40TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Honor Native Land

Responding to a call from our Indigenous colleagues, collaborators, and neighbors, Baltimore Center Stage is working toward building meaningful and accountable relationships with the land we occupy. As a first step on this path, you'll see a land acknowledgement in each of our programs. Acknowledgement is itself a small gesture, and we look forward to continuing our efforts toward decolonization in a meaningful way. If you're interested in more information feel free to visit the US Department of Arts and Culture's "Honor Native Land" guide.

Baltimore Center Stage acknowledges that the land beneath us, this place, this community, owes its vitality to generations who have come before. Some were brought forcibly to this land, some came here in search of ownership or simply a better life, and some have lived and stewarded this land for countless generations. In a spirit of making erased histories visible, we acknowledge that we are standing on the ancestral and occupied lands of the Piscataway peoples. The Susquehannock, Lenape, and Lumbee peoples have also cared for this land. These peoples are not relics of the past. They continue to steward this land today with care, vitality, and tradition. Their relations are numerous throughout Turtle Island, and they continue to grow. We pay respects to their elders: past, present, and future. Please take a moment to consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today. And please join us in uncovering such truths at any and all public events.

Additionally, in the spirit of reconciliation, you can honor the Indigenous peoples of this land by donating to Native American Lifelines, donating to or visiting the Baltimore American Indian Center & Heritage Museum, and supporting local Indigenous artists. These are only a few suggestions of the many ways we can move towards reconciliation.



INDIGENOUS ART GALLERY

Free to the public, open during regular BCS box office hours, Tue - Fri 12PM to 5PM



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS













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Welcome to a landmark celebration!

We are deeply proud to welcome you to the 40th Anniversary presentation of the Baltimore Center Stage Young Playwrights Festival (YPF). It is an incredible honor to mark four decades of this vital program – the oldest continuous program of its kind in the entire nation – and to celebrate the enduring power of young voices shaping the future right here in Maryland.

So, what is the Young Playwrights Festival, and what magic are you about to witness? Each year, students from across Maryland are invited to write original short plays and submit them



for consideration. Baltimore Center Stage teaching artists work in residence with classroom teachers, guiding young people through the core elements of dramatic writing – from crafting compelling characters to building dynamic conflict. From the many submissions received, six winning plays are selected. Tonight, you will see those winning works brought to vivid life by professional actors and directors, right here on the stage of the State Theater of Maryland. We simply can't wait to share their incredible creativity and unique perspectives with you. Our profound thanks to the playwrights, incredible program leaders Erin Pettigrew and Hope Hynson, and to the parents and teachers whose unwavering support makes it possible for these amazing young artists to shine!

This milestone would not be possible without the dedication of countless individuals over the past forty years. We extend our deepest gratitude to the passionate teaching artists who have mentored generations of writers, the visionary arts education leaders who championed this work, the dedicated parents and classroom teachers who fostered creativity day in and day out, and most importantly, the thousands of student writers who bravely shared their stories. Your collective efforts have not only enriched this festival but have inspired our community, with many participants going on to incredible careers as artists, innovators, and leaders who continue to shape Baltimore and beyond.

As we celebrate many years of inspiration and excellence, we also want to offer an extraordinary thank you to **Eddie C. and C. Sylvia Brown.** Their consistent, generous support of arts education at Baltimore Center Stage over many years has been instrumental in making programs like the Young Playwrights Festival thrive. Visionary leaders like the Browns, from across the Baltimore community, create the essential opportunities that solidify this city's reputation as one of the most exciting and vibrant creative hubs in the nation.

Thank you again for joining us at Baltimore Center Stage for this special occasion. If you are inspired by what you see tonight and want to support our ongoing work with young artists, you can make a real impact by contributing to the BCS Next Act Campaign. Your donation powers a new generation of impact in our community, ensuring programs like YPF continue to flourish. It's easy! Make a donation online at bit.ly/nextactbcs.

Thank you for being part of this milestone celebration. Prepare to be moved, amazed, and inspired by the next generation of theatrical voices.

Enjoy the festival!

