

LUMBERYARD

FRESH START

*PERFORMING ARTS,
CHANGING THE LIVES OF
INCARCERATED YOUTH*



Hudson Adolescent Offender Facility, The New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision.



LUMBERYARD exists because Solange MacArthur, our most generous benefactor, believed in the power of the arts to create positive change. Solange was also strongly committed to improving our criminal justice system. In keeping with her uplifting spirit and deeply-held beliefs, LUMBERYARD unveiled Fresh Start in spring 2018. Fresh Start is an arts education intervention program designed to develop productive and constructive methods of self-expression for juveniles incarcerated in New York State. This program is in direct response to — and in support of — the groundbreaking Raise the Age changes supported by Governor Cuomo, the New York State Legislature, and hundreds of agents of changes across the Empire State. We live in a time when opportunities to improve the lives of young people in the criminal and juvenile justice systems are expanding rapidly. LUMBERYARD is honored to play a leading role in this dynamic.

LUMBERYARD is heartened that the feedback from the staff of the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) and Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) — prison and juvenile detention facilities, respectively — to Fresh Start has been universally positive. LUMBERYARD is thrilled by the strong commitment and creativity of the young people who have participated in our program. The children of our state who are in the criminal justice system — and the rest of us in this state — deserve no less.

HISTORY & BACKGROUND

LUMBERYARD operates a non-profit performing arts and film campus located in the heart of Catskill, NY. With a state-of-the-art facility, LUMBERYARD offers a center for performing artists to test and perfect their work and gives Hudson Valley audiences the opportunity to see performances before they premiere in New York City.

In addition to serving as a residency for performing artists, LUMBERYARD rents its 7,000-square-foot tax-credit-eligible production space to film and television production companies. One hundred percent of the net proceeds from these rentals are invested into the Catskill community through programs such as: LUMBERYARD **Young Performers**, which provides free dance education for students living in low-income communities in and around Catskill; **Fresh Start**, an intervention program for incarcerated teens; and **Junior Crew**, which provides local high school students summer jobs and workforce development training.

Set on the waterfront a few minutes from Main Street, LUMBERYARD is also a venue for weddings and large events, making the space an important part of the community's fabric and an economic driver for the region.



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

From LUMBERYARD's inception, we have prioritized addressing community needs in our outreach programming. Raise the Age and Fresh Start acknowledge fundamental differences in the cognitive skills of adolescents and adults. With research underscoring that the human brain is not fully formed until around age 25, adolescents behave impulsively and are often unable to grasp the full consequences of their actions. Since the adolescent brain is still developing, the character, personality traits, and behavior of young people are highly receptive to change. Adolescents respond well to interventions, learn to make responsible choices, and grow out of negative or delinquent behavior. Thus, initiatives such as Raise the Age and supporting interventions like Fresh Start represent a real opportunity to effect positive change in the lives of young people, their communities, and the larger society – now and for years to come.

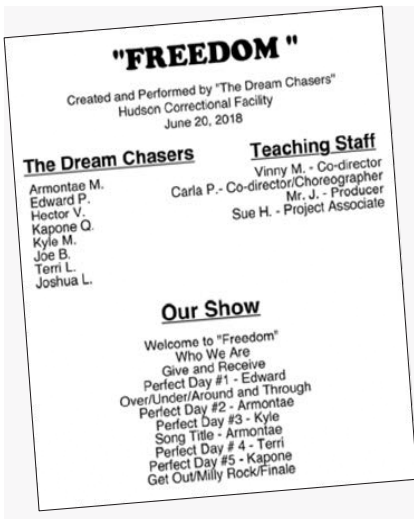




Governor Andrew Cuomo signs "Raise the Age," April 10, 2017. Photo: New York State.

In 2017, LUMBERYARD approached the leadership of the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) to offer an arts intervention for inmates of Hudson Adolescent Offender Facility (HAOF)¹, the first NY State prison for only 16- and 17-year-olds. Designed to reinforce required education and programming at HAOF, the initial phase of Fresh Start engaged inmates in creative and challenging exercises that provided them the opportunity to develop competencies such as goal setting, critical thinking, structured risk taking, problem solving, collaboration and cooperation, empathy, and listening skills – while learning to express themselves in constructive and productive ways.

Fresh Start began in May 2018 and included a well-received performance by the participants on June 2018, for fellow inmates, HAOF staff, and invited guests. Over the course of eight weeks, more than a dozen inmates participated in a sequential curriculum structured to maximize interaction with the instructors and each another. The approach and structure of the program allowed participants to tell their own stories, discover more about themselves, and explore alternative means for expressing their wants and needs. In doing so, the inmates began to reflect on the choices they made in the past and how to make better ones in the future in order to live more productive and fulfilling lives. In addition, participants developed technical skills that could lead to more constructive behavior while incarcerated and, eventually, facilitate the path to employment or additional studies once they complete their sentences.



The group named itself the "Dream Chasers" and called their performance "Freedom." They adopted three conventions for their time together: 1) One person with the "mic" at a time and all others have to listen actively; 2) Be empathetic; and 3) Be Respectful. Sessions began with an articulation of both program-wide and session-specific objectives, then moved into warm-up exercises led by the instructors. At the first session, participants traced their hands on paper and wrote a word that described themselves beside each finger (participant artwork included at the foot of report pages).

