

YPT Wire



The Newsletter of Young Playwrights' Theater

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Calling All Federal Employees!

YPT is thrilled to be a Combined Federal Campaign charity again this year! Please remember us when you make your CFC contributions.

YPT's CFC number is 64148.



[Click here](#) to learn more about the Combined Federal Campaign, and how you can participate.

Behind the Scenes at YPT

Issue: # 61

November 2011

Thank You



It's that time of year again. Time to relax with loved ones, eat too much turkey (or Tofurky) and reflect on the things that that make us feel thankful.

In the spirit of the season, we want to take a moment to share the things that YPT is most thankful for this year.

As always, we are most thankful for the bright, insightful, inspiring [students](#) who are the living, beating heart of our company. You are why we come to work each day. Your dreams are our mission.

We are thankful for our hard-working [staff](#) and the devoted and talented army of professional teaching artists, actors, directors, stage managers, and designers who work tirelessly throughout the year to give voice to the dreams and imaginations of our students.

We are thankful for our volunteers - our dedicated [board of](#)

This month, YPT's award-winning student theater ensemble, the *Young Playwrights' Workshop*, participated in an exciting day of cultural exchange and theater workshops with students from the Es Artes theater company of Suchitoto, El Salvador.

YPT Board Vice Chair, Miriam Gonzales and YPT student Amber Faith Walton describe the students' collaborative performance in the latest YPT [blog post](#).



Become a YPT Community Ambassador!

Get involved with YPT in a fun, easy way!



Community Ambassadors are advocates for YPT, adult volunteers from a variety of backgrounds committed to supporting the work of the company. Ambassadors help us build a lasting community of support, using their specific skills and interests to get others involved.

[Click here](#) to learn more!

Join The Young Playwrights' Workshop!

[directors](#), our [Community Ambassadors](#), and our network of program alumni. You are the community voice of YPT.

We are thankful for our community of supporters - the thousands of people who attend our [free performances of student work](#) each year, our very cool friends and followers on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#), and the [community partners](#), [donors](#) and [funders](#) who give so generously each year to make our programming possible.

We are very lucky to know so many creative, passionate and giving people.

Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts. Without you, there would be no YPT.

Join Our Master Class for Teaching Artists

On Monday, December 5, YPT Company Member Michelle Tang Jackson will lead *Tactical Teaching: Strategies for Engaging Students of Diverse Talents*, an exciting new class for teaching artists working in the field of theater education. How can we as educators bring our passion for plays and playmaking to students in a compelling, accessible way? How can we take into account our students' points of view in order to get that all-important "buy-in"? Please join us as we discuss these questions and explore practical strategies.

**Monday December 5,
2011
6:30-8:30pm**

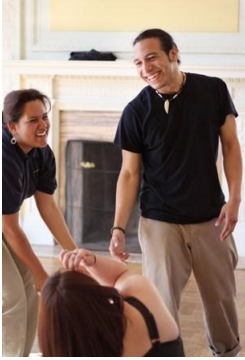
Young Playwrights' Theater
2437 15th Street NW
Washington, DC 20009

\$10 cash or check at the door



Space is limited! RSVP to Nicole at njost@yptdc.org to claim your spot.

Michelle Tang Jackson is a teaching artist and Company Member at YPT. The writer and performer also serves as an affiliated teaching artist with the Shakespeare Theatre Company and has taught for the Smithsonian Institute and Arts-Bridge's Shakespeare Alive program at the Mondavi Center in California. She performs with the Faction of Fools, a theatre company devoted specifically to Commedia dell'Arte. She wrote and produced the interactive educational show *Ballads Unbound*. Michelle holds a B.A. in Theatre and B.A. in English from the University of California at Davis.



Calling all students! There's still time to join the (award-winning) [Young Playwrights' Workshop!](#) The Workshop meets every Wednesday at 4:00pm, in YPT's studio space (2437 15th Street NW). See you there!

Email njost@yptdc.org for more info.

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Do Your Holiday Shopping in the New YPT Store

Support YPT programming - and look good doing it!

YPT has opened a store on [CafePress](#) featuring some of our favorite branded products. From shirts, to mugs, to tote bags, show your YPT pride with these cool new designs. At YPT, we believe everyone has a story worth telling. Do you? Show it with an "I am the voice of a new generation" shirt! Want to do your grocery shopping in style? Pick up a YPT tote bag!

20% of the proceeds from the profit of these products goes directly to support YPT, ensuring that students in the DC area continue to receive high quality arts education programming. Products and pricing can be found [here](#).



Edwin Martinez

Promising Playwright

"In my play, there is a male who is a boxer and a female who is a dancer and they are trying to cope with each other and trying to go to prom. I did boxing and I did dancing, so I tried to separate myself into those two different characters," explains Edwin Martinez.



A year after he was in the *In-School Playwriting Program* at Bell Multicultural High School, a friend of Edwin's invited him to join YPT's after-school *Young Playwrights' Workshop*.

"Everyone in the program works well together because we all accept other's differences," Edwin says of the *Workshop*. "We may not all have the same opinions on certain subjects, but the key ingredient that holds us all together is respect."

Last spring, Edwin and his fellow **Workshop** students created an original play called *Out of the Shadow*, which explores bullying from a youth perspective. "The play portrays different kinds of bullying, but it all has to do with being different. We touched on the suicides, the emotional pain, the pain that surrounds others, and how people who are bullied can help each other."

This year, Edwin is attending Montgomery College and volunteering with the educational nonprofit Higher Achievement as a mentor. Edwin says that witnessing the joy YPT teaching artists experience while working with students inspired him to give back to his community. He says, "I want to help minors or people younger than I am to choose a better path."

For more Promising Playwrights [click here](#).

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