

#SIMPLYIRRESISTIBLE

TEDxTeen

x = independently organized TED event

“Sometimes the questions are complicated and the answers are simple.”

– Dr. Seuss

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IRRESISTIBLE

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Where Is TEDxTeen Taking Place?



In the heart of SoHo NYC at the Scholastic Auditorium.

The Scholastic Auditorium provides a stimulating, one-of-a-kind environment for both children and adults that caters to a broad range of programming needs. The 4,000 square foot space was designed for multimedia events, including live productions and performances, live global webcasts, press conferences, product launches, screenings, and so much more.

WELCOME

The best ideas are often the most simple. Simple, yet complex. Simple, yet sophisticated. Simple, yet big, meaningful...inspirational. They are #SimplyIrresistible...to adopt, to join, to follow. We challenge you to find simply irresistible solutions to the complex issues we face everyday. One simple idea can change everything.

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CONFERENCE GUIDE

1. LEND US YOUR BRAIN

You are about to be hit by a blizzard of incoming ideas. Your mind will be zapped, pinged, prodded and teased. To benefit from TED's brand of brain therapy, you need to shut down the competition. Forget about school and work for a few hours. Experience what is happening on stage, on screen and around you. Soak it up.

2. SEE EVERY TALK

The best moments seem to happen when you least expect them. TEDxTeen is not about what you already know. If we only watched the Talks we thought we would like, we wouldn't be surprised and our eyes wouldn't be opened by the great ideas we never expected.

3. TALK TO THE SPEAKERS

The conference time is limited, so we don't have time for in depth introductions. We have included each speaker's bio in this program, relevant links to their work and additional information so you can take it all in after the conference. Attendees at TEDxTeen have the advantage—you can strike up a conversation with them during the breaks. We encourage you to do so!

4. BREAKS ARE IMPORTANT

Attendees must leave the auditorium after each Session. There is plenty to do everywhere else! To get the most out of TEDxTeen, use the breaks to discuss the Talks with fellow attendees and keep your brain stimulated between Sessions. Engage in our Social Spaces and Breakouts.

5. TALK TO THE ATTENDEES

You were invited to attend TEDxTeen because you rock! You are surrounded by peers who are also pretty awesome. Meet them! Check out each person's bio on Evolero. Start the conversation there and coordinate to meet up during the breaks.

6. THE CONVERSATION CONTINUES

TEDxTeen is just the beginning. Today's Talks will live online following the conference at TEDxTeen.com. We encourage you to share them. TEDxTeen is a global community doing extraordinary things and spreading ideas far and wide. Keep the conversations alive.

7. TEDxTEEN TECH PROTOCOL

The Scholastic Auditorium is WiFi enabled. The network and password are on your TEDxTeen badge. Feel free to use your

Top to Bottom:
 Scenes from previous TEDx events;
 TEDxTeen 2014 London, TEDxQuito, TED2015

devices and share your #TEDxTeen experience on social media. But, please refrain from making extraneous noise during the Talks. It's not fair to distract others, so please silence your devices. Taking video of the Talks is prohibited, but photography is permitted as long as you turn off your flash!

8. RESTROOMS

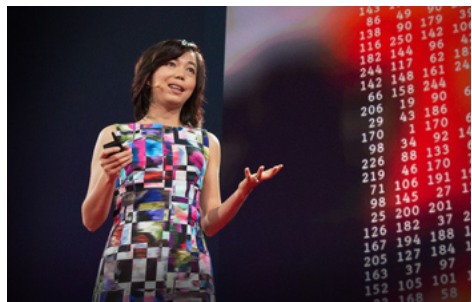
There are restrooms located in the lobby outside the auditorium and on the 2nd floor near the elevators.

9. TICKET SWAP

TEDxTeen attendees may watch today's Talks from the Auditorium and the SAP Lounge. You must present the appropriate entrance ticket to enter the Auditorium and the SAP Lounge at the beginning of EACH Session. If you are interested in swapping tickets, you may do so by one of the following ways: 1. Post and respond on the Evolero Event Wall to coordinate with other attendees, 2. Go to Bloggers Alley where you will find the Swap Board to coordinate in person or leave a note with your contact info.



Photo by Marc Birnbach



TEDxTeen Social Spaces

Things to do during the breaks!

AUDITORIUM LOBBY

World Departure Lounge

Drop by THINK Global School to recharge your phone, try out the photo booth, test your knowledge in our geography trivia quiz, and learn about life at the world's first traveling high school.

Hands-On TV Synth

You don't need to be a musician to create weird and wild sounds with the TV Synth! Thomas Uliasz invites you to give this one-of-a-kind instrument a try for yourself. Step up for a moment to see and hear how simple and effective design comes together to create a unique experience meshing light, shadow and sound.

UPPER LOBBY

McLaren Honda F1 Team Simulator

Grand Prix racing is all about innovation and pushing the boundaries of technology. With a top speed of 224mph here's your chance to take the controls and see the track from a drivers perspective—can you set the fastest lap record?

Barcode Of Life

Learn how you can improve the planet. Contribute to science using #LifeScanner, a crowdsourcing app that helps identify every species on earth for a global biodiversity project called Barcode of Life.

Join The Conversation

In this complex and oversaturated world

we live in, we're looking for solutions that do things better and simpler. Take a #SimplyIrresistible selfie in our photo booth and share with #SAPYouth.

We Are Family Foundation

Help us create TEDxTeen – literally! Share your #SimplyIrresistible ideas on Post-it notes for a collaborative art project. And, watch our past TEDxTeen Talks and get inspired!

BLOGGERS ALLEY

Whole Foods Breakfast

9:00am–10:15am: Whole Foods welcomes you to TEDxTeen with a delicious breakfast to kick off the day!

