in the movement-based production of LIMBS at the Here Arts Center. She is very thankful to have the opportunity to work with such a talented and giving group of artists in this celebration of 25 years of resilience and recognition of voices that too often go unheard.

Directors



Tamilla Woodard, Director and Adaptor—Most recently Tamilla directed the national tour of the Spoken Word performance piece *We Got Issues*. This month she directs the premier of Stanton Woods *Mr. Hoover's Tea Party* for Off World Theatre. Other credits include *Valiant*, first presented at The New York Int'l Fringe Festival in 2004 where it won a Best Of Fringe award for performance and a Best Of listing in New York Magazine, *The Faith Project: Intersection of Belief* at The Tank and The Bowery Poets Café, *Subtraction* by Stanton Wood for the Assembly Theatre Company, *The Rocky Horror Show; Request Concert* and *Polaroid Stories* at The Yale Cabaret. Tamilla Woodard is a graduate of the Yale School of Drama and served as the Artistic Director of the 2001-2002 Yale Cabaret. Tamilla is proud and honored to be a part of such a wonderful project.



Sharahn LaRue McClung, Adaptor/Dramaturg—Sharahn has performed in *Valiant* adapted by Lanna Joffrey, directed by Tamilla Woodard at the FringeNYC; *Question Love* directed by Hayley Finn at the FringeNYC; *American Myth Project* at Primary Stages directed by Andrew Lensye; *Women on Love* at The Culture Project and Six Figures Theatre Co. directed by Hayley Finn; *Linked* at Hypothetical Theatre Company; *Four* written by Christopher Shinn (Carnegie Mellon Showcase of New Plays); *Beethoven N Pierrot* (Denver Center Theatre); *War Story* (Mill Mountain Theatre); *Unreal City* (Epiphany Theater Company). Readings and workshops include: NGO Commission of the Status of Women, Lark Theatre Company, New Georges, Urban Stages, New Jersey Rep. Co., and Emerging Artists Theatre. She holds a B.F.A. in Drama from Carnegie Mellon University.

Crew

Stephen Arnold, Lighting Designer—Stephen is very excited that, after two and a half years in New York, he still doesn't have a job. Except, ya know, in theater and in dance. Some of the companies that have told him that they liked his work are Manhattan Children's Theatre, Manhattan Theatre Source, Bristol Valley Theatre, Bay Shore Arts Center, Unbound Theater Company, Breakbone Dance Company, Red Light District, Harbor Theatre Company, River North Chicago Dance Company, Visions & Voices Theater Company, The Journeymen Theater Company, Circle Theater, and "*Dance Chicago 2000-02*".

Darya Gerasimenko, Stage Manager—Darya stage managed *Valiant* with FringeNYC 2004, and has worked various other backstage jobs in the theatre. Darya attends New York University and is the head of the College of Arts and Science Theatre Troupe (CAST) in addition to working in the technical department for the Steinhardt School of Education's Music and Performing Arts productions.

Monica Pineda, Music Director/DJ—Monica Pineda, aka DJ Moni, recently worked as MD/DJ for *We Got Issues* creating an original score and performing on its national tour. She was also MD/DJ for the theater productions, *Manchild* and *Welcome to Arroyo's*, which was part of the 2005 Summer Play Festival on Theater Row. In 2004, she toured nationally providing an on-stage mix for Will Power's *Flow*, which was nominated for Outstanding Non-Resident Production at the 2005 Helen Hayes Theater Awards in Washington DC. She teaches DJ workshops in NY public schools and spins with the female DJ crew, Ubiquita.

Film

Amy Brown, Producer/Director—Amy Brown is a documentary filmmaker who has worked on several Emmy-winning films. Her many credits include *The Pill*, which was shown at Sundance, and work with director Ric Burns on his New York Series and biographies of Eugene O'Neill and Andy Warhol. Brown recently received a fellowship to produce a documentary about Rwanda's struggle to create an independent press. She received her Masters degree from the Columbia University Journalism School and is currently co-producing a film about Annie Oakley for PBS.

