

Arts training thrives with Orange groups

The Valley section of Orange has two organizations that provide instruction in the visual and performing arts.

- ORNG Ink is the youth-oriented, interdisciplinary art and design studio of Valley Arts. ORNG was created by high school students from Orange in 2008.

Valley Arts officials said ORNG Ink's mission is to engage young people in the development and maintenance of a commerce-based enterprise driven by self-expression and exploration in the arts and digital media. Studio, retail, exhibition space, and mentoring for young artists is available through free, yearlong out-of-school programs that emphasize self-initiated education, motivation and evaluation.

With a primary focus on the intersection of art and culture relevant to urban youth, officials said, students are equipped with necessary knowledge and employable skills in creative fields that interest them, while encouraging them to develop a positive, intelligent and independent, creative voice within the community.

The after-school program operates weekdays from 3 to 6 p.m. at the studio, 406 Tompkins St.

- Luna Stage provides classes, through its group, Studio Luna, which give students the opportunity of working with professional artists. Playwrights, actors, directors, and choreographers bring their experience working on Broadway and leading regional theaters, and in television and film to students.

No matter if a student is new to the theater arts, a passionate practitioner, or are rediscovering a dream of playing on the stage, officials said, Studio Luna has a class. Students are encouraged to explore their imaginations to their fullest. Using improvisation and theater games, they learn a process that leads to spontaneous reactions and genuine truth on stage.

Officials said the attention devoted to each student teaches that individuality shines strongest when it is used as part of the whole person. Its emphasis on self-expression and cultivating students' unique perspective leads to strong work and artistic collaboration.

Call 973-395-5551, ext. 204, for additional information.