The group identified common descriptors such as "loyal," "cool," "honest," and "chill." These words served as a launching pad for further discussion and exploration of how the participants defined themselves and how others defined them. In another session, workshop participants were asked to walk across the stage doing their best

impression of a specific word. For example, when asked to demonstrate how a "man" walks, many participants puffed up their chests and held their heads up high. When asked to walk across the stage like a "thug" many of them took a tough-guy posture, bowed their heads, dragged one foot or accented their walk with their hands. The ensuing discussion posed questions such as where they learned to associate those words with those movements and how the participants might examine and revisit their use of labels and stereotypes.



¹ At that time, the prison was known at the Hudson Correctional Facility.

PILOT PROGRAM EVALUATION AND ADDITIONS

Evaluating the impact of the program on the inmates was a key component of the project in 2018. Because this was a pilot program, establishing baselines and benchmarks was essential. Practitioners worked with HAOF staff to determine measures of success that aligned with Raise the Age objectives and with the facility's own programming. HAOF staff provided assessments of the participants at the beginning of the eight weeks, during the sessions, and at the conclusion. Participants evaluated themselves and were asked to prepare a statement outlining how they would incorporate the experiences and lessons from the program into their lives after they left HAOF. During the Fresh Start pilot phase, the average behavior score for participants went from 15.7 in the first session to 43.25 for the performance; there was steady improvement in these metrics throughout the nine instruction sessions. Detailed data on participant behavior during the Fresh Start pilot can be found in Appendix A.



Savion Glover

From the beginning, LUMBERYARD has worked with the staff at HAOF to connect participants with organizations that can help them leverage the understanding and skills they developed through Fresh Start after their sentences have been served. This work accelerated as participants prepare for release. In addition, LUMBERYARD hosted two Fresh Start sessions at HAOF to provide feedback after the pilot performance to discuss careers in the arts as well as using the arts while in prison to improve their ability to cope with the challenges of incarceration.



Kaneza Schaal

To complement the instruction offered via Fresh Start, the pilot culminated with two special events at HAOF. LUMBERYARD arranged for a workshop and performance by Tony Award-winning tap legend Savion Glover ("greatest tap virtuoso of our time" -- *The New Yorker*) and percussionist Marcus Gilmore for inmates and staff. Second, LUMBERYARD screened the documentary, "Raised in the System," part of HBO's Emmy-winning weekly news magazine series VICE. This film focuses on the challenges posed within the juvenile justice system and the opportunities to reduce the likelihood of incarceration and means to reduce recidivism. The screening was followed by a Q&A with the film's star, Dominic Dupont, for the general population and for inmates confined to the Juvenile Separation Unit. Mr. Dupont was incarcerated for more than 20 years before his sentence was commuted. The documentary was also screened at Greene Correctional Facility, which houses, among others, around 300 inmates who are 24 years old and under.



Cornell Alston

In addition, on September 25, 2018, LUMBERYARD leveraged its partnership with the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) to bring artist-in-residence Kaneza Schaal to HAOF, along with Christopher Myers and Cornell Alston. Schaal and Myers are recent awardees of the Bearing Witness Fellowship from the Ford Foundation/Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors' Art For Justice Fund, a prestigious award that goes to organizations and leaders doing impactful and cutting-edge work to reform the criminal justice system. Ms. Schaal, et. al., conducted an afternoon-long performance and workshop. Of great impact to the inmates was the participation of Mr. Alston, who served 33 years in the New York State Corrections System. During his lengthy incarceration and in the years since release, Mr. Alston has used the arts as a means of creative self expression and uplift for others who are (or were) incarcerated. A comparable workshop was also provided for juveniles at the Goshen Secure Center, an OCFS facility.



Christopher Myers

Providing working artists with access to work with incarcerated youth is a valuable service that LUMBERYARD is uniquely positioned to facilitate. Our relationships with DOCCS and OCFS are highly valuable to navigating and negotiating the administrative details to coordinate access for NYC's leading performing artists who are eager to participate in this impactful program.



To cap the first year of Fresh Start, LUMBERYARD hosted a well-received public screening of "Raised in the System" and panel discussion at our campus in Catskill. This provided a chance to engage a wider audience committed to using the arts to help these young people.



YEAR 2 PROGRAM EXPANSION

Kaneza Schaal assumed responsibility for Fresh Start’s curriculum and its delivery in 2019. Ms. Schaal is joined by a team of talented teaching artists, all of whom are persons of color and some of whom have their own history of involvement with the criminal justice system. This reflects LUMBERYARD’s robust commitment to bring artists of color into the adolescent corrections system, which houses a predominantly black and brown population.