Marilyn Ness, Producer/Director—Marilyn Ness is a two-time Emmy Award winning documentary film producer with ten years of experience. Before opening her own production company, Necessary Film, Ness produced films with director Ric Burns. Their collaborations include a film on the rise and fall of the World Trade Center as well as biographies on Eugene O'Neill, Andy Warhol, and Ansel Adams. Other credits include *American Experience* on PBS, *TLC*, *National Geographic*, and *Court TV*. Ness teaches the Documentary Workshop at New York Film Academy.

Ric Burns, Executive Producer—Ric Burns is a documentary filmmaker best known for his acclaimed 8-part PBS series *New York: A Documentary Film*. Burns has produced, written and directed many other films for national public television, including *Coney Island* (1991), *The Donner Party* (1992), and *The Way West* (1995). In 2002, he wrote and directed *Ansel Adams*, a film biography of the great American photographer. Before starting Steeplechase Films in 1989, Burns was best known for his work on the celebrated 1990 public television series *The Civil War*, which he produced with his brother Ken Burns and wrote with Geoffrey C. Ward.

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.

Theresa Bayer’s letter was published in the May, 1991 issue of *New Youth Connections*.

Keith Cruz’s letter was published in the May, 1991 issue of *New Youth Connections*.

Antwaun Garcia has written stories on foster care, manhood, relationships, and many other topics. He has discussed his stories at conferences and on National Public Radio’s *All Things Considered* and they have been reprinted in half a dozen books and magazines. Antwaun is studying at LaGuardia Community College while working at Home Depot.

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. James is a graduate of the Columbia University School of Journalism. He wrote dozens of stories for *Youth Communication* during the late 1980s.

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.

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.

Natasha Santos has written a dozen stories for *Youth Communication* since 2001 and is still on the writing staff. She is currently a student at Edward R. Murrow HS in Brooklyn.

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

Hashim Warren wrote for *Youth Communication* in 1998. His story, “Waiting for Harlem to Happen Again,” also appears in the *Youth Communication* book “Growing Up Black.” Hashim is an editor for the hip hop web site SOHH Blogs (sohh.com) and is the creator of the web site www.hiphop-blogs.com.



25 YEARS OF COVERING NEW YORK

—From a Teen Perspective

Youth Communication's teen writers have covered many important events in recent New York history—from their unique vantage point. They informed teens about AIDS and birth control when the Board of Education wouldn't. They identified and wrote about major developments that affected young people—the crack epidemic, growth of homelessness among families with children, how immigration was changing New York—often before the mainstream media picked up the story. They explained the college admissions maze to teens who were the first in their family to confront the process. They interviewed governors (right) and chancellors (below).



Most importantly, their stories reached marginalized, disenfranchised teens. Youth Communication's readers are disproportionately poor, or recent immigrants, or living in the city's most distressed neighborhoods and attending the most troubled schools. They are invisible in the mainstream media, at best, or stereotyped and degraded, at worst. Youth Communication's stories help readers to see the relationship between their experiences and the larger civic culture. They give countless teens the information and inspiration they need to feel like they, too, are entitled to enter the public square and have a voice in the future of New York.

Following are a few examples from the 6,000 stories we have published since 1980.

EDUCATION

1980: "Mayor Proposes \$293 Million School Budget Cut,"
by Lourdes Rosado

In the first issue of *New Youth Connections* (right) the teen writers described what it was like to face the layoffs of thousands of teachers and guidance counselors, 35 students or more in a class, outdated books and equipment, and other roadblocks to an adequate education that resulted from the City's ongoing fiscal crisis. The students interviewed most of the nine men who have sat in the chancellor's office since 1980, including Tony Alvarado, shown with reporters David Jones and Sheridan Honore in 1983 (far right).



