



THE YIP HARBURG FOUNDATION

www.yipharburg.com

E. Y. (Yip) Harburg, known as "Broadway's social conscience," was a master lyricist, poet and bookwriter dedicated to social justice. His best-known songs include "Somewhere Over The Rainbow" and "Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?"

In the Fall of 2013 The Yip Harburg Foundation and Empire State College (SUNY) Metropolitan Center announced a unique resource partnership for musical theater studies. The collaboration unites theater professionals as advisers and mentors with students who are designing their own individualized majors. It offers a new model for public-private partnerships in theater training that goes beyond the familiar conservatory models.

The ESC and YHF collaboration will offer students a unique B.A. in the arts with a concentration in Musical Theater, designed to the needs of students who need maximum flexibility, including older students returning to college after a hiatus or who are studying part time around work or family commitments. The structure of ESC allows students to "do it their own way" without time constraints. The strengths of this approach include affordability, the opportunity to study with a wide variety of peers, and the advantage of one-on-one mentors and advisers. The college's proximity to the vast cultural resources of NYC enhances the curriculum, since the City can serve as a rich "classroom," providing an array of experiences and activities which can be utilized for credit in students' individualized programs of study or you can participate on your own.

YHF ACTING SONGS AND THE BODY ORCHESTRA WORKSHOPS

1. Acting Songs Workshop

(Elementary to Advanced, based upon consultation with teacher)

Taught by David Brunetti

FREE

Limit: 8 Students

Fridays- 12:00-1:30 PM

Studio: 417 West 47th St., Studio 1B

Workshop Description

The great performing artists of the musical theater have all had something in common: not only have they all been accomplished to varying degrees as singers and dancers, but they've all been organic actors. They've used their own deep, personal, idiosyncratic lives in their work, and that's why people respond to them so powerfully. They reveal their deepest feelings, needs and vulnerabilities in their performances, and that's interesting.

In this workshop, students will be taught a step-by-step process for analyzing, interpreting, and performing songs--in short, they will learn how to act songs. The techniques dealt with will be useful to aspiring musical performers in any genre, including musical theater, opera, jazz, rock and folk.

Students will work on songs assigned by the teacher, as well as songs they choose themselves, with a goal of singing pieces from various time periods and genres. Together the teacher and students will assemble a repertoire of contrasting songs.

The process will begin with an emotional "check-in", followed by training in a process that leads to the organic "living" of the songs. This process will include working on the lyrics as monologues, i.e. without the music, and then the gradual incorporation of melody and rhythm. Students will learn about making character adjustments, both physical and psychological, when required.

The workshop is for actors, singers, and dancers, of course, and will also be helpful to writers, directors, choreographers, designers, and teachers, as it gives the participants a visceral experience of the acting process, making clear what an actor needs as he/she prepares a performance. These techniques will enable the students to work as emotionally alive, theatrically inventive performers.

By the end of the semester each student will have learned about the relationship of acting to singing, and will have developed a reliable acting technique applicable to both; will have added to their knowledge of musical theatre history; will have experienced a collaborative working situation and a sense of what their place may be in the professional world of musical theater.

David Brunetti is a teacher, musician, and writer based in New York City. He teaches ongoing classes in bringing acting technique to songs in New York, and gives annual Master Classes in many locations, including Denmark, Sweden, London, and Brazil. He is the author of *Acting Songs*, which is used as a textbook in many training programs in the U.S. and internationally. David has played keyboards and musical directed on and off-Broadway, and played piano on national television as the on-set pianist for the Vicki Lawrence talk show on FOX network. He has served as vocal coach and accompanist for Art Garfunkel, Judy Collins, Michael Feinstein, Jennifer Holliday, Eartha Kitt, Leslie Uggams, Charlotte D'Amboise, Tony Award winners Donna Murphy and Faith Prince,

film director Rob Marshall, film actor Paul Giamatti, and Academy Award winner Geena Davis. Composer: Off Broadway's *Trophies* (Cherry Lane Theater). Musical director/keyboards: *Blues in the Night* (Broadway, Off-Broadway, London), *Nunsense*, *Forever Plaid*, and also for shows at the Roundabout and the Manhattan Theatre Club.