At each facility, a team of 2-3 teaching artists delivers what has expanded to an 11-week curriculum composed of individual and group exercises. The youth acquire competencies such as creative voice, effective communication, collaboration, and critical thinking that can lead to positive changes in attitude and behavior. Key program activities include:

- *Creative Practice*: Exercises and improvisation where youth share themselves and their stories using movement and language, developing self-expression and empathy skills.
- *Reflective Processing*: Group dialogue to reflect upon their lives and past choices and examine societal labels, creating a safe space in which to re-imagine their futures.
- *Group Rehearsals*: Group work builds leadership and collaboration skills.
- *Performance*: Culminating group presentations by inmates enable them to realize a creative idea and achieve project completion, boosting confidence and self-esteem.

In addition to the original HAOF facility, Fresh Start has scaled to three additional facilities — Columbia Secure Center for Girls, Goshen Secure Center, and Highland Residential Center. In the first half of 2019, 32 sessions were delivered to 37 adolescent inmates. For context, one-third of the residents at the various male facilities elected to participate in Fresh Start sessions and 100% of the girls at Columbia Secure Center participated in Fresh Start. The programs culminated in final showings for fellow inmates and staff.

See press coverage in Appendix C and additional information in Appendix D.

Each Fresh Start module focuses on the demonstration of intellectual growth, positive self-examination, a sense of responsibility for one’s future, and the ability to apply abstract concepts to concrete realities. In particular, instruction is aimed at improved control and dexterity over one’s personal expression and an understanding of how expression is a communication tool for dispute resolution.

At Goshen Secure Center, the young men, aged 16-18, composed and performed four pieces that explored how to reclaim their dreams while in a juvenile justice facility. The showing included original scenes, monologues, and individual physical scores that encapsulated each of the young men’s own personal stories. These stories engaged their own imaginings — dreams of getting out and the advice one would give a dear friend staying behind, of going to prom, of success they hope

to achieve and recipes they had been working on before being incarcerated. The show was held in front of mentors, teachers, and peers, as well as Ms. Ines Nieves, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Juvenile Justice & Opportunities for Youth for OCFS.

At HAOF, participants took part in a performance for fellow inmates, teachers, and officers based on the theater piece “JACK &”, a show developed and performed by artists who led the workshops. Students were asked to contemplate the ways in which Jack’s struggle to make a cake (his ‘recipe’) were both helped and hindered by his well-meaning, yet mischievous trickster friend. By discussing and eventually performing scenes from the show, students explored the ways in which we face our own obstacles to realizing our dreams, and how we can craft recipes for dreaming that allow us to reclaim agency over our dreams and our lives.

The participants at HAOF also performed one original work: a series of vignettes that focused on the goals of one young man upon returning home. Through short scenes, he enacted his dreams of the goals he would achieve, marked by dates in his future such as his release, reconnecting with family, and voting for the first time.²

Across the board at the four facilities, LUMBERYARD and administrators were pleased to see a steady positive increase in multiple elements of behavior of the participants across the span of Fresh Start sessions, indicating strong buy-in and commitment on the part of these committed young people (see additional detail in Appendix B). In addition, follow-up sessions were held at HAOF and Goshen to discuss with the young people how to continue to use what they had learned during the Fresh Start program either during their time in the facilities or upon return to their communities.

In August 2019, Rachel Chavkin, winner of the 2019 Tony Award for Best Direction of a Musical, and a team of ten instructors will provide an impactful Fresh Start workshop to the female and male inmates at HAOF. Ms. Chavkin’s group, which will be in residence at LUMBERYARD, will provide tangible strategies for generating and editing material as a group through improvisation and written assignments. Additionally, they will discuss the delicate nature of group authorship and ensemble dynamics. The workshop will include generative exercises to make material fitting that moment in time and will conclude with a sharing of new work with fellow inmates.



A young man at Hudson Adolescent Offender Facility performs during the Fresh Start culminating event on May 29, 2019. Fresh Start instructors – (right to left) Cornell Nate Alston, Cheyanne Williams, and Modesto Flako Jimenez – look on. (Molly Stinchfield)



Ms. Ines Nieves, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Juvenile Justice & Opportunities for Youth for the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, congratulates the Fresh Start participants following their performance at the Goshen Secure Center, May 22, 2019. (Goshen Secure Center)



² A showing was not held at Columbia Girls because the program there was in introductory phase. Unfortunately, a showing was not possible at Highland Residential Center because of an interruption due to state budget issues.

THE PATH FORWARD

Fresh Start is designed to introduce teenagers in juvenile and criminal justice facilities to the transformative power of the arts and help them develop the necessary skills to reduce recidivism. LUMBERYARD is uniquely positioned and proud to partner with Hudson Adolescent Offender Facility, Columbia Girls Secure Center, Goshen Secure Center, and Highland Residential Center, and we look forward to continuing this important work.

As Kaneza Schaal summarizes the philosophy underpinning the curriculum, the Fresh Start program is about “nurturing young minds to begin imagining the futures they want for themselves, each other, and the world.”

LUMBERYARD is heartened by the strong positive feedback from the students in the Fresh Start program as well as the professionals running these juvenile and criminal justice organizations:

“Our partnership with LUMBERYARD, and its Fresh Start program, has helped young offenders in our charge more easily express themselves. We are excited about the Fresh Start program, which meets our partnership goals. But more importantly, this program provides adolescents with new ways of communicating, which is proven to be therapeutic and will be instrumental in helping them reach their goals and aspirations when they return home.”

