

HSA Welcomes New Directors of Dance and Theater

New York, NY – July 14, 2011— [The Harlem School of the Arts \(HSA\)](#) is pleased to announce [Aubrey Lynch](#), Director of Dance and [Willie Teacher](#), Director of Theater. Combined the directors have nearly 40 years of teaching and performing experience.

Director, Dance Department



Aubrey Lynch's career began at the Alvin Ailey Dance Company. There he performed as a principal dancer with the company until 1993, traveling to more than 20 countries and performing over 35 ballets. He worked with young artists worldwide through the company's outreach program, teaching master classes and addressing audiences. During this time period he also performed as principal dancer with Déjà Vu Dance Theater. He left to pursue roles in film and television, appearing in movies, commercials, print ads, and music videos. Mr. Lynch was an original cast member of the Tony Award-winning Broadway musical, Disney's *The Lion King*. Throughout his tenure, he held several positions including the musical's dance captain, dance supervisor, associate choreographer and later associate producer. He led the team responsible for overseeing the creative aspects of all *Lion King*'s productions internationally.

"The students and HSA will greatly benefit from the talent and expertise of Mr. Lynch. He brings with him a name synonymous with creativity, discipline, and professionalism. We welcome him to the HSA family," says Yvette L. Campbell, President & CEO.

As Director of Dance at HSA, Mr. Lynch will oversee the development, implementation and overall functions of the dance program. He will manage the children's program and HSA's Prep program dance division curriculum; enhance community outreach, programming and partnerships, collaborate with the Development and Communications department to attract and retain donors with specific interests in dance; and coordinate all dance performances. Additionally, Mr. Lynch will also bring his Broadway expertise to develop a musical theater program.

"Art, theater, music, and dance are powerful ways to unlock and focus the immeasurable genius of children and adults. I am thrilled at the opportunity to continue the mission of HSA by inspiring and empowering the communities of Harlem and the world through these disciplines" states Mr. Lynch. "It is our responsibility to guide young people towards their unlimited and unique potential whether that is ultimately in a particular art form or in something else that they choose to do. I am looking forward to this new journey at HSA."

"I am very excited about his vision for the new direction of the Dance department with the addition of a musical theater curriculum, and the dynamic energy and international reach Aubrey brings to our school. HSA's dancers will be the concert and Broadway stars of tomorrow," says Ms. Campbell.

Director, Theater Department

As the Director of Theater, Willie Teacher will be responsible for the rebranding of HSA Children's and Prep programs, developing the department's curriculum and the planning and execution of theater productions. He will continue to teach several classes as he has done for the past 5 years. In addition, he will collaborate with the music, dance and visual arts departments to create multi-discipline productions and courses, including musical theater.



"Over the years, the Harlem School of the Arts has allowed me the opportunity to stage productions that represent the theater community and provide its students a foundation to express, challenge and explore their imagination. It is my pleasure to now take my experience, as both a professional and instructor, to establish a program that will showcase the amazing talents of our students as artists," says Mr. Teacher.

Mr. Teacher's career has taken him from theater to television and even Walt Disney World where he directed stunts for *Indiana Jones Epic*. His professional credits include *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *Topdog/Underdog*, Spike Lee's *He Got Game*, HBO's *Oz*, *The Visiting* with Nicole Kidman, *Invincible* with Mark Wahlberg and Greg Kinnear, *Sheena*, The Steve Harvey Show and HBO's *Life Support*. He is also a member of Screen Actors Guild (SAG), Actors' Equity Association (AEA) and American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (AFTRA).

"As a respected faculty member of HSA and talented director, we are looking forward to the new direction of the theater program where our students will learn the business of the theater from production to stage, in addition to becoming talented actors," says Ms. Campbell.

About The Harlem School of the Arts

For nearly a half-century, the Harlem School of the Arts (HSA) has transformed the lives of tens of thousands of young people ages 4-18 through world-class training in the arts. HSA stands unique among community arts institutions in New York City, as the sole provider of arts education in four disciplines (music, dance, theater and visual arts) under one roof - our award-winning 37,000 square foot facility.

HSA's mission empowers young people mainly from under-served communities in Harlem to find and develop the artist and citizen within themselves. Our environment teaches discipline, stimulates creativity, builds self-confidence and adds a dimension of beauty to our students' lives. HSA boasts an impressive alumni base of Tony-award winning actors, celebrated operatic voices and jazz musicians, visual artists and dancers, and individuals who cite HSA as the platform from which they launched careers in law, business and other professional fields. The School's reputation for artistic rigor and excellence attracts constituents from all five New York City boroughs, Westchester County and New Jersey. We are especially proud to be among the pioneering cultural institutions that have been instrumental in the rebirth of Harlem.

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