2003: "Our Schools Are Overcrowded, and We're Frustrated,"
by Caitlin Lemmo

Teen staff published open letters to Schools Chancellor Joel Klein about the successes and failures at their schools. Caitlin Lemmo described, "... one frustrating year at Newtown HS in Queens, which houses 4,500 students in a building designed for 2,500." Mr. Klein agreed to an interview about the teens' concerns. Writers Caitlin Lemmo and Luce Tang interviewed the Chancellor and we published the give-and-take in the April 2004 issue of *New Youth Connections* (right).



HOMELESSNESS

1988: "For the Homeless, There Is No Bus Out of Port Authority," by Anonymous
In her story for *New Youth Connections*, this writer described three homeless teens in the Port Authority bus station: "They were huddled under a thin brown blanket. They looked like they'd just come out of a fire. You didn't have to be an expert on homelessness to see that they had been on the streets for months."



2005: "No Place to Go: 4 Shelters, 12 Housing Applications, 2 Hospitals and Many Nights on the Streets," by Miguel Ayala

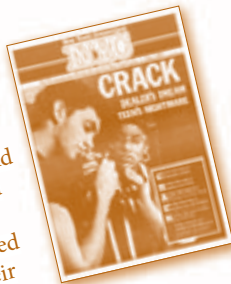
Ayala detailed his struggle to find an apartment in the year after he was discharged from foster care. His story appeared in *Represent*, a magazine founded in 1993 by Youth Communication to give youth in care a way to share their concerns and to help staff and administrators provide better services.



CRACK

1986: "Crack: Dealer's Dream; Teen's Nightmare," special issue by the New Youth Connections teen staff

In the spring of 1986, teen reporters said their neighborhoods were swarmed by crack users and dealers. During one April weekend they interviewed 73 of their peers and reported their findings in the May issue of *Teen's* "CRACK: Dealer's Dream; Teen's Nightmare." Twenty-eight teens said they had used crack, one adding that it made him feel like a "flying warrior." This enthusiasm was a bad omen.



2004: "They Called Me 'Crack Baby,'" by Antwuan Garcia and the Represent teen staff

"As I struggled trying to read, the other kids began to giggle. Then this one kid said, 'He can't read because he's a crack baby,'" wrote Garcia.

The crack wave subsided but left in its wake thousands of young people mislabeled as uneducable and doomed to crippled lives. *Represent* magazine gave Antwaun Garcia and other writers the opportunity to debunk this misconception in a special issue.



AIDS

1987: "Thinking about AIDS," a special issue by the New Youth Connections teen staff

"Which is worse—using an explicit word to describe a sexual act or having teens die because they didn't understand what we wrote?" wrote Nadine Lynch in the introduction to the issue.

While the Board of Education debated what to tell teens about AIDS, NYC writers knew their peers were having unsafe sex and exploring other dangerous behaviors. They produced a special issue that broke through the stigma surrounding the disease and informed thousands of young readers about how to stay healthy.



2004: "Avoiding the Issue: Why some teens risk HIV," by Zaineb Nadeem

"Look at the clock—for every hour that goes by, two Americans between the ages of 13 and 24 get HIV," Nadeem wrote.

AIDS is still killing teens and their loved ones. Our third special issue on AIDS—*Why Are We Still Getting HIV?*—educated a new group of teens about the disease.



FOSTER CARE

1996: "I Could Have Been Elisa," by James Knight

In 1995, Elisa Izquierdo was killed by her mother, though the authorities had been notified many times about the abuse in her home. Her death moved writer James Knight, whose own cries for help had gone unheeded. His story, which helped lift the veil of bureaucratic secrecy, appeared in *Foster Care Youth United* magazine (since renamed *Represent: The Voice of Youth in Care*).



1999: The Foster Care Independence Act

First Lady Hillary Clinton read our anthology of stories by teens in foster care, *The Heart Knows Something Different* (Persea Books), and it helped her understand the challenges facing teens who are aging out of the system. She was instrumental in achieving passage of the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999. Youth Communication foster care writers Xavier Reyes (center, in photo) and Danielle Joseph were invited to the bill signing at the White



2003: "From Group Home Child to College Success," by Tamecka Crawford

"I found myself using the excuse of being in foster care every time I missed a class or failed an exam," wrote Tamecka Crawford about her struggle to do well in college.