- Anthony J. Annucci, DOCCS Acting Commissioner

“OCFS welcomes the opportunity to partner with LUMBERYARD to enrich the lives of young men and women in the state’s youth justice system. The Fresh Start program provides youth with a creative outlet to express themselves in new ways and tap into their imaginations while exploring an artistic form that most have never experienced. We look forward to expanding their programming in our facilities.”

- Sheila J. Poole, Acting OCFS Commissioner

LUMBERYARD is looking forward to continuing to see Fresh Start grow and its impact broaden — both for young people while incarcerated as well as once they return to their communities and start the next phase of their lives. **We encourage you to support this life-changing work. Together we can change the course of the lives of these young people and strengthen our society.**



A young man at Hudson Adolescent Offender Facility performs during the Fresh Start culminating event on May 29, 2019. Cheyanne Williams, one of the Fresh Start instructors, participates in the scene. (Molly Stinchfield)

ABOUT FRESH START

Fresh Start is an intervention program for juvenile/criminal justice-involved teenagers in the Hudson Valley area. The program began in May 2018 in conjunction with New York State's Raise the Age reforms. Through Fresh Start, teenagers work through creative and challenging exercises that help them tell their own stories, discover more about themselves, and explore new means for expressing their wants, needs, and desires. The program began at Hudson Adolescent Offender Facility (the first adolescent offender facility established in New York State in conjunction with Raise the Age) and has expanded to three Office of Children and Family Services in New York State, including the Goshen Secure Center, Columbia Girls Secure Center (the only all-girls facility of its kind in New York State), and Highland Residential Center.

ABOUT LUMBERYARD

LUMBERYARD is a non-profit performing arts and film campus located in Catskill, New York. Just 101 miles outside New York City, LUMBERYARD offers a first of its kind state-of-the-art facility for performing artists to test their work before it premieres. LUMBERYARD also rents space to film and television production companies, with 100 percent of the net proceeds invested back into the Catskill community. Visit www.lumberyard.org for more information or follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

LUMBERYARD is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts; the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; and the Greene County Legislature through the County Initiative Program, administered in Greene County by the Greene County Council on the Arts.



*Fresh Start Panel Discussion at LUMBERYARD, September 29, 2018
Melanie George, Audience Education/Dramaturg at LUMBERYARD
(moderator); Kaneza Schaal, Theatre Artist and an Arts-in-Education
Advocate; Richard M. Aborn, President, Citizens Crime Commission of
NYC; The Honorable Didi Barrett, New York State Assembly, District
106; Dominic Dupont, Criminal Justice Reform Activist*

TESTIMONIALS

DONNA ANN LEWIN, SUPERINTENDENT, HUDSON ADOLESCENT OFFENDER FACILITY

I would like to...take this opportunity to thank the staff from LUMBERYARD...for providing such a stimulating program to the youth population.

During the early rehearsals inmates were a bit shy, and not confident about participating in the program. As the rehearsals progressed you could see that some of the shyness was melting away and the inmates were getting more confident. Some of them would approach myself and other staff to ensure we would be present for the day of the presentation. Even though there were restrictions about what was allowed, the inmates seemed to be enjoying themselves very much. During the jumping and leaping and backflipping through the air they seem to lose more and more of the initial anxiety.

The highlight of the performance was the excitement of the audience as the theatre group concluded the performance with a series of dance routines from each participant. For an hour I could see the stress of their incarceration melt away as they were caught up in the performance and, what I thought was, the pride in the bravery of the few who dared to sign up.

I believe with more of this kind of program we will see a positive outcome in the attitude, and overall demeanor of these youth. Thanks again for your time and dedication to the Fresh Start program.

CAROLYN POLIKARPUS, PROGRAM DIRECTOR, REENTRY COLUMBIA, HUDSON, NY

It's amazing to see the kids come to life, drop their masks and truly engage with the chance for creative self-expression. Gives me hope for their future!

KANEZA SCHAAL, THEATER MAKER

(USA Artist Award, Ford Foundation Art For Justice Bearing Witness Fellow, Soros Fellow)

My team and I have worked in Juvenile Detention Centers around the country; we have collaborated with DA's offices, grassroots organizations led by folks who served time, and State Heads of Youth Corrections. What is accomplished through our collaboration with LUMBERYARD is only possible because of their phenomenal dedication, institutional values, and unique staffing. By taking on the direct relationship with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services; Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS); and fundraising, they provide access to creating sustainable programming in one of our most underserved communities – children in prison. This radical devotion is matched only by their auspiciously talented staff, namely Jason Forrester, who have the personal backgrounds that allow them to wield trust and authority...and the sensitivity and collaboration necessary to meeting the creative demands of dedicated artists. This kind of alignment doesn't happen often. Supporting Fresh Start is a strategic investment that catalyzes the rare convergence of resources that the program has harnessed towards maximum impact and longevity.