I look forward to coming to the workshop with David Brunetti every week. I moved to the city less than a year ago and was lucky enough to find this class right away. Everyone was instantly welcoming and encouraging, and I've found a community there where not only can I work on audition and performance material, but I can also ask questions about the business and get advice. Whenever I'm feeling discouraged or insecure, this class gives me confidence, drive, and focus to keep going. I'm so thankful to have found (and to have been so embraced by) the Yip Harburg Foundation and the workshop class.

-Hannah Brown, YHF Rainbow Troupe member, professional Musical Theater Performer

2. The Body Orchestra Workshop

Taught by Stephanie Fittro & Dan Aran (drums)

FREE

Limit: 12 Students

Day and Time – Tuesdays – 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Location: Ripley Grier Studios / 520 Eighth Ave.

Workshop Description

The Body Orchestra is a way of approaching dance as if the body is an ensemble made up of many different parts that "speak up" "sing together" and otherwise hum, shimmy shake and coordinate beautiful rhythmic movements- it is a method of tapping into the JOY of movement.

It is inspired by the Jazz Age and the Golden Age of Hollywood and Broadway which brought so much world dance (African, Latin) blended with ballet and the "character" of the time, the coolness, the hotness, the electricity. The Body Orchestra teaches a dancer to think and act like a musician and express like an actor.

Roughly, strong awareness is made of all the directions, up, down, front and sides, and energetic lines of communication are made through the body through these directions at all times. The feet are rhythmic, the balls of the feet are "activated" as inspired by African roots, the hips are Latin, able to sway and shift, the knees are soft and responsive to the floor, the heart is open and able to express through the line of the arms, the hands are expressive and human, not locked into any one "position", and the neck, head and shoulders are subtle and expressive, not locked down. A sense of lift is in the upper body (floating the rib cage) while the lower body is very grounded. both turn in and turn out are utilized.

The Body Orchestra is not simply "old jazz" technique" but also layers in ballet basics, modern basics, and contemporary awareness practices to increase range of motion, depth and connection.

Class includes most of the following: a warm up section, a technique section of class, a rhythmic section working off the drummer, an improv section and an actor-audience section. In addition, simple movements like walking, crawling, bear crawling and skipping are broken down into studies to help streamline how the dancer is moving, making room for more complex movement. This class is inspired by yoga to make a safe space where freedom of breath and movement would prevail, and yet to also meet the challenge of seeing others and being seen (which is not a part of yoga).

Stephanie Fittro (Senior Artistic Associate, The Musical Theatre Project) has played Kate/Chutney in *Legally Blonde* on Broadway, Anybodys in *West Side Story* for the European and 50th Anniversary Tours directed by Alan Johnson, Joujou in *The Merry Widow* starring Placido Domingo at Met Opera, The First National Tours of *Hairspray* and *Carousel*, and numerous regional and Off Broadway productions. In 2007, Ms. Fittro was amongst a small group of dancers chosen to perform with Chita Rivera and other original company members (including Emmy Award winning Director/Choreographer Alan Johnson) of *West Side Story* in a tribute to the 50th Anniversary for the opening number of the Gypsy of The Year Awards, as well as the National Academy Recording Honors. Ms. Fittro has taught workshops all across the United States from Diamond Head Theater in Hawaii to SUNY Purchase. She is currently on faculty at Broadway Workshop (theatre training for young actors) and MTCA (college audition prep). Ms. Fittro is a Senior Artistic Associate of The Musical Theatre Project. She shares Yip's vision of a free and equal society through staged concerts and revivals of his works, unique educational programs and free community workshops.