As the average age of young people in foster care increased, Youth Communication published more stories in *Represent* and in anthologies to help them prepare to leave the system and live on their own.

IMMIGRATION

1991: "My Korean Boyfriend Said I Was Too American," by Sue Chong

2003: "Don't Call Me Puerto Rican—I'm Ecuadorian," by Janill Briones

A wave of immigration in the 1990s made New York City home to hundreds of thousands of youthful newcomers. Seeing their experiences reflected in these stories and hundreds more that we published on the immigration experience helped young people adjust to their adopted city.

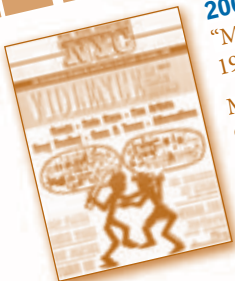


VIOLENCE AND CRIME

2002: "My Brother Kareem," by Destiny Cox

"My brother Kareem was my best friend for 10 years and 18 days, until April 28, 1996—the day he was murdered."

Many Youth Communication writers lost loved ones to street violence. *New Youth Connections* and *Represent* enabled them to share their eloquent testimonies with thousands of readers who were also coping with pain and loss. We also published many stories which showed teens how they could avoid deadly confrontations.



WAR AND TERRORISM

1991: The Gulf War

"I am in definite support of the U.S. soldiers [but] President Bush is neglecting many of our own problems like racism, drugs, and inadequate education," wrote Lindsay Williams.

Teen writers and readers expressed mixed feelings about the Gulf War, from complete support to questions about the President's motives to concerns about the war's impact on domestic programs and civil liberties.



2004: "Hard Sell: My Visit with an Army Recruiter," by Cara Brumfield

"On the topic of travel [the recruiter] had plenty to say about France and Italy, but he didn't mention places like Iraq and Afghanistan," wrote Brumfield.

The war in Iraq has put pressure on military recruiters to sign up young people. Cara Brumfield went undercover and described how two recruiters tried to entice her into enlisting.



2001: "A Wounded City"

"My father, Erroll Anderson, is a New York City firefighter. He was at ground zero. It was the day my father cried ... out of the pain and terror he felt. We all cried with him," wrote NYC reader Andre Anderson.

Hundreds of teens submitted essays about their experiences and feelings regarding 9/11. *New Youth Connections* was one of the few public spaces where Andre and his peers could compare notes, share their grief, and reflect on the tragedy.

1999: "When I Look at the Homeless, I See Myself," by Chiara Sullivan

"I was scared at first because all I ever heard was that you have to sleep with one eye open in shelters so no one would take your stuff."

Living on food stamps, dodging drug dealers on the street, spending time in shelters—many Youth Communication reporters have offered first hand views of what it's like to grow up poor and struggle for a better life.

Our writers also tackled policy issues such as the impact of welfare reform, the perennial proposals for a sub-minimum wage for teenagers, and the struggles of poor families to provide adequate housing and education for their children.



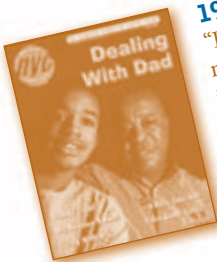
POVERTY

FAMILY

1998: "Just the Two of Us," by Stephen Simpson

"Ever since I can remember, my father has taken time out to be with me, my brother, and my sister," wrote Simpson. "Even though he works two jobs, he doesn't let this interfere with the family."

Youth Communication writers have examined family relations in more than 500 stories over the years. Many have communicated their need for parental attention and what happens when they can't get it.



