



Inner-City Arts Institute Partners

24th Street Theatre is a unique hybrid arts organization. We are both a non-profit service provider AND a first class Arts Organization. Our main stage programming includes not only our acclaimed professional productions, but also our after school programs, outreach programs for at-risk teens, free community events, and our International Teatro Nuevo Latino Initiative projects which have traveled to Mexico, El Salvador, and Colombia. 24th Street is a leader in Arts Education having one of the largest and most critically acclaimed arts ed programs in Los Angeles. Though each of these programs are very different in nature and are marketed to different groups, each program is artistically directed to reflect our artistic mission by creating excellent art which can then be used as a tool with which to positively impact our community. Though we began with a more traditional theatre in mind, the community needs changed our focus from simply creating high caliber art, to using that art to make a difference. Debbie Devine has been an award-winning theatre director and a respected leader in the field of arts education for over three decades. She has been the Chair of the Drama Dept. of The Colburn School of Performing arts for over 20 years. She has been working with the LA Philharmonic for several years and is thrilled to be directing in the gorgeous space that is Disney Hall. Debbie is the co-founder of L.A.'s 24th Street Theatre, which has created award-winning professional theatre and model arts education programs for thousands of students and teachers since 1997.

Marissa Herrera is a native to the Los Angeles area. Her career began at the age of 5 with The Ballet Folklorico de Aztlan Dance Company. Since then she has appeared in many productions on stage and screen. Some of her credits include work in Luis Avalos' "Paquito's Christmas," "Romeo & Juliet" with Tony Plana's East LA Classic Theater, a resident company member with The Here&Now Theater Co, as Lupe Reyna in the 25th Anniversary Tour of "Zoot Suit" by Luis Valdez and in Sony Pictures "You Got Served." Marissa has taught dance classes, workshops and has choreographed and directed shows for students across the country and is looking forward to joining the Inner-City Arts team!

Susanna Spies, Laughlinks - Education has always been around me, both of my parents are teachers. I wanted to create a place for teens to be themselves and get away from the obstacles that make life complicated. So, my mission began to enable teens to tap into their own stories, rehabilitating the human spirit through humor. I don't teach teens to be funny, they do that themselves, The Laughlinks program provides an outlet to write and share, from their own lives. The Eamon Cannon Comedy Project was created to honor the memory of Eamon Cannon, a Santa Monica resident who launched a successful stand up career while still a high school student, and stayed committed to helping other youth through this unique form

Continued...

of expression. The program encourages teens to express the deepest things in their heart while developing the skills of clear, concise, effective expository writing. The outcome is sharing truth, a platform to express personal experiences as teens, in an art form safe to share those trials and tribulations.

The CalArts Community Arts Partnership (CAP), a program of the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts), links the Institute and the diverse communities of Los Angeles County through free, after-school and school-based arts programs for youth. CAP provides the youth in these communities challenging learning environments for artistic experimentation and creates access to higher education. Through these CalArts faculty-mentored programs, CAP provides CalArts students the opportunity to teach, to redefine their artistic abilities and to redefine the role of artists, arts education, and the arts in society. Inner-City Arts has partnered with CAP for 16 years, providing animation workshops for inner-city youth.

For more information about our after school and weekend Institutes, please contact Beth Tishler (beth@inner-cityarts.org)