Dan Aran is a versatile and in demand side man (drummer) in the New York Jazz scene. Aran started his musical journey in his hometown of Jerusalem. Fascinated with the dumbek and drum set, Dan got his first drums at 11 and a year later enrolled at the Rubin Academy of Music High School. Dan graduated from the school at seventeen and was already a busy drummer in the Israeli music scene, playing with a number of different groups. He has performed at most of the major venues in Israel including the Jerusalem Theater, the Camelot, and the International Red Sea Jazz Festival. Dan also leads his own quintet and is establishing himself as a writer and bandleader. Dan's record "Breathing" was released in 2009 to rave reviews.

Dan continued his education by enrolling at the New School University. He earned a BFA in performance and is now an active player on the New York City scene, He has played in major venues in the U.S, Europe, the Middle East and Asia and is active in both the jazz scene and in the world music scene. Dan has worked with artists such as, Harry Whitaker, Junior Mance, Natalie Merchant, Stacey Kent, Art Hirahara, Dave Glasser Quartet, Pharaoh's Daughter, Omer Avital, Eti Ankri, John Di Martino, Adam Birnbaum, Ron Affif, and many others.

I've been taking Stephanie and Dan's dance class since late winter, and it is simply fantastic! This class is so freeing! It the perfect place to explore dance and the connection to your body in a completely judgment-free zone. Stephanie is amazing! Often it seems as if she tailors each class specifically for the individual, and she encourages everyone to discover and explore the freedom of movement. All of this takes place accompanied by Dan's superior drumming. They are an empowering and supportive duo who work together to release inhibition by bringing rhythm into the body while encouraging freedom of expression through exploration!

Personally, I walk away from every class feeling as if it were "the best class yet." Each one has helped me to feel more grounded in my body and mind. As performers, we forget how to connect to the ground because we spend so much time in our heads worrying about how we sound, what we did or didn't do in the audition room, and any number of other neuroses we might harbor. The availability of this class is a genuine treasure for the actors of New York.

-Joseph Peterson, YHF Rainbow Troupe member, professional Musical Theater Performer

YIP HARBURG FOUNDATION INTERNSHIPS **(Offered Only At Select Times During The Year)**

1. DIRECTING

The Yip Harburg Foundation is offering an exciting internship in Directing. Our current show in development is *Free and Equal* conceived by Deena R. Harburg. *Free and Equal* tells the story of America from 1776 to present through the ongoing struggle of freedom and equality for all. The intern acts as an assistant to the director — performing research and attending production meetings, design meetings, rehearsals, and performances. Specific duties vary depending on the nature of the show and the needs of the director. The intern will interact with the artistic staff of the Yip Harburg Foundation which is comprised of directors, choreographers, musical directors, and producers. The intern will gain hands-on experience in developing a new musical play including witnessing the careful collaboration of the writers and the creative team, taking notes, and offering additional creative input at appropriate times. In addition to working on *Free And Equal*, possible pre-production work on the 75th Anniversary of *The Wizard of Oz* may be needed.

2. MARKETING

This is an excellent internship for those pursuing a career in marketing, media, and digital marketing. Responsibilities will include helping to update the YHF website and Facebook page. You will be helping the YHF to develop a stronger online presence with more followers. The more people aware of Yip Harburg and his works, the better! You may also be asked to help editing images, assisting with email campaigns, engaging potential donors and audience via social media, and compiling website and email campaign statistics. You may also be involved with helping us to develop a new smart phone app (related to the *Wizard Of Oz*). The ideal candidate will be web/social media savvy, proficient with Microsoft Office and Adobe Photoshop and have a strong interest in theatre or nonprofit arts.

3. MUSICAL DIRECTION

The intern in musical direction helps to bring the YHF productions to life. You will spend time assisting our renowned staff musical directors, arrangers, and pianists. You will help with any needed transpositions and arranging of piano parts, orchestral parts and music copying. You may also be called upon to assist in helping performers learn their vocals for a given production. This is an excellent internship that allows for networking and immediate contribution to a production. To apply for this internship, you must read music, and be an excellent pianist with strong sight reading skills. This internship will also involve archival research.

