

Idit Barak - curriculum writing

## **Thelma Yellin High School of the Arts**

Thelma Yellin high school is an academic safe haven in which students from all backgrounds; social, financial and geographical come together to study art. Students are accepted into one of 6 specialization majors; classical music, jazz, film, theater, fine arts and dance. The only prerequisite is that students be versed in their craft on an advanced level.

### **"I Hear Voices"**

#### **Tools for Self Expression and Social Responsibility**

This Sophomore year program is cross departmental and will be the core of the years theoretical academic experience. We believe that as blooming artists it is essential that alongside continuing to perfect their technical artistic abilities it is even more crucial that students take responsibility and develop an awareness of the role of an artist on a micro level as well as in a grander macro one. What does it mean to produce critical work in today's social and political climate?

I Hear Voices is a multi profesore course, with one professor leading only one week of classes. Eliminating the classic format of single teacher - being a sole authoritative voice and representing one person's agenda, it is purposefully creating academic confusion and chaos. Presenting students with a wide array of narratives and outlooks will acclimate students with vast amounts of resources and opiniones available today. students will grow to be comfortable with critic and confrontation all the while keeping a strong sense of self.

Trough Master Classes with these established working artists students will learn that one can not build new and meaningful

narratives without respectfully immersive knowledge of the past practices but also that art exists in context and community.

Students will meet twice a week in four mixed major sections. This will allow students to engage and collaborate with fellow students/artists from different disciplines. This is crucial in understanding that although their "instruments of expression" may differ the means in which they source input, absorb it, digest and formulate meaningful and responsible output is the same. This class will focus on equipping our students with the tools to firstly, critically look at the world around them and secondly, find their own unique voice to express themselves through their chosen medium of artistic expression. Students will learn to extract methodologies from the history of art in order to formulate plans for the future of it.

This course is a dialogue with a ping-pong like dynamic. Each week begins with a topic presented by the professor at the first class and unpacked by the students in the second. This will be done in numerous individual teaching techniques specified by each professor.

Students will spend this year examining and deconstructing some open ended questions:

Who is an Artist?

What is art?

What is the role of art in our lives?

Does art exist in void?

Does individualism equal anti socialism?

Students will learn to think and express their views on issues such as:

Craft and Concept

Art and Income

Self and Selflessness

Stardome and experience

Criticality and cynicism

Art and politics

On completing 'I Hear Voices' students will be well prepared to embark on their junior year of school with a toolbox filled with techniques to research and conceptualize subjective ideologies. Morso students will have a physical portfolio of diverse and multi disciplinary work that they formulated during this course.

**“Teaching is only demonstrating that it is possible.**

**Learning is making it possible for yourself”**

Paolo Coelho



Pink Floyd - The Wall/ Alan Parker 1982



Thelma Yellin High School of the Arts - Givatayim, Israel