

# **YVETTE HEYLIGER**

## **TEACHING ARTIST**

P.O. Box 1803

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### **PROFILE**

Grant-winning published playwright, director, actor, and producing artist who incorporates these skills into her work as a teaching artist; guest artist / guest speaker at colleges and universities; plays produced in LA, MA, NY and in national and local theatre festivals; currently on the roster of Young Playwrights Inc., American Place Theatre, New Jersey Performing Arts Center and City Lights Youth Theatre. MFA Candidate: Playwriting at Queens College.

### **TEACHING ARTIST EXPERIENCE**

- Young Playwrights, Inc./ENACT at PS 399, Bronx** Spring 2009  
Workshop Leader in this after-school residency instructing students in the craft of playwriting.
- City Lights Youth Theatre at MS 126, Brooklyn** Fall 2008  
Team-taught "Act It Up!" residency for total of seven 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms.
- Young Playwrights, Inc. at PS 399, Bronx** Spring 2008  
Workshop Leader in this after-school residency instructing students in the craft of playwriting; also taught in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms.
- Young Playwrights, Inc. at Brooklyn Academy** Winter 2008  
Workshop Leader in this residency instructing students in the craft of playwriting.
- American Place Theatre** Winter 2008  
Facilitator for the Literature To Life performance of *The Kite Runner*.
- American Place Theatre** Fall 2007  
Assistant teacher in this Literature To Life residency at Repertory High School where students created an original performance piece inspired by the book, *The Kite Runner*.
- Enter Stage Write at The Town School** Winter 2007 & Winter/ Spring 2006  
In this after-school program at a private school, kindergarten students create, rehearse and perform an original play.
- Periwinkle National Theatre at Academy of Scholarship and Entrepreneurship**, Fall 2005  
This 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade residency focuses on the book *Holes* by Louis Sachar and *Monster* by Walter Dean Myers respectively; invited an ex-offender from Riker's Island to speak about first hand experiences. Also assisted in the after school drama club.
- Periwinkle National Theatre at Junior High School 13** Spring 2005  
Team taught radio drama in the classroom and conducted an after-school drama club.
- Riker's Island Prison, Fresh Start Instructor at Island Academy** Spring 2005  
Team-taught using drama and playwriting in this literacy-based class; worked with the inmates on writing original monologues and scenes; read and discussed short plays and did improvisations.
- The Knowledge Project** Winter 2005  
For classes at IS 174 in the Bronx, organized a dramatic reading & discussion of the book *Monster* by Walter Dean Myers and invited an ex-offender from Riker's Island to speak about first hand experiences.
- Riker's Island Prison, Community Word Project Intern** 9/2004 – 1/2005  
Team-taught, working with the inmates on their writing in this literacy-based class using drama and visual

arts; created and taught an HIV/AIDS Workshop for men who would soon be released from prison.

**Boys and Girls Harbor, Teacher** 2004  
Taught acting and play production classes to aspiring inner-city youth; directed *The Mousetrap*.

**Creative Arts Team, New York University, Educational Theatre Specialist** 1989  
Taught AIDS awareness workshops through CRTD (Conflict Resolution Through Drama) as an “actor-teacher” in the public schools of New York.

#### RELATED EXPERIENCE

**City Year** (an Americorps organization) 11/07  
Did a playwriting lecture/workshop with 17-24 year olds trainees who are doing full-time community service within schools and communities.

**New Jersey Training School for Boys** 4/2006  
Writer/Director and cast members present excerpts of Heyliger’s play, *What Would Jesus Do?*, about HIV/AIDS to a juvenile prison for boys. Presentation followed by Q & A w/Heyliger and HIV experts.

**“Everything Goes?” WNYE-FM 91.5 Department of Education Radio** 4/2006  
Produced by Teachers & Writers Collaborative, playwright and cast members read and discussed excerpts from Heyliger’s play, *What Would Jesus Do*, during Public Health Week.

**Community Works: Theatre Connections** 3/2006  
Yvonne Farrow’s short film, *I’d Rather Be Dancing*, was presented was to NYC public school students; as co-director of the film, Heyliger facilitated the Q & A and prepared study guide.

**The Scholastic Writing Awards** 2009, 2007 & 2006  
Served as a juror on the selection panel judging the work of writers from grades 7 – 12.

**Harlem Children’s Zone TRUCE** (*The Renaissance University for Community Education*) 2005  
Excerpts, directed by Heyliger from her play, *What Would Jesus Do?*, were presented and supplemented with responses by HIV/AIDS educator.

**West Side Montessori School, Teacher’s Aid** 1993  
Assisted the head teacher in the Montessori classroom.

#### EDUCATION AND TRAINING (Partial list)

**Queens College**, Candidate Master of Fine Arts- Playwriting present  
**Voices Unbroken**, Teaching Artist/Youth Worker Training 9/08  
**Epic Theatre Ensemble**, Citizen Artist Conference/Teaching Artist Training 6/2008  
**Young Playwrights, Inc.**, Workshop Leader Training 11/08 & 2/2008  
**Commercial Theatre Institute**, Selected for Creative Development Intensive 11–12/2007  
**American Place Theatre**, Literature to Life Symposium, Master Teaching 9/08, 10/07,  
Artist Training and Teaching Artist Training 8 – 9/06 & 2 – 3/06  
**New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC)** Teaching Artist Training 11/07  
**Creative Arts Team**, various workshops exploring drama in the classroom 11 & 12/06  
**Sociodrama Training**, with Prof. Patricia Sternberg, RDT/BCT 4/2005  
Credited hours recognized by the National Association for Drama Therapy  
**Actors Work Program**, Teaching Artist Training w/Jane Ives 1/2005  
**Community Word Project**, Advanced Training/ Beg. Training & Internship 10/07 & 9/04 – 5/05  
**New York University**, Master of Arts and Bachelor of Arts 1987, 1983  
**William Esper Studios**, Sanford Meisner Acting Technique w/William Esper 1981 – 1983  
**Duke Ellington School of the Arts, Washington, DC**, High School Diploma

