WRITE ON 2019
Information Packet

Please submit all application materials to Krista DeVellis, Education Associate at Hartford Stage.

Online: http://www.hartfordstage.org/write-on/
Email: kdevellis@hartfordstage.org
Fax: (860) 244-0183
Mail: Krista DeVellis, Hartford Stage Education, 50 Church St., Hartford, CT 06103

All application materials must be received by Thursday, January 31

Questions? Email kdevellis@hartfordstage.org or call 860-520-7264

Initial Application Checklist
(Please download separate Word document from http://www.hartfordstage.org/write-on, fill out form, and attach to your submission materials.)

☐ Write On Application
☐ Submission (Your Idea)
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Write On is Hartford Stage's Annual Young Playwrights' Competition and is open to all Connecticut residents in grades 9-12. From among these applicants, 5-6 are selected to participate in the program. The program is modeled on Hartford Stage’s new play development process, and Write On playwrights have the unique opportunity to learn about professional play development first-hand. Accepted students will participate in intensive writing workshops held at Hartford Stage, and led by playwright and teaching artist Aaron Jafferis. The program culminates with readings of the ten-minute plays performed by local actors and directed by professional directors who work closely with the young playwrights.

PROGRAM DATES
Participants must be able to commit to all program dates.

Writers’ Workshops:
Saturday, Feb 16 – workshop 1
Saturday, Feb 23 – workshop 2
Sunday, March 3 – workshop 3
Saturday, March 9 – workshop 4
Saturday, March 16 – workshop 5
Workshops will take place from 12:00pm-4:00pm

Rehearsals:
Saturday and/or Sunday March 23-24 – Staging rehearsal
These rehearsals are from 9:00am-10:00pm.
Students, directors and actors will be called to rehearse their plays for a specific two or three hour slot.

Staged Reading Performance and Reception:
Monday, March 25, 7:30pm

*Dates and times are subject to change.

WRITING MENTOR
Aaron Jafferis is a playwright and hip-hop theatre maker. Aaron and composer Byron Au Yong’s Stuck Elevator premiered at the American Conservatory Theatre, where it was named “high point of the theatrical year” by the San Francisco Chronicle. Their oratorio Trigger, aka (Be)longing premiered at the Center for the Arts at Virginia Tech as part of the 10-year memorial of the Virginia Tech shooting, then moved on to MDC Live Arts and Long Wharf Theatre/International Festival of Arts & Ideas. Aaron and Byron’s current project Activist Songbook interviews Asian American organizers nationwide to create a collection of new songs and raps for current activists to use in movement-building. Aaron’s other works include How to Break – a hip-hop play about teenagers learning to live while their bodies are breaking, based on Aaron’s experience as writer-in-residence at Yale-New Haven Children’s Hospital; Kingdom – a hip-hop/rock musical about the Latin Kings which premiered at The Old Globe; and Shakespeare: The Remix, about a high school rapper battling the ghost of William Shakespeare. Aaron also worked with Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services and dozens of refugees from around the world to create Stories of a New America, a play touring with Collective Consciousness Theatre.

Current projects include a Long Wharf Theatre commission about a Latinx gang leader and brutal white cop imprisoned together (Tone, with Antonio Fernandez); Smooth Criminal – a hip-hop play about a nerdy white kid desperate to liberate his people as soon as he can figure out who they are; and a touring solo show with accompanying workshops – What Is Race and How Did I Catch It? Honors include a Creative Capital Award, Richard Rodgers Award, Sundance Institute/Time Warner Fellowship, NEA Art Works Grant, NEFA National Theatre Project Grant, San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award, Edgerton Foundation New American Play Award, and multiple MacDowell Fellowships. A former Open Rap Slam champion at the National Poetry Slam Championships, Aaron founded The Word poetry-in-the-schools program in New Haven, and teaches hip-hop theatre for liberation in schools, colleges, and organizations nationwide. www.aaronjafferis.com.

VERY IMPORTANT — PLEASE READ!

REHEARSALS:
Workshops and rehearsals will be Saturdays and some Sundays. Workshops and rehearsals are at Hartford Stage rehearsal studios located at 942 Main Street in Downtown Hartford in the Residence Inn building. Dates and times are subject to change.

**Participants MUST attend every workshop and rehearsal.**

**PERFORMANCES:**

The date for the staged reading (final performance) of WRITE ON is set for Monday, March 25, 2019 at 7:30pm.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Families will be responsible for student transportation to rehearsals and performances.

If you have questions, please reach out to Krista DeVellis, Education Associate, at kdevellis@hartfordstage.org, or call Krista at (860) 520-7264.

Thank you!