



FLEDGLING FILMS

After seven years of the Fledgling Films and Vermont Arts Institute camps for teens, KCP branched off into a new direction for youth.

In 2005, Bess O'Brien took still another step, organizing writing and theater workshops for more than 1,000 high school students through Vermont. The result—the touring production of her play, ***The Voices Project***, based on writing that emerged from those workshops. The play toured successfully throughout Vermont and, in 2007, O'Brien launched her first dramatic film project, ***Shout it Out***, based on her ***Voices Project*** play.

Like the play, the film ***Shout it Out*** is a fully staged musical, starring Vermont teen actors, musicians, and dancers. The script was written by O'Brien and longtime KCP staff member Abby Paige, based on the teens' writings. It began touring the region during the summer of 2008 and will continue to play schools and community venues throughout 2008 and 2009.

KCP maintains its commitment to teens through a variety of programs. During the spring of 2009, Jay Craven began work with teen writers to launch ***The Queen City Radio Hour—Teen Edition***. More than 20 young people meet each week in writing sessions to develop ideas for comic sketches, monologues, and spoken word performance. They write, critique, and brainstorm ideas for a teen written and directed radio show that will premiere during the Champlain 400 celebrations in Burlington (July 2-14). Current plans call for the show to be recorded before a live audience at 7 and 9pm on July 6th and 7th at the Flynn Space in Burlington. Auditions for teen actors will be held later in the spring.

Teens currently participating in the writing project come from several schools including Champlain Valley Union, Mount Mansfield, Burlington, Essex, and St. Johnsbury Academy. The writing project is being organized in association with the Young Writers Project.

Another teen project: Bess O'Brien's newest film project, now in development, exploring the world of foster care. Jay Craven's likely next film will also involve area teens. It is slated to be based on ***Judgment Ridge***, the Pulitzer Prize finalist book by Dick Lehr and Mitchell Zuckoff.

Contact us for information about current teen programs and internships—or with ideas for a project in your community, 802-592-3190.