4. ARTISTIC ADMINISTRATIVE

The Artistic Administrative internship is wonderful opportunity for those interested in music, writing, dramaturgy and/or history. The current show in development is *Free and Equal* conceived by Deena R. Harburg with dialogue by Art Perlman and directed by Jamibeth Margolis. *Free And Equal* tells the story of America through the ongoing struggle of freedom and equality for all. Internship responsibilities:

- Helping the creative team and projections designer (Robert Brown) locate historical images from online resources (museums, libraries, etc.) that will be used for the production.
- Visit NY museums and galleries to gather information on collections
- Help write documents that may be used by cast members and the creative team.

You will also be attending to the Yip Harburg music database, which will help the YHF to digitally store as many of Yip's popular song lyrics as possible, and organize recordings. You will gain knowledge of his important work and help to make it more accessible to those who wish to perform it or learn more about it. .

5. STAGE MANAGEMENT

As an intern in stage management, you will be intensely involved in the process of individual productions. You will be considered a production assistant and assist the production stage manager on a show and will be an integral part of the team. During the rehearsal process, you will be asked to attend production meetings; be in rehearsals and assist the stage manager in preparing for the rehearsal day; assist with the tracking and running of rehearsal props and costumes as well as keeping track of any script notes and changes and photocopying. During the tech process and run of the show, you are not only part of the stage management staff, but also considered a member of the running crew for each show. You will assist the stage manager in maintaining the integrity of the show. Note: This internship is only available when the YHF has a show in production. Please check for availability.

Jamibeth Margolis (Associated Producing Director, The Musical Theatre Project) is an accomplished stage director based in NYC. She has fifteen years of professional experience working in theater. During that time, she has worked consistently at some of the most prestigious theater companies around the US. Currently Jamibeth serves as Artistic Director For Musicals at the Midtown International Theatre Festival (MITF) where she fosters new writing talent and looks to bring new works to life each summer. She is also a freelance casting director. With Johnson-Liff Casting, she cast some of the longest running shows in Broadway history including *Les Miserables*, *Cats*, *Miss Saigon*, and *The Phantom Of The Opera*. She is proud to serve as Associate Producing Director for the Musical Theatre Project with which she produced the workshop of a double bill of *Finian's Rainbow* and *Flahooley* with lyrics by Yip Harburg. Member : Casting Society of America, Stage Directors And Choreographers Society, and The Lincoln Center Directors Lab. She holds a B.A. from Ithaca College in Drama and Directing.

Free and Equal served me as both an actress and "minority." The very nature of the troupe and show was a reminder of how lucky we are to be Americans. Freedom should be treated as both a privilege and our entitlement! Treasured and honored. I'm very grateful to have been a part of such an amazing experience!

-Jackie Arnold, featured Broadway performer/mentor for *Free and Equal* 2010 and 2012, and one of the divas in Broadway's *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*

Being a part of Free and Equal as a student was such a great experience to me as an actress and a newcomer to America. Not only did I connect with it artistically but also academically. Free and Equal helped me through my first American History class in college giving me reference points and timelines. I think it's very important for the arts to not only inspire, but educate future generations about important events that allow us being able to live the way we live today and to not let history repeat itself. It was such an honor and great experience to perform with talented artists in the Rainbow Troupe and to be able to inspire and teach through song, dance and acting.

-Janine Rainteau, CCNY student, YHF Rainbow Troupe Member, *Free and Equal* 2012 cast member

E.Y. (YIP) HARBURG BIOGRAPHY

E. Y. (Yip) Harburg, "Broadway's social conscience" was a master lyricist, poet and bookwriter dedicated to social justice. On Broadway Yip wrote lyrics for multiple revues in the 1930s. Songs included "Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?," the classic anthem of the Depression (with composer Jay Gorney, 1932), "It's Only a Paper Moon" (1932, with Harold Arlen) and "April in Paris" (with Vernon Duke, 1932). Among the book musicals with political and social themes that Yip conceived and wrote lyrics for are *Bloomer Girl* (1944, feminist, anti-racist theme, music by Arlen) and the classic *Finian's Rainbow* (1947, co-book, Fred Saidy; music by Burton Lane), his masterwork which won two Tony Awards and got several more nominations. In Hollywood, Yip wrote for numerous film musicals during the 1930's and 1940's. His greatest and most famous work is *The Wizard of Oz* (1939, with Arlen). In this classic, Yip conceived the integration of song and script, wrote the recitative for the Munchkin "operetta," plus all the lyrics, including the Academy Award-winning "Over the Rainbow." He was also the final script editor and made significant contributions to the dialogue.

