

# YVETTE HEYLIGER

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**Objective:** *To teach Playwriting.*

**Profile:** *Grant-winning published playwright, director, (former) actor, and producing artist who incorporates these skills into her work as a teaching artist in NYC public and private schools. Chief objective is to become a professor at a college or university. Has been a guest artist/guest speaker at: Vassar, Wesleyan, New York University, Rutgers University, Kean University, Kalamazoo College, and at Western Michigan University as part of their Visiting Artists and Scholars Program. Non-traditional settings include prisons, churches, senior citizen and youth centers, workshops and conferences. Plays produced in CA, MA, NY and in national and local theatre festivals. Nominated "Best Playwright" NAACP Theater Awards (1996).*

## EDUCATION

**Queens College**, Queens, NY

Candidate, Master of Fine Arts Creative Writing: Playwriting, 2010

**New York University**, New York, NY

Gallatin School of Individualized Study

Master of Arts, Theatre, 1987

Thesis: "Autobiography of A Homegirl"

(A play and research manuscript originally entitled, "Barbie Dolls").

**New York University**, New York, NY

Gallatin Division—University Without Walls

Bachelor of Arts, Acting, 1983

Studied Sanford Meisner acting technique with the accredited, William Esper, William Esper Studios, New York.

**Duke Ellington School of the Arts**, Washington, DC

High School Diploma, Acting major

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Young Playwrights, Inc./ENACT at PS 399, Bronx**

2009

Workshop Leader in this after-school residency instructing students in the craft of playwriting.

**City Lights Youth Theatre at MS 126, Brooklyn**

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./ ENACT at PS 399, Bronx**

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**

2008

Workshop Leader in this residency instructing students in the craft of playwriting.

- American Place Theatre** 2008  
Facilitator for Literature To Life performance of *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini.
- American Place Theatre at Repertory High School** 2007  
Assistant teacher in this Literature To Life residency where students created an original performance piece inspired by the book, *The Kite Runner*.
- Enter Stage Write at The Town School** 2007 & 2006  
In this after-school program at a private school, kindergarten students create, rehearse and perform an original play.
- Periwinkle National Theatre** 2005  
**Academy of Scholarship and Entrepreneurship**  
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 Meyers 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** 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** 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** 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** 2004 – 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, 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**

- Awassa Children's Center, Awassa Ethiopia** 2009  
Wrote a children's play based on an Ethiopian folktale, *Fire in the Mountain*, which was performed by the children of this orphanage that provides a home for children who have lost their parents to HIV/AIDS.
- The Scholastic Writing Awards** 2009, 2007 & 6  
Served as a juror on the selection panel judging the work of writers from grades 7 – 12.

**City Year** (an Americorps organization) 2007  
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** 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 Dept. of Education Radio** 2006  
Produced by Teachers & Writers Collaborative, playwright and cast members read and discussed excerpts of Heyliger's play, *What Would Jesus Do*, during Public Health Week.

**Community Works/ Harlemwood Film Festival** 2006  
ABC New Talent winner, Yvonne Farrow's short film, *I'd Rather Be Dancing*, was presented to NYC public school students; as co-director of the film, Heyliger facilitated the Q & A and prepared study guide.

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

**Community Works** 2003  
Writer/Researcher for this organization which serves public school students and their communities; specifically *harlem is: The Gospel Tradition*, a touring exhibition.

**Spirituals: The African American Connection** 1993  
Researched and wrote this documentary commissioned by Prof. Larry Farrow of Florida State University School of Music which led to trip to Africa to continue research.

**West Side Montessori School, Teacher's Aid** 1993  
Assisted the head teacher in Montessori pre-school classrooms.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

***What A Piece of Work Is Man!: An Anthology of Plays by Yvette Heyliger.***  
Bloomington, IN: Writer's Club Press, (pending).  
Includes: *Hillary and Monica: The Winter of Her Discontent*, *What Would Jesus Do?*, *Father's Day*, *Autobiography of A Homegirl* (revised) and *Operation Lysistrata!* and *A Better Wife*. Preface by Voza Rivers, New Heritage Theater (the oldest black not-for-profit theatre in New York).

***Black Masks.***  
Contributing Editor of this bi-monthly magazine which features information about African American performing artists and arts organizations around the nation.