Sincerely,

Stevie Walker-Webb

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, BALTIMORE CENTER STAGE

Adam Frank

MANAGING DIRECTOR, BALTIMORE CENTER STAGE

PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL



ILOVE MY CITY, I LOVE MYSELF

BeMORE

By Aamir Snead Director: Susan Stroupe

Flash Finds Herself

By Dylan Barron, Kayden Onyewu, & Garrett King Director: Susan Stroupe

BMore Yourself

By Alice K. Reid Director: Susan Stroupe

Baltimore:

As It Was, So It Is

By Quinn Guilfoyle Director: Raecine Singletary

The Sleepover

By AV Smith

Director: Raecine Singletary

Monsters Anonymous

By Maddy Hahn & Nalani Simpson Director: Raecine Singletary

ON & AROUND THE STAGE



CAST & CREATIVE TEAM

Avon Haughton DRAMATURG/MENTOR

Allison Brown
Zipporah Brown Gladden
Carolyn Buck
Susan Moon
Tarshai' Peterson
Arlen Hancock
TEACHING ARTISTS

Susan Stroupe TEACHING ARTIST/ DIRECTOR

Raecine Singletary
DIRECTOR

Wil Crowther
COSTUME DESIGNER

Martin Sundiata
SOUND DESIGNER

Jessica Anderson Kim Parson

LIGHTING DESIGNERS

Leyen Douthard AUDIO ENGINEER

Khalil White
DECK CARPENTER/
PRODUCTION
ASSISTANT

Peri Walker estrellita beatriz STAGE MANAGERS

Maya Camille
ASSISTANT
STAGE MANAGER

Jessie Combest
PROPERTIES DESIGNER

Jade Jones JC Payne Shaquan Pearson O'Malley Steuerman Ashley Sigmon Sarah Lynn Taylor ACTORS



HONOREES



40TH ANNIVERSARY YPF HONOREES EDDIE C. AND C. SYLVIA BROWN

Honoring Eddie C. and C. Sylvia
Brown for their lifelong commitment to
supporting life changing educational
programs and the theatrical experience.
We can't think of a better way to mark the
occasion and power another generation
of deep impact for the future.

A NOTE FROM THE BCS EDUCATION DEPT.

Hello and Welcome to the **40th anniversary celebration of Baltimore Center Stage's Young Playwrights Festival!** On behalf of the Education

Department here at BCS, we would like to thank you all for your attendance, engagement, and support of the wonderful original work created by today's winning playwrights.

As we reflect on the 40-year history of this program and our theater's involvement in arts education in our city and state, we can't help but be amazed by all the incredible people who have impacted YPF throughout the years. This year, we've had new and returning Teaching Artists, directors, playwrights, and creative team members, some of whom have reflected on past YPF experiences fondly with love and joy. Their involvement has brought so much positive energy to the process.

As we began planning for this year's in-school residencies and full festival celebration, it was top priority for us to take the time to be intentional in honoring the deep roots of creative energy and brilliance springing right out of the streets of Baltimore and the communities throughout the state of Maryland. Our theme this year - "I Love My City, I Love Myself"- inspired so many thought-provoking, comedic, poignant, and community-centered artworks and stories. It has been a pleasure to read the many expressions of love and hope for this great city and state through the perspective of our youth.

We sincerely thank our community of readers for helping us sort through the mountains of creative genius we received this year, and we are so proud to present this year's six winning plays and the extraordinary playwrights. We hope that today's productions bring you the same joy, pride, and inspiration that it has brought us. If you enjoy what you see today (or any of our performances!), please consider making a tax-deductible donation to us by visiting us at centerstage.org/donate.

DIRECTORS' NOTES

YPF continues to be one of my favorite theatre experiences, and I'm thrilled to return for another year. The work that BCS is doing to spotlight the talent of our next generation of theatre makers is not only inspiring, it's necessary. And let me tell you, the future is bright! At a time when we are yearning for true connection, these plays remind us that community is essential to lasting healing and joy. My hope is that this year's playwrights walk away proud of the art they've created, and that their voices inspire others to keep writing, keep creating, and keep going. To our audience, I hope these stories invite you to see your city with fresh eyes. Maybe even pause, look around, and get to know your neighbor a little more. May these plays spark conversation, curiosity, and community in the most unexpected ways, among your families, your friends, and your neighborhoods. It is a gift to witness the minds of today's youth as they reflect on the world around them. Let's take this time to truly listen, learn, and connect. Congratulations to all of the finalists and to everyone who helped make tonight so magical!