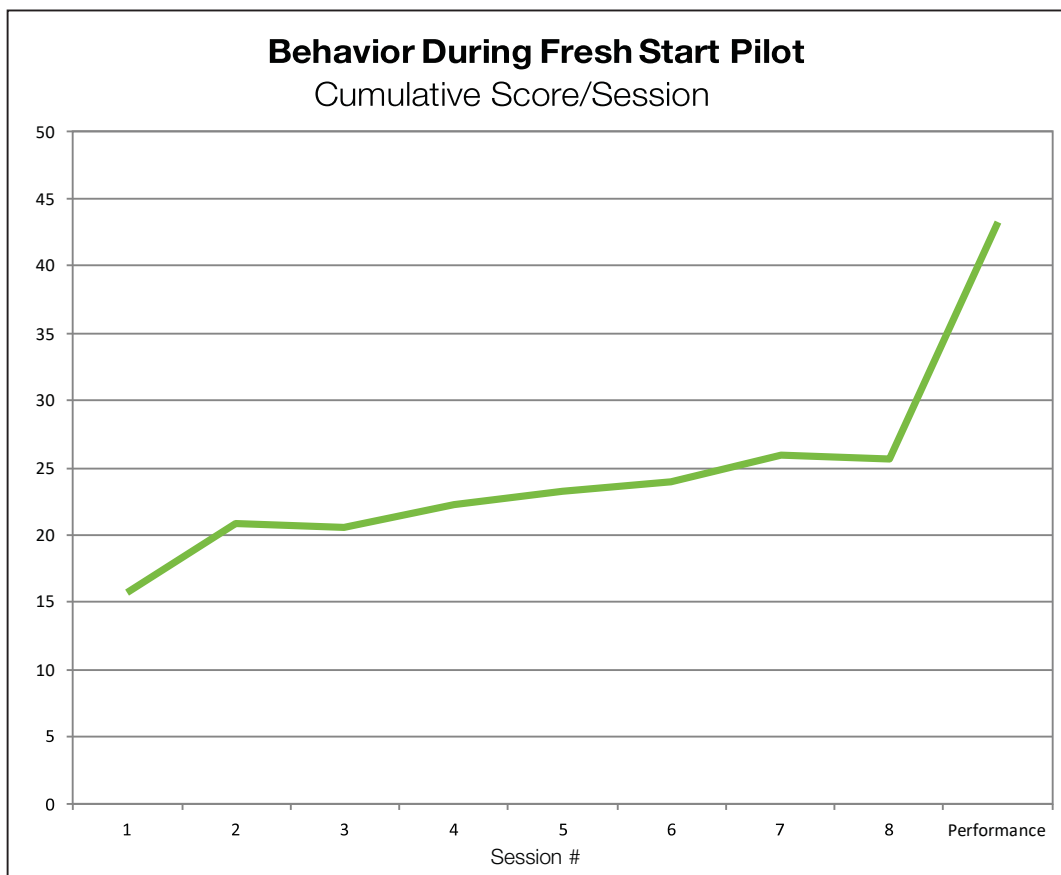
ADRIENNE WILLIS, EXECUTIVE & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, LUMBERYARD

LUMBERYARD believes in the power of the arts to help us understand ourselves and one another. Fresh Start offers the young people who participate in the program the opportunity to transform themselves in creative and positive ways.



APPENDIX A: CUMULATIVE FRESH START BEHAVIOR METRICS – PILOT PHASE (HUDSON ADOLESCENT OFFENDER FACILITY), MAY-JUNE 2018

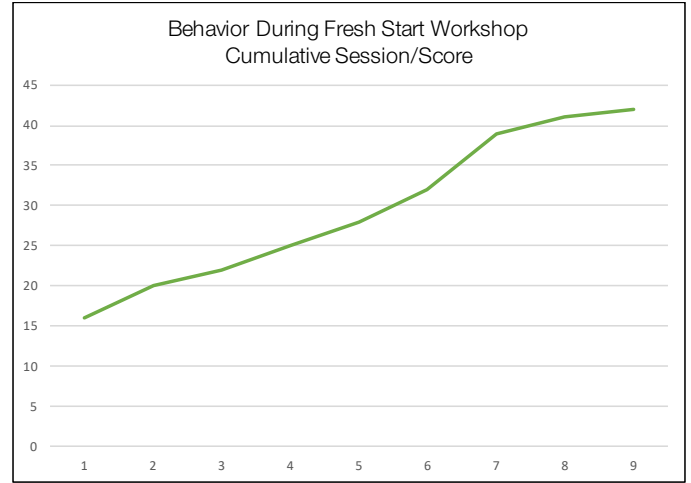
Behavior During Fresh Start Instruction Sessions and Performance									
Session #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Performance
Shows respect to others	2	2.7	2.1	1.8	2.25	2.28	2.26	2.6	4
Tries new activities	2	2.4	1.7	1.4	2.25	2.28	3	2.7	4
Demonstrates self-confidence	1.6	2	1.7	2.3	2.3	2.14	2	2.3	4
Demonstrates self-expression	1.6	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.3	2	3	2.3	4
Follows directions	1.4	2	2.2	2.2	2.3	2	2.3	2.3	4
Works collaboratively	1.4	2	1.8	2.4	2.3	2.28	2.3	2.25	4
Demonstrates self-discipline	1.7	1.7	1.8	2.2	2	2	2	2	4
Accomplishes assignments	1	1	1.4	1	1	2	2.5	2.6	4
Takes a leadership role	1	1.7	1	2.2	2.25	2.5	2.3	2.25	4
Articulate key concepts	1	1.5	2.8	2.2	2	2.28	2.3	2.25	3.25
Participates fully	1	1.7	1.8	2.2	2.25	2.14	2	2.12	4
Cumulative score/session	15.7	20.9	20.5	22.2	23.2	23.9	26	25.7	43.25
<i>Number of inmates participating</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>