COLLEGE

1983: "What Do College Admissions Officials Look for?" by Ellen Neuborne

1995: "My First Semester: Overworked, Underpaid, and Unprepared," by Troy Sean Welcome

2005: "Can I Even Afford to Apply?" by Stephanie Perez
Nothing excites high levels of dread and hope in young strivers more than the college application process, especially if they're the first in their family to apply. Our writers have been surrogate guidance counselors to their peers for over two decades, addressing every facet of the process, from how to get in and pay for college, to how to succeed once you're accepted.



RESPONSIBLE SEXUALITY

1984: "There Is No Squeal Rule," special issue of *New Youth Connections*

1998: "Can We Talk About Sex?" special issue of *Represent*

2000: "Sex and Consequences," special issue of *New Youth Connections*
Our first special issue on responsible sexuality (1984) let teens know that the widely publicized federal "squeal rule"—which would have required clinics to tell parents when teens requested birth control—never went into effect. A dozen more stories gave teens the information they needed to make responsible decisions about sex and relationships.

During the past 25 years the Board of Education and many foster care agencies have failed to provide comprehensive information to teens on sexuality and family life. For tens of thousands of teens, *New Youth Connections* and *Represent* filled the gap.



AND...RACE RELATIONS, GENDER ISSUES,
POPULAR CULTURE, YOUTH ACTIVISM, MENTAL HEALTH,
GAY TEENS, ARTS, MENTORS, BULLYING, HEALTH AND
NUTRITION, AND MANY MORE

The Youth Communication Alumni

Tonight's event honors the 2,000 young people who have written more than 6,000 stories for Youth Communication and published more than 4,000 illustrations and photographs to accompany those stories. Their work has made an immeasurable contribution to their peers and to New York City.

Zakiyya A-Wali, Florentina Abramov, Eva Acevedo, Carlos Acosta, Cassandra Acosta, Yakira Acosta, Donna Actie, Maisha Adams, Jane Addison, Liza Addo, Stephen Adler, Patricia Agard-Morrison, Jeffery Aghahowa, Alana Agosto, Natanael Aguilar, Sumara Ahmad, Hanify Ahmed, Shilu Ahmed, Connie Aitcheson, Nzinga Ajani, Patrick Akinngabe, Victoria Akiwumi, Tysheka Albert, Ingrid Alert, Ashley Alexander, Sophia Alexopoulos, Mohammad Ali, Sonia Alicea, Sabah Aljahme, Yolanda Allison, Armine Altiparmakian, Greg Altman, Daisy Alvarez, Joseph Alvarez, Ashley Amey, Intieas Amirbaksh, George Amores, Jenny Amory, Fanita Amos, Karleen Andall, Daniella Anderson, Kiwan Anderson, LaRhonda Anderson, Maurice Anderson, Slade Anderson, David Andre, Michelle Antoine, Aloha Antonio, Gary Apold, Gabriel Appleton, Carmen Arango, Yvonne Arango, Johanne Araujo, Kimberly Araujo, Stella Arbelaez, Karleen Ardall, Saeny Arellano, Agetta Argimandriti, Melania Arias, Erica Arlequin, Robert Arner, Alan Arrata, Deborah Arthur, Sharon Asherman, Ann Marie Ashmeade, Ama Ashun, Tuere Atkinson, Iris Au, Mark Auerbach, Michael Aurello, Peter Autin-Hefner, Norma Autry, Siuyim Auyeung, Rene Avalos, Albert Ayala, Miguel Ayala, Violeta Ayala, Vita Ayala, Juan Azize, Nishan Aznavorian.