RAECINE SINGLETARY, Young Playwrights Festival Director

Young Playwrights Festival is always my favorite night of theater of the year! Whether working on it as a director or teaching artist, I'm always inspired by the amazing minds of the students who write and submit plays to this great program. What strikes me every year is the deep themes that these young writers want to engage with: in the winning plays this year are explorations of identity, self-actualization, the complexities of friendship, oppression, and the importance of community for survival...and all these stories are told with the mixture of sincerity, absurdity, and imagination that young writers understand is vital for live theater. Working on YPF always inspires me in the rest of my theatrical work, and I hope everyone takes inspiration from these brilliant, challenging, and beautiful stories. Thank you to all the students who wrote plays this year, and to everyone who helped make this night of great theater possible: teachers, families, and everyone at Baltimore Center Stage. Enjoy!

SUSAN STROUPE, Young Playwrights Festival Director



AAMIR SNEAD
Playwright, BeMORE
Watershed Public
Charter, 6th Grade
Aamir Snead is a
singer; writer and all

around creative. Aamir entered the young playwright's festival this year hopeful to fuse his love of musical theatre with his new found appreciation of his hometown and an awareness of the importance of Community. Aamir is a 6th grade student at Watershed Public Charter School where his artistry and self-expression have been supported and encouraged by his teachers and friends. Hoping to join the ranks of many great creatives before him, Aamir is greatly looking forward to sharing his voice and creativity with the world, starting right here at Baltimore Center Stage.



DYLAN BARRON
Playwright, Flash Finds
Herself
Baltimore Lab School,
4th /5th Grade
My name is Dylan

Barron. I am 10 years old. I go to Baltimore Lab school. I am in the fourth grade. This is my first time doing the Young Playwrights Festival. My special interest is that I like Dungeons and Dragons. I am really excited to watch the play be performed.



KAYDEN ONYEWU Playwright, Flash Finds Herself Baltimore Lab School, 4th /5th Grade My name is Kayden Onyewu. I am 12 years

old. I go to Baltimore Lab School. I'm in 5th grade. It was my first time writing a play, and I liked making up characters. In my free time, I like to code. I also like to play Roblox. I can't wait to see the play performed at Baltimore Center Stage.



GARRETT KING
Playwright, Flash
Finds Herself
Baltimore Lab
School, 4th /5th
Grade

My name is Garrett King. I am 10 years old. I am a student in Team 204 at the Baltimore Lab School. I am in 4th grade. It is my second time in the YPF contest and my first time as a finalist. I like to play video games, and I like to sing. I am happy to see our play.



ALICE K. REID
Playwright, Bmore
Yourself
Mt. Royal
Elementary/Middle
School, 7th Grade

Alice Reid was born in Baltimore and is a 7th grader at Mount Royal Elementary/Middle School. She lives in two houses with two cats and a dog (an Italian Greyhound and Chihuahua mix) and is the middle child of many siblings. Much of her free time is devoted to music - whether it's playing the harp, piano, clarinet or singing. She also spends time playing softball and swimming. Alice has a deep appreciation for animals, she finds all of them to be their own amazing creatures, from furry little kittens to scaly snakes. Having grown up with a family full of stories and excitement, especially during big family dinners, she has always enjoyed writing music and writing stories. She thanks her English teacher, Mr. Regal, for encouraging her to write her first play and to Baltimore Center Stage for producing it as part of the YPF.



QUINN GUILFOYLE
Playwright,
Baltimore:
As It Was, So It Is
The Community
School, 10th Grade

Quinn Guilfoyle is a 10th grader at The Community School in Baltimore,

MD. She enjoys her work as the school Photographer in addition to her countless other hobbies including creating original artwork. Quinn discovered a love for writing while engaged in her Creative Writing classes at school, Her mentors Mr. Don Risett and Mr. Tom Culotta encouraged Quinn's exploration in the writing arts. She focuses on short stories and poetry, but has found writing for the stage to be an exciting new way to express her artistic voice. Quinn has a passion for social issues and wants to use art to express her ideas and stand up for her beliefs. She is interested in the environment and science and looks forward to studying marine biology and issues surrounding the preservation of ecosystems. Quinn hopes to continue her journey writing for the stage and telling more of her stories in thoughtful and meaningful ways. Thank you to Center Stage for providing young visionaries the opportunity to share their passions.