***Best Women's Stage Monologues 2003.*** New Hampshire: Smith and Kraus, 2004.  
In this edition edited by D.L. Lepidus, a monologue from Heyliger's play, *Autobiography of A Homegirl*, was selected. ("Here are fantastic pieces by well-known playwrights...as well as just-as-fantastic monologues by exciting new voices such as...Yvette Heyliger.")

***Best Stage Scenes 2003.*** New Hampshire: Smith and Kraus, 2004.

In this edition edited by, D.L. Lepidus, a scene from Heyliger's play, *Autobiography of A Homegirl*, was selected.

***Autobiography of A Homegirl***. Nebraska: Writer's Club Press, 2001.

This powerful, thought provoking in-your-face drama candidly yet humorously takes a fresh look at race, color, beauty and self-esteem in American society. Comprehensive Study Guide Notes, as well as the author's reflections as an African American female playwright/director/producing artist, are included in this edition to supplement courses taught at high schools, colleges and universities.

**TRAININGS**

<b>Voices Unbroken</b> Teaching Artist/Youth Worker Training	2008
<b>Epic Theatre Ensemble</b>	2008
Citizen Artist Conference/Teaching Artist Training	
<b>Young Playwrights, Inc.</b> Workshop Leader Trainings	2008
<b>Commercial Theatre Institute</b>	2007
Most recently participated in their Creative Development Intensive; former merit scholarship recipient awarded through Theatre Resources Unlimited (2002).	
<b>American Place Theatre</b>	2008, 7 & 6
Literature to Life Symposium, Master & Teaching Artist Trainings	
<b>New Jersey Performing Arts Center</b> Teaching Artist Training	2007
<b>Creative Arts Team</b> , workshops exploring drama in the classroom	2006
<b>Sociodrama Workshop</b> , with Prof. Patricia Sternberg, RDT/BCT	2005
Credited hours recognized by the National Association for Drama Therapy	
<b>Actors Work Program</b> Teaching Artist Training w/Jane Ives	2005
<b>Community Word Project</b>	2007 & 2005
Advanced Training/ Beg. Training & Internship	
<b>Lincoln Center Theatre Director's Lab</b> , Member of the first Lab	1995

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

***Billie Holiday Theatre, NY*** 10 – 12 /2009

*What Would Jesus Do?*, written and directed by Heyliger is presented.

***Tribeca Performing Arts Center's Writers in Performance*** 2008

Heyliger wrote and performed her original poetry.

***Midtown International Theatre Festival, NYC*** 2008

*Hillary and Monica: The Winter of Her Discontent*, written and directed by Heyliger was presented.

***National Black Theatre Festival, NC*** 2007

*What Would Jesus Do?*, written and directed by Heyliger, is selected for main stage production at this national festival featuring the best of black theater around the country.

***Gloucester Stage Company, MA*** 2007

*Hillary and Monica: The Winter of Her Discontent*, written and directed by Heyliger was presented.

***Hollywood Court Theatre, LA*** 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** 2005  
Heyliger presented her play, *Hillary and Monica: The Winter of Her Discontent*, for NYU's class, *Dramatizing History I*.

**Twinbiz** Est. 1988  
Ms. Heyliger founded and is co-partner in Twinbiz, producing original works for stage, television and film which educate, entertain and serve.

### 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. Serves on the inaugural Hedgebrook Alumnae Leadership Council.

### 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* for Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement.

**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?* in partnership with Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement, a community based organization.

**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; National Black Theatre was the umbrella organization.

**Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Los Angeles** 1996  
Awarded for the production of *Autobiography of A Homegirl* at the Hollywood Court Theatre which was produced by Twinbiz, Heyliger's production company.

**Lower Manhattan Cultural Council  
Manhattan Community Arts Fund** 1994  
Awarded this grant to produce *Autobiography of A Homegirl*, as part of 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; Frank Silvera Writers Workshop was the umbrella organization.

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

*(past and present)*

Dramatists Guild  Stage Directors and Choreographers Society  Screen Actors Guild  
 Actors Equity Association  American Federation of Television and Radio Artists  
 League of Professional Theatre Women  Harlem Arts Alliance  Theatre Resources  
Unlimited  UDELCO  Black Filmmaker Foundation

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

Fingerprint Clearance

present