

GET TO KNOW YOUR YOUTH PRODUCERS

Kelly Strayhorn Theater's Up Next young producer program a new youth produced initiative for teens ages 13-18 as part of KST's established partnerships with Dreams of Hop, One Hood Media Academy, and Soundwaves Steel band. Up Next brings a collective of young artists that are interested in producing youth led artistic events. To be a youth producer you must possess a strong sense of of yourself, confidence, desire to share your voice, and value-building experiences that will serve as a continued paths towards leadership careers and lifelong learning.

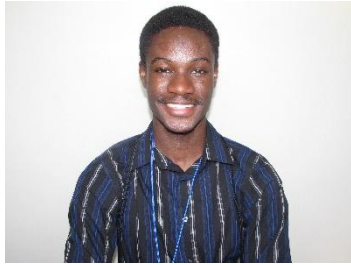


GJ Jones is a young musician, composer, and is in his senior year at Obama Academy located in the East Liberty neighborhood of Pittsburgh, PA. Hailing from Larimer a predominantly african American neighborhood, his artistic development is inspired by the black roots of american music. He creates and performs pieces in multiple African American genres such as jazz and blues. GJ's art stems from hard work, dedication and a classically trained background in performing arts. He is inspired by artists such as Miles Davis and John Coltrane. His work reflects his background as a young African American artists. GJ is currently a member of the Soundwaves Steel band group ran by the Kelly Strayhorn theatre, and is currently also a member of the theatre's Youth Production Program.



Damon Singleton is an artist and thinker. He's a musician who attends Obama academy where he receives a formal musical education. He is a steel pannist and a trumpet player. When creating Damon thinks deeply into what is and what isn't in order to create his pieces. Damon's process results in a unique art form that encompasses the daily influences of his life into his work. He is influenced by modern day artists such as Lindsey Sterling and Nujabe. He is currently a member of the Soundwaves Steel band led by Matt Doctor of the Kelly Strayhorn theatre, and is currently also a member of the theatre's Youth Production Program.

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Kofi Kankam is a young artist who was born in Virginia, now based in Pittsburgh and a current student at Barack Obama Academy. Kofi enjoys creating art through visual and dance form. Kofi movement vocabulary consists of hip hop genres such as animation, pop and locking. He explores his talent as an intern at the Kelly-Strayhorn Theater and a member of 1hood media. Kofi plans to go to college and have high hopes of being an Architect. Kofi philosophy is to have fun in music he likes to dance because he likes to demonstrate

proWess, to provoke and to entertain.



Maureik Vickers is a senior at Barack Obama Academy. Maureik is a part of 1hood media, Obama Eagles News reporter, and a youth intern at the Kelly-Strayhorn Theater. Maureik enjoys writing, rapping, and being a comedian. Maureik is inspired by his life experiences, contemporary hip hop music, that he uses in creating his music. He wants a career that fuses his talent. His philosophy is that everyone has a purpose in life to perform an amazing talent, and his amazing talent is writing since he believe

writing can be express in many ways.



Alonzo Hall is a senior at Pittsburgh CAPA 6-12, he attends CAPA as a theater major. Alonzo uses a multitude of mediums to express himself whether it be; rap, spoken word, dance, poetry, singing, mime, or being a comedian. Alonzo is open to new experiences and views realizing that a close minded lifestyle leaves many doors closed. His favorite subject would either be African American Literature or African American History.

Alonzo's dream is to become a famous actor and follow in the steps of his idols Denzel Washington and Will Smith. His philosophy is to live everyday like it's your last, and don't ever let anyone stand in your way. Carpe Diem.