AVESON (AV) SMITH Playwright, The Sleepover Dulaney High, 12th Grade AV is a senior at

Dulaney High School and a member of the school's literary arts magazine and creative writing class Sequel. She is heavily involved in art classes and extracurriculars at school, as well theater tech where she's predominantly worked with costumes and props. This is her first experience with the genre of playwriting and she's very excited to see her written creation come to life with the amazingly talented and dedicated cast and crew. AV would like to thank her wonderful creative writing advisor Mrs. Hopkins and the entire Baltimore Center Stage company.



MADDY HAHN
Playwright, Monsters
Anonymous
Dulaney High,
11th Grade
Maddy Hahn is a

junior at Dulaney High School, where she contributes to Sequel, the school's literary arts magazine, and explores her voice through creative writing. Outside the classroom, Maddy stays busy with a wide range of interests - from visual arts to playing softball - balancing creativity with teamwork. Monsters Anonymous is her first play, and the process of writing it has been a new and exciting creative challenge. She's thrilled to see her words take shape on stage and is grateful to her teacher, Mrs. Hopkins, for encouraging her to take the leap into playwriting. She also thanks Baltimore Center Stage for giving young writers the space to be bold and imaginative.



NALANI SIMPSON
Playwright, Monsters
Anonymous
Dulaney High, 12th
Grade
Nalani Simpson

is a 12th grader at Dulaney High School and a member of Sequel, the school's literary art. Nalani challenges themselves with multiple forms of art-video editing, script writing, and prose-making being among them. They have lived up and down the east coast, but have been settled just outside Baltimore for five years. Nalani would like to thank Mrs. Hopkins, Sequel's advisor and the company, Baltimore Center Stage, for this opportunity.



JADE JONES Actor Jade Jones is a professional actor with extensive experience in both

theatre and film. A graduate of Morgan State University, Jade has honed

their craft through rigorous academic training and practical application. Furthering their education, they studied theatre abroad in Ireland, enriching their perspective and technique. With a warm and approachable demeanor, Jade Jones continues to captivate audiences with her art.



JC PAYNE Actor JC Payne is a professional magician and educator who works with the School

of Magic Arts. He holds a BFA in Acting from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and an Associate's in Theatre from Howard County Community College. Local to the DMV, some of his career highlights so far include performing in two productions with the Hip-Hop Shakespeare collective, Julius Caesar, and Much Ado About Nothing (Fools and Madmen). Other favorite credits include The Seagull (Gamut Theatre), An Unbuilt Life (Washington Stage Guild), and In the Cotton (Farm Theatre Project).



SHAQUAN PEARSON Actor Shaquan Pearson is an actor based in Baltimore, MD. His regional credits

include Macbeth, A Christmas Carol, Much Ado About Nothing, and Romeo & Juliet (Chesapeake Shakespeare Company). Local credits: The Scottsboro Boys (ArtsCentric), Frankenstein (The Strand Theater Company), and We Broke Up (Single Carrot Theater). He received his BFA from University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) and AA in Theatre Performance from Montgomery College.



O'MALLEY **STEUERMAN** Actor O'Malley Steuerman is so excited to be

back at BCS for the Young Playwright's Festival! O'Malley graduated from Towson University with their BFA in Acting in May of 2020 and have since solo-traveled the U.S.

to complete their research-based performance project entitled, "so, what are you gonna do next?." Upon returning home to Baltimore they've appeared in productions across the DMV: Romeo + Juliet (The Folger), Quilters (1st Stage), R/J (Strand Theater Company), Life is a Dream, Tiny Beautiful Things and Our Town (Baltimore Center Stage). They made their producing debut in 2023 with R/J at the Strand Theater Company and this July they will be co-producing Baltimore's first Trans Theater Festival, #T4T4T, in residence at the Voxel. IG: @omalleysteuerman