APPENDIX B: CUMULATIVE FRESH START BEHAVIOR METRICS (FIRST QUARTER 2019)

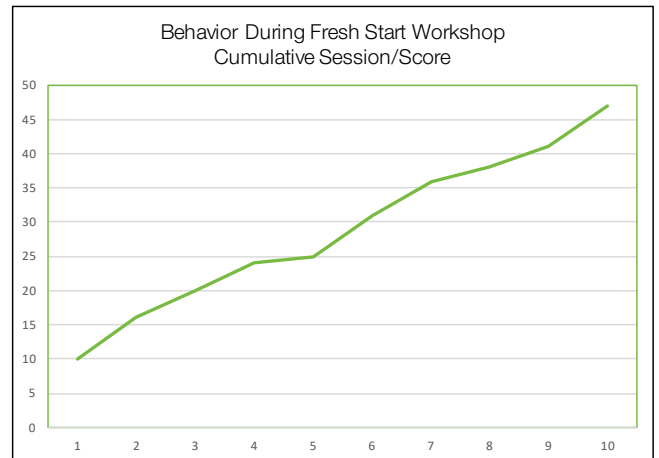
HUDSON ADOLESCENT OFFENDER FACILITY – MARCH-MAY 2019

Overall Behavior During FRESH START Workshop Sessions										
Session #	Rating Per Session (1-5)									Performance
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Respect for Fellow Participants	2	2	3	2	3	3	4	4	3	4
Ability to Work Collaboratively	2	3	3	2	2	1	3	3	4	5
Demonstration of Self-Discipline	1	2	2	3	2	3	4	4	5	5
Take a Leadership Role	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	5	5	5
Willingness to Try New Activities	1	2	2	2	3	4	4	5	5	5
Participation	2	1	2	3	3	3	4	4	5	5
Active Listening	2	3	2	3	3	3	4	4	5	5
Engagement with the Material	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	4	4	5
Self-Expression	1	1	1	2	2	3	4	4	3	5
Self-Confidence	1	1	2	2	3	4	4	4	3	5
Cumulative Score/Session:	16	20	22	25	28	32	39	41	42	49
<i>Number of young men participating</i>	6	5	5	5	5	4	1	1	4	3



GOSHEN SECURE CENTER – FEBRUARY-MAY 2019

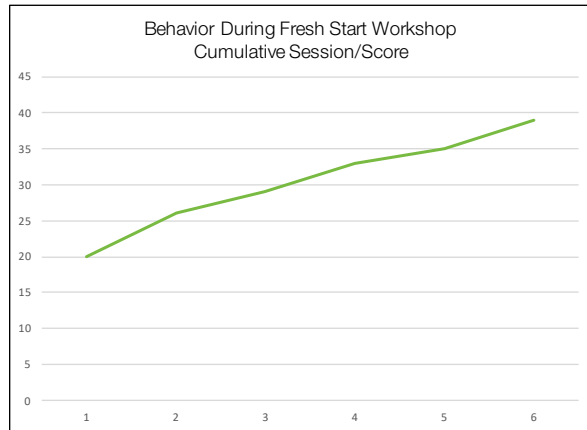
Overall Behavior During FRESH START Workshop Sessions											
Session #	Rating Per Session										Performance
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Respect for Fellow Collaborators	1	2	1	3	3	3	4	3	3	4	5
Ability to Work Collaboratively	1	2	2	3	2	3	4	4	4	5	5
Demonstration of Self-Discipline	1	2	3	3	2	3	4	3	4	4	5
Take a Leadership Role	1	1	2	2	3	4	3	4	4	5	5
Willingness to Try New Activities	1	2	2	2	3	3	4	4	4	5	5
Participation	1	2	2	3	3	4	3	4	5	5	5
Active Listening	1	2	3	3	2	3	3	4	4	4	5
Engagement with the Material	1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	5
Self-Expression	1	1	2	1	2	3	4	4	4	5	5
Self-Confidence	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	4	4	5	5
Cumulative Score/Session:	10	16	20	24	25	31	36	38	41	47	50
<i>Number of young men participating</i>	8	7	7	5	8	5	6	5	5	6	7



