



COMPANION STAR

a living laboratory for the creative process

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Companion Star Executive Director Michael Douglas Jones Recognized for Outstanding Community Service

Belpport, NY - Dr. Michael Douglas Jones, Executive Director of the performing arts organization Companion Star, received a Town of Brookhaven 2009 Volunteer award for his outstanding service work associated with Companion Star's Community Youth Program for the Boys & Girls Club of Bellport, NY. Dr. Jones will be honored at a ceremony on May 14, 2009 at Brookhaven's Town Hall.

Companion Star's Community Youth Program is part of its Illumination Initiative for emerging and professional artists. The program is based on the same principles Companion Star uses in its professional performance projects, proving the versatility of its creative process. The program now runs for six weeks in the fall and spring with participants from 8-18 years of age.

Companion Star also offers vocal scholarships for individual study to exceptionally talented participants in the program. The average number of participants in the workshops is 14. A recipient of one of the scholarships in 2008 earned a spot in the competition for the TV show **Showtime at the Apollo**. In 2009 The Boys & Girls Club of Bellport program for young artists expanded to include a choir.

"I am thrilled to have been singled out for this because it brings attention to the Boys and Girl's Club, which does tremendous work, and because it may help Companion Star to expanding its Emerging Artist program to more communities, both in the U.S. and abroad," Michael Douglas Jones responded when asked for his reaction to being honored with the award.