SARAH LYNN **TAYLOR** Actor

Sarah Lynn Taylor is an actor, voiceover artist, director, and

teacher. Her recent credits include Dutchman at Arena Players, Rapid Lemon Productions' Variations on Courage, as well as Connie in Lily, Arthur by Steven J. Satta with Baltimore Playwrights Festival. Sarah Lynn just returned from participation in an international experimental theatre workshop The Rhythmic Body in Rome with Improcomp. She has appeared with Arena Players as Carolyn Bryant in The Face of Emmett Till and Bev/ Kathy in Clybourne Park. A founding artistic associate of Iron Crow Theatre Company, Sarah Lynn appeared as Kathy in *The Revelation of Bobby* Pritchard, Yitzhak in Hedwig and the Angry Inch, and herself in an original

one-woman production, I Want To Be A Gay Icon!. She has the privilege to direct and teach some of the best young artists in the world at Wilde Lake Middle School.



ASHLEY SIGMON Actor

Ashley Sigmon is a home-grown Baltimore County actor. She is delighted to be a

part of the Youth Playwrights Festival and give life to the characters created by the young talent within Maryland. In past productions Ashley immersed herself into her roles; Madame DeLacey from Frankenstein and Agnes from She Kills Monsters. In addition to theater, Ashley has also brought her talents to film; Our Farm by Dishwasher Safe Media, and Dry Bones by Charm City Filmmakers Dee Wilson. In the winter of 2021, Ashley first started to work on her theatrical skills with Dawn Thomas Reidy. Special thanks to Ashley's friends, family, fellow actors, and mentors who have consistently supported every artistic endeavor.



RAECINE SINGLETARY Director

Director
Raecine Singletary
is a Jamaican
American director,

photographer, creative, and Baltimore native. She works to cultivate art that centers, celebrates, and uplifts the revolutionary joy that continues to shine specifically through Black women and youth; igniting an upswell of healing through unrelenting joy. She has worked as a director with Mercury Store, Broadway Advocacy Coalition, Playwrights Horizons New Works Lab, Baltimore Center Stage, Pittsburgh Classic Theatre, Lime Arts Productions, The Hansberry Project, City Theatre, and Point Park University. She has collaborated as an assistant director alongside Rebecca Martinez

(BITE ME), Dustin Wills (WET BRAIN), Jenny Koons (REGRETFULLY, SO THE BIRDS ARE), Pam MacKinnon (DOWNSTATE), Nicole Brewer (FIRES IN THE MIRROR), Awoye Timpo, Will Davis (THE SWINDLERS), Whitney White, Justin Emeka (AMERICAN SON), Marya Sea Kaminski (A FEW GOOD MEN, LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS, MARJORIE PRIME), and Shariffa Ali (SCHOOL GIRLS; OR, THE AFRICAN MEAN GIRLS PLAY). Raecine holds a B.A. in Theatre Arts with a concentration in Directing and a minor in Photography from Point Park University. 444



SUSAN STROUPE Director

Susan Stroupe (she/her) is a Baltimore-based collaborative director

and theater maker who specializes in new, immersive, and devised works. Susan has worked in the Twin Cities, LA, NYC, Albuquerque, Baltimore and her hometown Atlanta as a director, performer, writer, puppeteer, dramaturg, and deviser in professional and community-based professional companies, collaborating with artists and nonartists of many ages, disciplines, identities, and abilities. In Baltimore, Susan has worked as a freelance director for many companies, and is a founding member and Core Creator for Submersive Productions. She works with the Center For International Theatre Development (CITD), and is a long-time teaching and guest artist for Baltimore Center Stage, Everyman Theatre, and the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC). She is a proud Associate Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society. This is Susan's third time directing for Young Playwrights' Festival, and it's always a highlight of the year! Congrats to all the brilliant winners and participants of YPF for creating some amazing work!

PERI WALKER

Stage Manager

Peri Walker is a Baltimore-based stage manager and theatre artist delighted to be working on her first project with Baltimore Center Stage. She has served as the assistant stage manager for Crumbs from the Table of Joy and Primary Trust at Everyman Theatre, and stage managed productions with Baltimore Shakespeare Factory, Dance & Bmore, Vagabond Players, and Rapid Lemon Productions.

