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UNUSUAL SUSPECTS EXPANDS YOUTH THEATRE CONSERVATORY FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS INTO GREATER PASADENA AREA

PASADENA, CA - The Unusual Suspects Theatre Company (USTC) will launch the **Youth Theatre Conservatory at Boston Court Pasadena** as the new location, and first in the Greater Pasadena area, for the **2025-2026 school year**. All high school students are invited to apply, in which **20 students** will be offered full scholarships for this dynamic program. Youth Theatre Conservatory at Boston Court will be **facilitated on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. starting September 16, 2025 through April 2026**. Apply here: theunusualsuspects.org/conservatory/

The partnership between USTC and Boston Court will offer a unique opportunity to integrate emerging artists from local high schools for an immersive theatrical training that incorporates behind the scenes access to a renowned theatre company. The program is intended to be a four year journey for students where they level up their training each term, choose their specialty, and build a portfolio of original work to be college or career ready.

Youth Theatre Conservatory was designed by Unusual Suspects to flip the script on traditional arts education. Participants have the rare opportunity to explore an award-winning devising methodology developed by Academy Award nominated filmmaker Carlos López Estrada, bringing original stories from page to stage in an environment that values imagination, inclusion, and self-expression. The Conservatory's comprehensive training in acting, writing, directing, production design, and applied technology also has an impact beyond the stage by empowering these emerging artists to be collaborative leaders and changemakers.

The Unusual Suspects moved their offices to Pasadena in 2022 and is thrilled to launch a partnership that will deepen their roots within the community. The **CEO at Unusual Suspects, Abiram Brizuela**, talked about his

hopes for this partnership to generate a ripple effect of creativity and connection throughout the region, “Pasadena is a vibrant city that has consistently demonstrated its commitment to arts and culture, with their comprehensive public arts programs and initiatives like ArtNight. Facilitating our conservatory at Boston Court only reinforces Pasadena’s legacy as a creative hub.”

Conservatory students will have the opportunity to showcase their work at the end of the school year at each location in a series of performances called **Devise Fest**. Besides the new Boston Court Pasadena site, other USTC Youth Theatre Conservatory locations include high schools and community spaces in South Los Angeles and San Fernando Valley. The strongest work from each location will be selected to perform in the **2026 Best of Fest Celebration** open to the public.

Both Unusual Suspects and Boston Court are driven by the **profound belief that theatre is a bridge to a more connected and compassionate world**, which is needed now more than ever. Together, they hope to amplify the voices of tomorrow by nurturing a culture where every story matters and every person belongs.

The Unusual Suspects Theatre Company’s Youth Theatre Conservatory is supported in part by California Arts Council; City of Los Angeles, Department of Cultural Affairs; Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture; and Pasadena Community Foundation, among others.

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About Unusual Suspects Theatre Company:

The Unusual Suspects Theatre Company (USTC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to mentor, educate, and enrich youth in under-resourced communities through the creation of collaborative original theatre. Founded in 1993 as a volunteer-run intervention program, USTC has grown into an award-winning theatre-arts education organization and is recognized as a leader in the fields of youth development, mentorship, and community building. All programs are free-of-charge for participants and are facilitated in K-12 Title I schools, community centers, continuation schools, and juvenile justice facilities with the goal of helping a new generation share their stories and closing the gap in arts access for thousands of youth in Los Angeles County.

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Press kit and digital assets: bit.ly/42YUbtY

About Boston Court Pasadena:

Boston Court Pasadena creates and nurtures innovative, boundary-pushing art that invokes the power of collective imagination to illuminate our common humanity. In any given year, we produce three to four plays, present an eclectic array of over 20 music concerts, host over 20 National Theatre Live screenings, hold two Art UpFront exhibits in our lobby, and hold several new play development workshops and a New Play Reading Festival.

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