



Long Island's Finest Theater School

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MATT BENNETT, LONG-TIME WAY OFF BROADWAY STUDENT STARS IN NEW NICKELODEON SERIES “VICTORIOUS”

Long Island, New York—Matt Bennett, long-time Way Off Broadway student, stars in “*Victorious*” the new Nickelodeon series premiering Saturday March 27, 2010. The series, from prolific creator and executive producer Dan Schneider and featuring teen star Victoria Justice, features Bennett as a lovable but psychologically scrambled ventriloquist Robbie.

Matt's acting education began with the Long Island-based “*Way Off Broadway*” creative theater program, with branches in Huntington, Plainview, Bellmore, Syosset, Rockville Center and Garden City, Frank Schiro and Wendy Taucher, co-directors. He first performed professionally in “*Carly Simon: Dances at The Yard*”. Most recently, he guest starred in the premiere of Comedy Central's “*Michael & Michael Have Issues*.” He also co-wrote and starred in the short film, “*Text Me*,” for which he also composed and performed the original music.”

Bennett, originally from Massapequa Park, studied with Long Island’s creative theater program, Way Off Broadway for many years. Through his connection with Way Off Broadway, Matt signed with theatrical management and began working professionally as a young actor in New York City. Frank Schiro, Co-director of Way Off Broadway says “We’re delighted for Matt. He’s a clever actor and writer, and has what it takes to go all the way in this business. We’re happy that he is one of a number of Way Off Broadway students working professionally in movies, television and on Broadway, including cast members of the Meryl Streep movie “*Doubt*”, Broadway’s “*The Lion King*” and NBC’s “*Law & Order*”.

Maintaining an atmosphere of disciplined fun, Way Off Broadway offers a variety of programs including acting, singing, vocal production, movement, improvisation, audition/monologue, on-camera, sound studio and scene study. The Way Off Broadway approach combines classical theatrical skill-building, creative thinking and group participation. Ongoing classes culminate in a Spring performance which the students create with the faculty. The Way Off Broadway faculty is comprised of working New York City theatre professionals who have extensive teaching experience. Classes are designed so that students work with more than one instructor, including distinguished directors, choreographers, and music directors. This carefully structured, team-teaching approach enables the students to benefit from the expertise of a highly-skilled and enthusiastic group of teaching artists. The faculty collaborates constantly as they create and re-invent material which best serves the individual and the team.

Way Off Broadway maintains collaborations with the best New York City managers and agents, who regularly attend our special events, family days and performances. Many of our students work professionally on Broadway, on screen and on TV. The Way Off Broadway All-Star-No-Star approach insures that all students, whether they are working Broadway professionals or kids who love theatre, participate equally. Our courses are designed to nurture talent, expand self confidence and engage the imagination.