David Babkow, Graciela Baez, Desiree Bailey, Uziah Baity, Miguel Baker, Elsa Balcacer, Michelle Baldie, Shorn Ballah, Tamara Ballard, Joseph Ballew, Kareem Banks, Arthurel Banton, Diana Banton, Jessica Baptiste, Nagella Baptiste, Nadine Barbosa, Barbara Barden, Agnes Barilea, Criss Barker, Marcus Barkley, Steven Barnard, Idria Barone Knecht, Abdull Barri Popul, Joy Barrow, Charmaine Bartholomew, Melissa Bartholomew, Beatrice Bass, Stanley Bastien, Raymond Batts, Jennifer Baum, Sherrille Baxter, Kelley Bays, Mohamad Bazzi, Jeanette Bead, Nell Becker, Cara Bedick, Joseph Bell, Martin Bell, Patrick Bell, Emily Bell Dinan, Stephanie Bello Orjuela, Christina Belsares, Dellie Belton-Nichols, Alexis Beltran, Tammy Benchley, Erwins Benitez, Irwins Benitez, Suzanne Bent, William Bentley, Nurys Benzant, Benjamin Berelson, Sharif Berkeley, Charlena Berksteiner, Monica Bermudez, Natina Berrios, Ewart Bertete, Stephanie Betancourt, Yaridania Betancourt, Martina Bettler, Zeena Bhattacharya, Douglas Bick, Ewa Biega, Michael Birnbaum, Jacquie Bishop, Tania Bizianne Peritz, Faundell Black, Maria Black, Nadine Blackman, David Blackwood, Herbert Block, Zak Block, Kate Bobby, Derrick Boggs, Christopher Bogle, Sarah Bolitzer, Larry Boltz, Tara Bonaparte, Mercedes Bones, Eric Bonner, Marc Boone, Christine Boose, Frantz Bordes, Michele Borg, Jessica Borges, Anna Borschhevskaya, Risa Borsykowsky, Frances Bosch, Lacey Bosworth, Fabio Botarelli, Bintou Bouboutou, Sheldon Bourne, Oumar Bowman, Nicole Bowman-Capocitti, Lishone Bowsky, Jamalia Boyd, Serap Bozkent, Pat Bradley, Tonda Bradley, Jillian Braithwaite, Seloure Braithwaite, Nefertari Branch, Schamel Brand, Diane Brandon, Norman Brant, Selome Brathwaite, Shivers Brent, Aurora Breville, Debra Bright, Janill Briones, Fanny Brito, Adjowah Brodie, Christian Brooks, Iris Brooks, Janice Brooks, Nina Brooks, Philip Brooks, Michael Broughton, Clifford Brown, Eddie Brown, Eric Brown, George Brown, Joshua Brown, Khadejah Brown, Leslye Brown, Leticia Brown, Lynne Brown, Martell Brown, Norine Brown, Ronald Brown, Samantha Brown, Sem Brown, Shanae Brown, Shante Brown, Shantiese Brown, Shep Brown, Sickle Brown, Michelle Brown-Jeffries, Hazak Brozgold, Cara Brumfield, Laura Bruno, Shaun Bryan, Tangie Bryan, Anita Bryant, Justin Bryant, Trenee Bryant, Evelyn Brzezinska, Derrick Buggs, Catalina Buitrago, Mel Bukszpan, Rick Bullard, Nakese Bullock, Latasha Burgos, Marie Burke, Rikou Burke, Scott Burke, Saretta Burkett, Christine Burnett, Nicole Burrows, Autumn Bush, Pamela Bush, Brandon Butcher, Christopher Butler, Jen Butler, Paula Byrd.



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Note: This list includes most of the teens who worked at Youth Communication and contributed to our publications from 1980 to 2005. It does not include a few hundred teens we lost track of, or the several thousand young people we have served at offsite workshops and classes in schools, foster care agencies, after school programs and juvenile jails.

YOUTH COMMUNICATION

Youth Communication Corporate and Foundation Supporters 1980-2005

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Youth Communication is extremely grateful to the hundreds of individuals who have supported our work over the years.

Distributors

A small army of more than 1,000 teachers, counselors, foster care staff, and librarians distribute our magazines each month. Without their efforts we could never reach our teen readers. We are very grateful to them.