Ratings per session, scale: 1-5

HIGHLAND RESIDENTIAL CENTER – MARCH-APRIL 2019³

Overall Behavior During FRESH START Workshop Sessions											
Session #	Rating Per Session										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	PERFORMANCE
Respect for Fellow Collaborators	3	3	3	3	4	4	--	--	--	--	--
Ability to Work Collaboratively	2	3	3	3	4	4	--	--	--	--	--
Demonstration of Self-Discipline	1	2	2	3	3	3	--	--	--	--	--
Take a Leadership Role	1	2	3	3	3	4	--	--	--	--	--
Willingness to Try New Activities	3	4	4	4	4	5	--	--	--	--	--
Participation	2	2	3	3	4	3	--	--	--	--	--
Active Listening	1	2	2	3	3	3	--	--	--	--	--
Engagement with the Material	2	3	4	4	4	5	--	--	--	--	--
Self-Expression	3	3	3	4	4	4	--	--	--	--	--
Self-Confidence	2	2	2	3	2	4	--	--	--	--	--
Cumulative Score/Session:	20	26	29	33	35	39	--	--	--	--	--
<i>Number of young men participating</i>	3	7	5	8	8	8	--	--	--	--	--



Ratings per session, scale: 1-5

³ Unfortunately, a showing was not possible at Highland Residential Center because of an interruption due to state budget issues.

APPENDIX C: FRESH START PRESS COVERAGE AND OTHER KEY CLIPS

- **CBS 6**
Tony award-winner helping teen inmates get “Fresh Start” >
- **ABC 10:**
Lumberyard in the Hudson Valley >
- **Times Union**
The arts as intervention in 'Fresh Start' for young inmates >
- **New York Times**
Flipping for Dance in the Catskills >
- **Hudson Valley 360**
Lumberyard etches its name in history >



*Savion Glover at Hudson Adolescent
Offender Facility*

APPENDIX D: FRESH START BIOGRAPHIES

LUMBERYARD FRESH START LEAD STAFF

JASON FORRESTER is Director of Fresh Start — which directly supports the ground-breaking juvenile justice changes in Raise the Age — prepares inmates for life after incarceration by providing performing arts instruction and an understanding of how skills acquired in the program can be used to facilitate successful re-entry. Fresh Start also brings leading performers to HAOF to broaden the experiences and understanding of HAOF inmates.

LUMBERYARD aims to make Fresh Start a standing program at HAOF and is interested in expanding the program to other corrections facilities as well as facilities run by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services. From 2009-2015, Jason served as an appointee of President Barack Obama in the Pentagon, making him one of the longest-serving appointees in the Obama administration. He has also worked in Congress, on multiple presidential campaigns, at various think tanks, and with award-winning advocacy groups. Jason has served as an advisor in every presidential election cycle since 2000. His areas of expertise include preventing nuclear terrorism and promoting democracy. Jason was educated at Tufts University and Sewanee: The University of the South.

FRESH START SENIOR PROGRAM ADVISOR

KANEZA SCHAAL is a New York City based theater artist. Her new work JACK& will come to BAM's Next Wave Festival this Fall and was co-commissioned by Walker Arts Center, REDCAT, On The Boards, PICA and Center for Contemporary Art Cincinnati with support from the National Performance Network and NEFA National Theater Project. Her piece GO FORTH premiered at PS122 and then showed at the Genocide Memorial Amphitheater in Kigali, Rwanda, LMCC's River-to-River Festival, Contemporary Arts Center New Orleans, Cairo International Contemporary Theater Festival in Egypt, and at her alma mater Wesleyan University, CT. Schaal received a 2017 MAP Fund award, 2016 Creative Capital Award, and is the current Aetna New Voices Fellow at Hartford Stage. This spring her piece CARTOGRAPHY be workshopped through New Victory Theater Lab, NYU Abu Dhabi, and will show at The Kennedy Center's New Vision New Voices. Schaal's work has also been supported by Baryshnikov Arts Center, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Nathan Cummings Foundation, Foundation for Contemporary Arts, Theater Communications Group, and a Princess Grace George C. Wolfe Award. Her work with The Wooster Group, Elevator Repair Service, Richard Maxwell/New York City Players, Claude Wampler, Jim Findlay, and Dean Moss has brought her to venues including Centre Pompidou, Royal Lyceum Theater Edinburgh, The Whitney Museum, and MoMA. kanezaschaal.com

Kaneza Schaal and Christopher Myers have been awarded a Bearing Witness Fellowship by the Ford Foundation's Art For Justice initiative. This prestigious award goes to organizations and leaders doing impactful and cutting-edge work to reform the criminal justice system. Schaal is an Arts-in-Education advocate and recently returned from a new project with the International Children's Book Library in Munich, Germany working with young Syrian and Eritrean refugees to address migration and storytelling. Her education work has spanned from universities to community centers to public high schools, and from workshops for professional artists, to professional development training for teachers, to intergenerational collaboration between elders and teens, to in-schools work with immigrant communities. She has worked as a teaching artist for The Wooster Group, Elevator Repair Service, New York Theatre Workshop, Elders Share The Arts, Symphony Space, Harlem School for the Arts, The Kitchen, and was invited to develop curriculum for a new in-school arts program created by The Arthur Miller Foundation and Institute of Play. Schaal taught an Atelier course at Princeton University with Elevator Repair Service and workshops at Emerson College. Schaal has been invited to speak at New York University, Yale University, the River-to-River Festival and her alma mater Wesleyan University, CT.

