

## **Benenson Awards in the Arts: 2014 Awardees**

The Edward H. Benenson Awards in the Arts are given annually to undergraduate students to broaden their educational and professional perspectives in the arts. The awards are made on a competitive basis for the most outstanding project proposals and are determined by a committee of distinguished faculty representing all areas of the visual and performing arts. There were 20 award winners in 2014.

### **Kari Barclay (T'2016, Theater Studies)**

#### **Studies in Theater for Social Change at the La MaMa International Symposium for Directors**

Kari Barclay will be attending the La MaMa International Symposium for Directors in Spoleto, Italy during the summer of 2014. The symposium brings together directors and theater-makers from around the world for a month of exploration focusing on community-based and activist theater, including workshops on the Theater of the Oppressed, documentary theater, theater therapy, and theater for peacebuilding.

### **Jamie Bell (T'2015, Theatre Studies)**

#### **SITI Company Summer Intensive Theatre Workshop**

Jamie Bell will be attending the SITI Summer Workshop at Skidmore College in New York during the summer of 2014. The workshop is a four-week intensive training program which invites 60 artists from across the United States and the world to study with the prolific and highly influential theatre artists and theorists, Anne Bogart and Tadashi Suzuki. Mornings are spent in classes focusing primarily on the Viewpoints and Suzuki Methods of Actor Training, afternoon classes alternate between Composition class and Speaking in Practice, Movement, Design and Dramaturgy, or Playwriting. Evenings are spent in rehearsals or classes with guest artists.

### **Minshu Deng (T'2014, Environmental Science and Policy)**

#### **Visual Culture and Environmental Ethics on the West Coast**

Minshu Deng will pursue a photographic project in which he will explore the connection between visual culture and its potential to influence people's worldviews with regard to environmental ethics. Working in Northern California and the Pacific Northwest, he will explore environmental issues of the region through photos and a book in a way that takes advantage of visual culture to present the West Coast in its environmental context.

### **Rebecca Holmes (T'2015, Dance; MMS, Education certificates)**

#### **Developing the Dancer and Community**

Rebecca Holmes will develop her senior distinction project in dance by planning and executing a significant National Day of Dance celebration event for the community in Lancaster, Pennsylvania in the summer of 2014. This event focuses on health maintenance and combating obesity through the agency of dance pieces with 10-50 dancers. She will also produce a short video piece on the benefits of dance, *Why Dance Matters*.

### **Thomas Jenkins (P'2016, Biomedical Engineering)**

#### **World Youth Wind Orchestra Project**

Thomas Jenkins will participate in the World Youth Wind Orchestra Project this summer. The Project brings together students from all cultures to learn and perform new and old music as part of a European music festival, under the direction of conductors from all over the world.

**Samuel Kebede (T'2014, Neuroscience, Theater Studies)**

**MFA Acting Program at the University of Connecticut**

Samuel Kebede will be relocating to and establishing residence in Connecticut to enroll in the University of Connecticut's Master of Fine Arts Program in Acting. This three-year intensive program works in conjunction with a regional theater and leads to Equity and showcases in NYC, Chicago, and LA.

**Drew Klingner (T'2014, Theater Studies, Public Policy)**

**Commercial Theater Institute 14-Week Intensive Course**

Drew Klingner will attend the Commercial Theater Institute's course next spring to explore the many aspects of theatrical producing in commercial theater. The course includes workshops presented by some of the most successful producers, marketers and creative agents on Broadway.

**Ashley Long (T'2014, Theatre Studies, Biology)**

**6-Week Progression of an Immersed Actor at the Michael Howard Studios**

Ashley Long will participate in the Summer Conservatory at the Michael Howard Studios in New York, including classes in scene study, movement, voice, camera, Shakespeare, acting techniques, clown, improvisation, and the business of acting. Her exposure to various techniques taught at the Michael Howard Studios will allow her to explore the balance of technique needed for successful theatrical projects.

**David Mayer (T'2014, Visual and Media Studies)**

**Maidenhead**

David Mayer will be directing and editing a documentary film in the next year about poverty in Maidenhead, England, a wealthy suburb of London. The film will be a feature-length video that follows the story of impoverished individuals in Maidenhead and the forces that trap them in poverty. The social and political climate of the area is such that poverty goes largely unnoticed by those who are wealthy, and kept hidden by those who are suffering.

**Megan McSherry (T'2014, Biology )**

**Between Science and Art: Representing Cancer in Pediatric Oncology**

Megan McSherry will continue to explore the imagery used by oncologists to present and explain the diseases, treatments, and surgical procedures to pediatric oncology patients and their caregivers. She will be publishing and printing a children's book, and critically document the creative decisions underlying it, that can be given out to newly diagnosed pediatric oncology patients to narrate their fight against the disease.