Altogether, Yip wrote 600 song lyrics with a variety of composers. "Over the Rainbow" (1939, Arlen, Academy Award), "We're Off to See the Wizard," "Ding Dong! The Witch Is Dead," "Happiness Is Just a Thing Called Joe" (1943, Arlen, from the film *Cabin in the Sky*), "Old Devil Moon" and "How Are Things in Glocca Morra?" (1947, Lane). Arlen and Harburg also wrote Groucho Marx's signature song, "Lydia, the Tattooed Lady" (1939, from *At the Circus*). In 2006 Yip's satiric light verse, *Rhymes for the Irreverent*, was republished by the Freedom from Religion Foundation in cooperation with the Yip Harburg Foundation.

Yip was a "fellow who followed a dream." He believed that all people should be guaranteed basic human rights, political equality, free education, economic opportunity and free health services. He said so in his songs and his actions. Yip Harburg died on March 5, 1981 at 85 years young.

YHF EXECUTIVE STAFF

Ernie Harburg is the President of the Yip Harburg Foundation which promotes both the creative works of the famous lyricist and Yip's commitment to social justice and world peace. He is also a senior research scientist emeritus in the departments of psychology and epidemiology at the University of Michigan. From 1969-2004 Harburg was co-owner of the communally run Del Rio Bar in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Ernie is the author, with Harold Meyerson, of *Who Put the Rainbow in The Wizard of Oz? Yip Harburg, Lyricist* (University of Michigan Press) and, with Bernard Rosenberg, of *The Broadway Musical: Collaboration in Commerce and Art* (New York University Press), and *Liberty, Equality, Consensus, and All That Jazz at the Del Rio Bar* (Huron River Press), plus ninety research articles. Ernie Harburg lives in New York City with his wife Deena and their son Ben.

Deena R. Harburg is Executive Vice-President and Artistic Director of the Yip Harburg Foundation and also a writer and educator. She is still awestruck that Yip and Ira Gershwin were her primary mentors. Deena is Founding Chair of NYU Tisch's unique Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program. Deena founded the Computers and the Arts Project (CAP), a unique elementary school initiative in NY and Performing Arts for Literacy (PAL) for high school. Books: *The Music Makers* (with Bernard Rosenberg, Columbia University Press); *Fascinating Rhythm: The Collaboration of George and Ira Gershwin* (University of Michigan Press), based on extensive work with Ira Gershwin in his archives. She conceives and produces theatrical concerts for many venues (Goodspeed Opera, Smithsonian, etc.) and has produced more than sixty new musicals at prominent venues.

Deena adapted the one-hour versions *Finian's Rainbow* and *The Wizard of Oz*. A major focus and passion, Literacy through Musical Theatre, led Deena to found the Yip Harburg Foundation's Rainbow Troupe which recently workshopped her original musical *Free and Equal*. She works closely with inner-city students, teachers and schools, mostly in New York's East Village near where Yip grew up.

For more information on workshops or to apply for internships, please contact:

Deena R. Harburg with general questions and inquiries
deena@yipharburg.com

Jamibeth Margolis regarding internships
jamibeth@yipharburg.com

CHECK BACK PERIODICALLY FOR INFO ON FUTURE WORKSHOPS AND INTERNSHIPS.

Please Note: All internships are unpaid, however, college credit may be earned as indicated by your school. All workshop and internship participants will interact with top industry professionals.

Thank You!
www.yipharburg.com