FRESH START DESIGNER / WRITER

CHRISTOPHER MYERS is an artist and writer who lives in New York. While he is widely acclaimed for his work with literature for young people, he is also an accomplished fine artist who has lectured and exhibited internationally. His practice can be divided into two categories, interventions in historical narratives and work crafted with artisans from around the globe. Christopher's work has been exhibited at PS1/MoMA, and included as part of Greater New York, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Prospect Biennial in New Orleans and Contrasts Gallery in Shanghai. Myers has curated shows in Vietnam, designed theater that has travelled from PS122 in New York City to the Genocide Memorial Theater in Kigali, Rwanda and collaborated with Hank Willis Thomas on a short film *Am I Going Too Fast* which premiered at Sundance. Myers participated in the Whitney Independent Studio Program. He has written essays that have been published by the New York Times and he is currently working on a book comparing global censorship methodologies.

Christopher Myers is a celebrated author and illustrator. Christopher has spoken extensively in juvenile detention facility, enough so that he does not have a running list of these engagements. Early in his career he started putting in his school visit contracts that he would only do a school visit if they also arranged a visit to a juvenile detention center. In New York State specifically, he has worked at the Spofford Juvenile Detention Center (now closed).

Also of note, the book *MONSTER*, on which Christopher collaborated with his late father Walter Dean Myers, is being made into a film which premiered at Sundance this winter. That book directly deals with a young man's encounter with the criminal justice system and has been widely acclaimed. *MONSTER* is required reading for 9th grade curriculum NYC.

FRESH START INSTRUCTORS

CORNELL ALSTON is a long time member of Rehabilitation Through the Arts, a not-for-profit that uses the arts as a springboard to teach life skills to individuals both inside and outside of state correctional facilities. He initiated the Youth Empowerment Through the Arts initiative that launched in Queens NY, and he continues to work as an arts-in-education advocate. He is the recipient of a 2016 Creative Capital Award. Alston performed and collaborated with Kaneza Schaal on *PLEASE, BURY ME* at Baryshnikov Arts Center and *GO FORTH* during a Performance Space 122 RAMP residency. Other performance highlights include: *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *12 Angry Men*, and the title role in *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*.

Cornell Alston served 33 years in New York State correctional facilities. During this time he began performing with Rehabilitation Through the Arts and working with YAP, the Youth Assistance Program. Alston began working with RTA while at Sing Sing. Later, he started the RTA branch at Woodbourne Correctional Facility. After his release, Alston initiated the Youth Empowerment in the Arts program through RTA and served as their Coordinator for Community Outreach. Alston also taught two sessions with juveniles at Rikers Island through the organization Drama Club. Individually, Alston has worked in gang intervention both in and outside of prison. Alston spent time in the following New York State correctional facilities: Arthur Kill, Attica, Clinton (Dannemora), Eastern, Elmira, Fishkill, Great Meadow, Green Haven, Rikers Island, Groveland, Sing Sing, and Woodbourne.

MODESTO FLAKO JIMENEZ is a Dominican-born, Bushwick-raised theater maker, producer, and educator. ATI Best Actor Award Winner for 2016. HOLA Best Ensemble Award Winner for 2015 and HOLA Outstanding Solo Performer for 2017, NY Times and Wall Street Journal profiled. Flako is best known for original productions and three signature festivals – *Ghetto Hors D'Oeuvres*, *One Catches Light*, and *Oye! Avant Garde Night!* – produced with his company Oye Group. Flako has appeared on TEDxBushwick, *Early Shaker Spirituals* (The Wooster Group), *Last Night At The Palladium* (Bushwick Starr/3LD), *Yoleros* (Bushwick Starr/IATI theater), *Conversations Pt.1: How To Make It Black In America* (JACK). *Take Me Home* (3LD/ Incubator Arts Project), and *Richard Maxwell's Samara* (Soho Rep.). Modesto received the 2016 Princess Grace Award Honorarium in Theater. In 2018 he became the first Dominican-American Lead Artist in *The Public Theater Under The Radar Festival*.

Modesto Flako Jimenez has extensive experience as a teacher and teaching artist. He has taught workshops or classes at Bennington College, Hunter College, The Kitchen Liberty High School, *Opening Act*, *El Puente Eco Playwriting and Poetry Workshops*, *BARD High School Early College*, *Abrons Art Center*, *Big Green Theater Festival* at the Bushwick Starr, the *Wooster Group's Drama Program*, and more.

CHEYANNE WILLIAMS is a New York-based theater artist. Previous design and technical collaborations include assistant set designer (Pay No Attention to the Girl, Target Margin Theater, and {mylingerieplay}, Rattlestick Playwrights Theater); props designer (Big Green Theater Program and Cute Activist, Bushwick Starr); and technical director (Kaneza Schaal's JACK & and CARTOGRAPHY). Recent performance work includes workshop performances of Kaneza Schaal's CARTOGRAPHY at the New Victory Theater and Brooklyn College, as well as the East Coast premiere of up your aesthetic, a revised re-telling of the ancient Greek myths of the Amazons, at the DC fringe festival this past summer. Williams received a BA in theater from Wesleyan University.



Goshen Secure Center art on display at LUMBERYARD.

Please direct any follow-up questions to:
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