**Shucao Mo (T'2014, Philosophy)**

**Documenting Rural-Migrant Children's Art in China**

Shucao Mo work with Prof. Jay O'berski to produce a documentary theater based upon interviews, art learning, and community engagement with Chinese migrant-rural children and parents. Working Southern China over the next year, he will do research, outreach, development and eventual production of community-based theater projects, laying the foundation for sustainable, creative educational programs in the underprivileged Chinese communities.

**Ryan Mooring (T'2015, Visual and Media Studies)**

**Mapping a City: Saratoga Spring, 1819-1915-2015**

Ryan Mooring will be developing the exhibit themes, outlines, and research materials in the summer of 2014 for a fall class, *Mapping the Americas*. The products of the class will be the bases for the exhibit, *Mapping a City: Saratoga Springs 1819-1915-2015*, to be mounted at the Saratoga Springs History Museum in Spring of 2015. Ryan and colleagues will finalize the exhibit's main themes and designs. They will create exhibit-related assignments and a cartographic resources for the fall course.

**Jazmine Noble (T'2014, Visual and Media Studies)**

### **Continued Studies in Acting for the Camera**

Jazmine Noble will pursue intensive training in acting for the camera through classes at a range of studios in Los Angeles during the summer of 2014, including: Anthony Meindl's Actor Workshop, the Beverly Hills Playhouse, Stella Adler Academy of Acting and Theater, and the Ivana Chubbuck Studio.

### **Kathryn Pearson (T'2014, Music)**

#### **Baroque Style and Connections to the Modern Violinist**

**Kathryn Pearson** will take intensive violin lessons in Paris with Gabriel Richard, first violinist in the Orchestre de Paris, during the summer of 2014. She will be studying the baroque violin with a specific concentration on French baroque violin music, with the hope of connecting two musical styles whose differences are often emphasized over their similarities.

### **Jayne Ratliff (T'2014, Religious Studies; Dance minor)**

#### **Dancing Along I-40**

Jayne Ratliff will engage in a road-trip from NC to California during the summer of 2014 to gather material for a choreographic work inspired by the oddities and nuances of I-40. Her work will also incorporate recorded sound and video elements of the journey. The complete choreographic work will be presented in late summer in Durham, NC, Tulsa, OK, and Red River, NM.

### **Allison Rose (T'2014, Linguistics)**

#### **Ambiguity: A Foray into Shanghai Theatre**

Allison Rose will be exploring Chinese theatre as it reflects both local and international influence. Looking at Shanghai as a crucial center of cultural reinvention and artistic exploration, she will translate a new play by influential Chinese playwright Nick Rongjun Yu. She will work directly with the playwright and while immersed in the Shanghai arts scene.

### **Ariel Shpigel (T'2014, Environmental Science and Policy; Visual and Media Studies, Economics minors)**

#### **Museology and Italian Identity**

Ariel Shpigel will study how contemporary museum culture intersects with conceptions of Italian identity. She will intern at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice during the summer of 2014. She will extend her research analyzing the visual cultural display, including signage, installation, and types of objects, in the Venice Biennale of Architecture and museums in other major Italian cities.

### **Julian Spector (T'2014, Political Science)**

#### **Dispatches from the Frontlines of Global Climate Change: Bangladesh**

Julian Spector will document through digital storytelling changes imposed by global warming on a part of the globe, Bangladesh, that has contributed the least to the process of global warming. He will weave together writing, documentary photography, and video to search for the deeper meaning in the current events including increasingly destructive floods in recent years as rainfall increases, sea levels rise, and more Himalayan snow melts.

### **Hillary Spiritos (T'2014, Theatre Studies)**

#### **Stage Management Fellowship Program; Atlantic Theater Company, New York City.**

Hillary Spiritos will participate in the Stage Management Fellowship Program at the Atlantic Theater Company, a full-time position that begins at the start of the rehearsal process and ending after the final performance. The opportunity to observe an experienced stage manager in action, while playing an active role in the process, will provide her an opportunity to hone her craft and develop skills working with highly regarded, creative, and seasoned professionals.

**Philip Watson (T'2014, Theater Studies, Classical Studies)  
Studies in Summer Ensemble Theater**

Philip Watson will be participating in the Pig Iron Summer Session, in Philadelphia, exploring physical theater methods in the creation of experimental, risk-taking theater. His training will include mask work, clowning, Lecoq and ensemble work. He will also be taking courses in theater at the American Conservatory Theater's Summer Training Congress in San Francisco to develop and hone skills in acting, speaking, text analysis, movement, and improvisation.