

**December 27, 28, 29 Teen Workshop: Intro. to Musical Theatre Writing at
St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 99 Peirce Street, East Greenwich**

For teens ages 13-18 | Class size: Minimum 8; Maximum 12 | Fee: \$150

Contact Ann O'Grady, ann@RIYT.org, 2170 Tower Hill Rd., Saunderstown, RI 02874

Description: This 3-day workshop, led by New York musical theatre writing team Emily Kaczmarek (RIYT alum) and Zoe Sarnak, will expose students to the basics of musical theatre structure, songwriting, and book writing. We will discuss examples of successful scenes and songs from musicals such as Gypsy, Rent, and Cabaret, and students will work in small groups to write original musical theatre scenes and songs, to be shared on the final day. This hands-on workshop provides a solid foundation for aspiring composers, lyricists, librettists, and anyone who loves the musical theatre form! Note: students who play instruments are encouraged to bring them on days 2 & 3.

Day 1: Wednesday, Dec 27th 10AM-2PM

Icebreakers/warm-ups

- Structure/shape of a musical, terminology
- Examples: scenes & songs from successful musicals
- Pairs/small groups assigned
- Guided topic and character brainstorm - Begin outlining scene & song

Day 2: Thursday, Dec. 28th 10 AM to 3:30 PM

-Rotating stations/mini-workshops: musical song structure/lyric writing for the theater (Zoe), scene writing (Emily)
-Work session. Students write their songs (melody and lyrics) and scenes, Zoe & Emily circulate, mentor, troubleshoot - Setting songs. We anticipate that there will be a range of backgrounds in music theory and comfort with instruments. To ensure that all students get to work with melody and chords, Zoe will spend time with each group, helping set piano or guitar parts to the melodies that students write. They will record iPhone demos to take home, so they can continue to tweak their songs without needing a background with sheet music.

Day 3: Friday, Dec. 29th 10 AM to 2 PM

- "Writers' group" discussion. Reflect on process/class so far, ask questions, troubleshoot
- Finish writing/editing scenes and songs, assign roles for sharing
- Polish and rehearse scenes and songs
- Sharing of scenes and songs (informal, "reading" style, parents/families invited)

GUEST ARTISTS

Emily Kaczmarek is a New York-based playwright, librettist, screenwriter, performer, and Fantasy Works/RIYT alumnus! Her plays and musicals have been developed and produced by the Village Theatre (AFTERWORDS, with music & lyrics by Zoe Sarnak, will run this winter), Prospect Theatre Company, First Floor Theatre, New York Musical Festival, Musical Theatre Factory in residence at Playwrights Horizons, Wombat Theatre Company, This Is Water Theatre Company, New York University, and more. Residencies include the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center, SPACE on Ryder Farm, and Goodspeed Musicals (upcoming). B.S. Educational Theatre, NYU.

Zoe Sarnak is a composer and lyricist. Works include: AFTERWORDS (with Emily Kaczmarek, Beta Series Production, Village Theatre), THE YEARS BETWEEN (with Kirsten Guenther, T-fellowship lab), A LASTING IMPRESSION (Off-

[Broadway 2012](#)). In development: SECRET SOLDIERS (with Marsha Norman), GALILEO (with Danny Strong, Michael Weiner and dir. Michael Mayer), TEDDY & MAX (with Brian Crawley), A CROSSING (with Josh Bergasse). Awards include: Davenport Songwriting contest winner, NY Stage & Film's Founders Award finalist, [Fred Ebb](#) Award finalist, Billie Burke Ziegfeld Award Honoree, Women's Project Lab Artist. Residencies include: [The Public Theater](#), Goodspeed, Williamstown Theatre Festival, [New York Theatre Workshop](#), Eugene O'Neill, McCarter Theater, Rhinebeck Writers Retreat. Music featured by: NY Times Live, Lilly Awards, and more. Education: Harvard, NYU.