**NY STATE LICENSE and CERTIFICATES (by request)**

Fingerprint Clearance

present

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM WRITER/DIRECTOR/PRODUCING ARTIST RESUME**

***Billie Holiday Theatre, NY***

10 - 12 /2009

Heyliger directs her play *What Would Jesus Do?*

***Midtown International Theatre Festival, NYC***

7 – 8 /2008

Heyliger's play *Hillary and Monica: The Winter of Her Discontent* was presented.

***National Black Theatre Festival, NC***

8/2007

Heyliger's play, *What Would Jesus Do?*, is selected for main stage production at this national festival.

***Gloucester Stage Company, MA***

5 – 6/2007

Heyliger's play *Hillary and Monica: The Winter of Her Discontent* was presented; Heyliger directs.

***Hollywood Court Theatre, LA***

11– 12/2006

Twinbiz (Heyliger's production company), presented *What Would Jesus Do?*, written and directed by Heyliger, for World AIDS Day 2006 and in recognition of 25 years of HIV/AIDS. Excerpts of the play have been presented in churches, senior and youth centers, prisons, workshops, conferences and colleges.

***New York University, NY***

2/2005

Heyliger presented her play, *Hillary and Monica: The Winter of Her Discontent*, for NYU's class, *Dramatizing History I*.

***Best Women's Stage Monologues 2003 and Best Stage Scenes 2003***

Published 2004

In these editions published by Smith and Kraus, D.L. Lepidus, Editor, a scene and a monologue from Heyliger's published play, *Autobiography of A Homegirl*, were selected.

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS (past and present)**

- The Dramatists Guild ●AEA ●SAG ●AFTRA ●Stage Directors and Choreographers Society ●League of Professional Theatre Women ●Harlem Arts Alliance ●Theatre Resources Unlimited ●AUDELCO ●Black Filmmaker Foundation

***Cosby Show, or "My Fifteen Minutes of Fame"***

1980's

Played Bill Cosby's sister-in-law, "Aunt Sarah" on this historic 1980's NBC hit television show.

**WRITERS COLONY**

***Hedgebrook***

2008

Hedgebrook invests in women who write by providing them with space and time to create significant work, in solitude and community, and by developing an international network to connect writers (of different genres) and audiences. Currently serves on the inaugural Hedgebrook Alumnae Leadership Council.

**GRANTS AWARDED**

List upon request.

**GRANTS**

- Urban Arts Initiative*** 2008  
Awarded a grant from the Buddy Fund for Justice through the Rockefeller Philanthropic Advisors.
- HIV/AIDS Capacity-Building Mini-Grant*** 2006  
Awarded a grant by the Regional Resource Network to present *What Would Jesus Do?: HIV/AIDS and Our Seniors*.
- The Riverside Sharing Fund*** 2005  
Awarded a grant by the Riverside Mission and Social Justice Commission of the Riverside Church in the City of New York to assist in producing *What Would Jesus Do?*
- Lower Manhattan Cultural Council Fund for Creative Communities*** 2005  
Awarded a grant to present *What Would Jesus Do?*
- Harlem Arts Alliance/ Rockefeller Foundation Re-grant*** 2003  
Awarded a re-grant to support her work as an artist in the Harlem community.
- New York State Council on the Arts/Individual Artist Program*** 2003  
Awarded a grant to write, *What Would Jesus Do?*, a new play about HIV/AIDS.
- Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Los Angeles*** 1996  
Awarded for the production of *Autobiography of A Homegirl* at the Hollywood Court Theatre.
- Lower Manhattan Cultural Council Manhattan Community Arts Fund*** 1994  
Awarded this grant to produce *Autobiography of A Homegirl*, as part of the Voza Rivers/New Heritage Theatre Group's 1995 "Voices of Griots" Roger Furman Reading Series.
- New York State Council on the Arts/Individual Artist Program*** 1990  
Awarded a grant to write *Father's Day*, a play about childhood sexual abuse.

**Community Works, Consultant and Writer**

2003

Writer/Researcher for this organization which serves public school students and their communities.

**Community Works: Theatre Connections**

3/2006

Harlemwood Film Festival presentation of Yvonne Farrow's short film, *I'd Rather Be Dancing*, a to NYC public school students at Symphony Space's Thalia Theatre; as co-director of the film, facilitated the Q & A and follow-up discussion and prepared questions for the *I'd Rather Be Dancing Study Guide*.

**Harlem Children's Zone TRUCE** (*The Renaissance University for Community Education*) 2005

Excerpts, directed by Heyliger from her play, *What Would Jesus Do?*, were presented and supplemented with responses by HIV/AIDS educator.

**Commercial Theatre Institute**, Selected to receive a merit scholarship.

2002

**Lincoln Center Theatre Director's Lab**, Member of the first Lab.

6/1995