ESTRELLITA BEATRIZ

Stage Manager

At 30, estrellita beatriz has facilitated over 300 theatrical productions, live events, and ceremonies with humans of all generations. starr identifies artistically as a full-spectrum artist, acompañamiente (doula), facilitator, and ritual worker in constant transition. Their select stage management credits include AfroHouse's Cloud Neubula, Blue Barn Theatre's For Black Trans Girls, and Actor's Theatre of Louisville's The Wolves.

MAYA CAMILLE

Assistant Stage Manager

Maya Camille is a multi-disciplinary artist, talent manager, creative entrepreneur and arts educator from East Baltimore, Ms. Camille believes art is the only way to change the world around her. By speaking truth to power with love, enriching artists' lives and careers, Maya creates the world she seeks by helping artists build and maintain sustainable careers, forecasting for artists' futures, finding the right opportunities, and encouraging artists to take risks. Maya Camille builds intentional communities with creatives, scholars and the black sheeps of the world to create the life she dreamt of as a young girl. Curating festivals, coordinating youth programming, creating spaces where creatives thrive. Maya has a deep rooted belief that Artists deserve to

live a thriving, sustainable, luxurious life while creating art and she is committed to making that a reality for herself and her community. You can follow Maya Camille @phonibraxton_everywhere. — I look forward to chatting with you about all things art, sustainable living, creating, community building & artist development.

KIM PARSON

Co-Lighting Designer

Kim Parson is joining the BCS team as this year's Electrician Apprentice. Kim Parson is super excited to be Co-Designing her first production here at Baltimore Center Stage!She recently graduated from McDaniel College (BA Theatre Arts) and was one of the 2024 Kennedy Center Finalists for the Barbizon Award for Excellence in Lighting Design from Region 2. She'd like to thank her awesome electrics team Sam, Jess, Michael, and Jeff Bazemore for his continuous support!

MARTIN SUNDIATA

Sound Designer

Martin Sundiata is a Baltimore-based theatrical designer and technician. Some of his credits include: For Black Boys..., For Colored Girls..., Antigone (Theatre Morgan), The Mountaintop (Black Spectrum Theatre co. & Vagabond Players), Romeo and Juliet (Chesapeake Shakespeare Company). He is also a playwright and directed his original work Dream and Disconnect at the Turpin-Lamb Theatre in April 2022. You can find more of his work at MartinSundiata.com

WIL E. CROWTHER

Costume Designer

Credits include, lago's Plot for The National Theatre of Weimar; Hammers with The Independent Eye, Born Yesterday and The Cemetery Club for The Maryland Arts Festival; Sunset Boulevard, Disaster! the Musical and The Unexpected Guest for Cockpit in Court; Yours Forever, Lincoln with Quarry

Theatre; The Wild Party for Teatro 101; A Dickens of a Tale, The Tempest and A Midsummer Night's Dream with Baltimore Shakespeare Festival; The Winter's Tale, The Light in the Piazza, Mrs. Warren's Profession and Candide with Theatre Hopkins; Angels in America, Three Days of Rain, and Interrogating the Nude for Axis Theatre; The Fan and Marco Polo Sings a Solo with The Bowman Ensemble; Cinderella, How To Become a Pirate, Pinocchio, Rapunzel, A Year With Frog and Toad and Mary Poppins for Pumpkin Theatre; and multiple years of The Young Playwrights Festival at Baltimore Center Stage. Stevenson University credits include: The Little Shop of Horrors, The Laramie Project, Medea, The Nether, Dracula, Sweeney Todd, The Three Penny Opera,

The Yellow Wallpaper and The Trojan Women. Guest artist for Towson University credits include: Hair, Miss Julie, The Diary of Anne Frank and The Crucible. Costume Design for Film: Invisible Cities, It Goes Without Saving, Flight, Thrown, and Unravelling which was accepted into The Ethnografilm Festival for 2024 (Director: John Bright Mann) and The Connection (Director: Steve Yeager). Costume craftwork for Broadway: Little Women, Dracula, the Musical, Cry Baby, How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying and Born Yesterday (Designer: Catherine Zuber). Regional craftwork: Baltimore Center Stage 1996-Present



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CAMP COST: \$750

scholarship opportunities are available

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