Youth Communication's Vital Stats

- ▶ Number of editions of *New Youth Connections (NYC)* and *Represent* magazine published, 1980-2005: **265**
- ▶ Total number of copies printed: **about 13 million**
- ▶ Number of teens who have worked on the magazines (writers, artists, photographers): **about 2,000**
- ▶ Where the teen writers and artists live:
 - Brooklyn: 37%; Queens: 23%; Manhattan: 20%;**
 - Bronx: 17%; Staten Island: 2%; Outside NYC: 1%**
- ▶ Number of stories they have published: **about 6,000**
- ▶ Number of stories published anonymously: **315**
- ▶ Number of illustrations published: **4,100**
- ▶ Number of essay contest entries submitted by readers: **about 18,000**
- ▶ Number of letters to the editor submitted by readers: **about 6,000**
- ▶ Number of teachers, librarians, social workers, and other adults who distribute *NYC & Represent* each year: **about 1,000**
- ▶ Number of in-class essays assigned and discussions held about *NYC* stories: **countless**
- ▶ What teens say they get from reading the magazines (in annual reader surveys):
 - **they feel less isolated and more hopeful**
 - **they get information they can't find anywhere else**
 - **they see how to solve challenges in their lives**
- ▶ Number of teens who read each issue of *NYC*: **150,000**; *Represent*: **20,000**
- ▶ Amount of time the average reader spends with *NYC*: **about 30 minutes**
- ▶ Percent of teachers who have rated *NYC* and *Represent* Good or Excellent in annual surveys: **90 or more**
- ▶ Prizes won: **dozens**, including:
 - **“Coming Up Taller” Award to Youth Communication from the President’s Council on the Arts and the Humanities, awarded to the best youth arts and humanities programs in the country (2000)**
 - **“Judge’s Award,” from the Association for Educational Publishers, to *Represent*, as one of the best young adult magazines in the country (2005)**
 - **“Parent’s Choice” and “Parent’s Guide” awards for the resilience anthology, *The Struggle to Be Strong* (2001)**
- ▶ Number of former writers who have become newspaper foreign bureau chiefs: **2**
- ▶ Number who were in juvenile jail before they became writers: **several**
- ▶ Number who became police officers: **3**

- ▶ Most common career fields:
 - **journalism and new media; law; armed forces; teaching; financial services; social work**
- ▶ Number of books published by Alumni: **31**
- ▶ Number who have published novels: **5**
- ▶ Number of novelists who made *New York Times* bestseller list: **1**
- ▶ Number of books (anthologies) of Youth Communication's best stories published (so far): **70 and counting**
- ▶ Number of Youth Communication stories that other publishers have reprinted in textbooks, magazines, etc.: **hundreds**
- ▶ Sales of our best-selling book, *The Struggle to Be Strong*: **25,000 copies**
- ▶ Number of people who visit www.youthcomm.org: **about 2,000 a week**
- ▶ The average amount of time they spend on the website: **about 20 minutes**
- ▶ Number of times they download our teacher guides: **about 100 times a week**
- ▶ Number of alumni who attended Harvard: **11**; Columbia: **19**; NYU: **38**; a SUNY college: **103**; a CUNY college: **227**
- ▶ Total cost of running Youth Communication (all programs) since 1980: **about \$13 million**
- ▶ Amount that came from foundation, corporate, and individual grants: **about \$11 million**
- ▶ Amount that came from government: **about \$1 million**
- ▶ Amount of earned income (subscriptions, advertising, book sales, etc.): **about \$1 million**
- ▶ Current cost (2005) to run Youth Communication for one year: **about \$1 million**
- ▶ Value: **priceless**

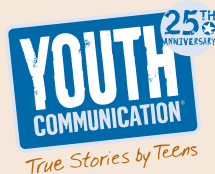
Note on alumni numbers: Youth Communication has about 2,000 alumni; we have current contact information for about 1,000 of them, and each year, about 150 of them return surveys updating their information. Alumni stats are based on those surveys.



UNICATION

“Youth Communication is a lifeline for so many teens who otherwise would have no opportunity to grow and nurture their talents. Supporting it is a concrete way to invest in vibrant, hard-working and creative young people—and in the future of American culture.”

—**Edwidge Danticat**, author and program alumna



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