Simulcast Area

Watch the Talks in Bloggers Alley along with the bloggers and press.

Swap Board

Need to swap entrance tickets? This is where to go! Don't forget to post and respond on the Evolver Event Wall to coordinate with other attendees.

BREAKOUTS

All Breakouts take place on the 6th Floor.

Design Thinking Hosted by: SAP

Learn how to solve problems with tools as simple as design, thinking and collaboration. Design Thinking is a mindset for idea creation

based upon empathy. This fast-paced hands-on workshop will show you how this technique can be used in real life. You will also have the opportunity to contribute to Barcode of Life, a biodiversity project developed to improve the planet for all of us!

Unmoderated and Uncensored
Hosted by: We Are Family Foundation

A conversation with multiple Grammy-Award winning musician, Nile Rodgers. As a cultural icon and music innovator with more than 200 production credits to his name, Nile Rodgers transcends all styles of music across every generation. His career-defining productions include David Bowie, Madonna, Diana Ross, Duran Duran, Michael Jackson, Daft Punk, Avicii, Disclosure and Sam Smith. Ask him anything about life, music and the courage to be true to who you are.

Amplify Your [Adobe] Voice
Hosted by: Adobe

Want to create compelling videos in minutes but don't know where to start? Learn how in this two-part workshop. To kick things off, a team from Adobe will demonstrate how you can use Adobe Voice, a free iPad digital storytelling app, to highlight solutions to the issues you care about. Later in the afternoon, you'll get to create and share your own video to make your voice heard.

Communicate Your [Adobe] Slate
Hosted by: Adobe

Want to create a captivating visual story combining images and text that you can share online, but don't have web design experience? In this two-part workshop you'll learn how. To kick things off, a team from Adobe will introduce you to Adobe Slate, a simple and free iPad app for professional-quality visual storytelling that you can use to share your experiences and ideas and highlight solutions to the issues you care about. To finish, you will have a chance to create and share your own visual story about your experience at TEDxTeen.

Social Media Is Everything
Hosted by: HuffPost Teen

How do you get someone's attention and tell a powerful story in 140 characters or less? Media is fast-paced, abbreviated and demands thought provoking content. HuffPost Teen's Social Media Editor, Jackie Oshry, will challenge you to talk about everything concisely and effectively.

Wear What You Care About
Hosted by: prinkshop

Learn how to create an advocacy campaign for your passion using graphics and the power of silk-screen. Customize your own TEDxTeen / "Simply Irresistible" t-shirt with prinkshop and take it home.

Create and Connect
Hosted by: 2 Billion Under 20

Do you have a passion? 2 Billion Under 20 is all about helping you to act on it and working together to solve the world's most pressing problems. Join them to create and connect (in real-time!) with a world-class community of ambitious young people, including many of your fellow TEDxTeen attendees. Walk away with 2 billion friends who have your back and will push you to break down barriers and change the world!

TEDxTeen Auditions
Hosted by: We Are Family Foundation

Do you want to be a TEDxTeen Speaker? Let's get you ready for your audition! Here's your chance to be coached by TEDxTeen's Speaker Coach, Robert Galinsky and then pitch us your idea worth sharing in two minutes or less! Everyone who auditions gets a free TEDxTeen t-shirt.

DON'T FORGET TO EAT!

Whole Foods is providing a delicious lunch and snacks to refuel! Food will be available in the SAP Lounge, Bloggers Alley and on the 6th Floor.

Schedule Of Events

Session **1**

9:30am (Doors Open)

Welcome!

9:30am – 10:30am

(Auditorium Lobby, Upper Lobby,
Bloggers Alley)

The Conversation Begins

Meet, talk, think, share, explore and eat
a delicious breakfast provided by Whole
Foods!

10:15am

(Auditorium Doors Open)

Livestream

Join us online at TEDxTeen.com

10:30am – 12:00pm

(Auditorium, SAP Lounge,
TEDxTeen.com)

Chris Anderson

What Is TED/TEDx?

Thomas Uliasz

Special Demo

Lauren Singer

Why I Live a Zero Waste Life

David Mace

How to Solve War with Math

Allison Wood

Making it Real

Dream Ring

Special Performance

12:00pm – 1:00pm

(Auditorium Lobby, Upper Lobby,
6th Floor)

BREAK: Meet, talk, think, share,
eat, explore, engage and check out
our irresistible Social Spaces and
Breakouts.

The conversation continues online at

**TEDxTeen.com, [@tedxteen](https://twitter.com/tedxteen),
[Facebook.com/tedxteen](https://www.facebook.com/tedxteen), [#TEDxTeen](https://www.instagram.com/tedxteen),
[Instagram.com/tedxteen](https://www.instagram.com/tedxteen)**

Exclusive Speaker and partner interviews on
TEDxTeen.com will be screened throughout
the venue during the breaks.

Session 2

1:00pm—2:30pm

(Auditorium, SAP Lounge,
TEDxTeen.com)

Eesha Khare

How to Make Your Mind Dance

Ben Nemtin

6 Steps to Crossing Anything Off
Your Bucket List

Taylor Trudon

It's All About the Words

Mihir Garimella

Designing the Next Generation of
First Responders

Rachel Fox

How to Make Your Greatest
Investment

2:30pm—3:30pm

(Auditorium Lobby, Upper Lobby,
6th Floor, Bloggers Alley)

BREAK: Meet, talk, think, share,
eat, explore, engage and check out
our irresistible Social Spaces and
Breakouts.

Exclusive Speaker and partner interviews on
TEDxTeen.com will be screened throughout
the venue during the breaks.

Session 3

3:30pm—5:00pm

(Auditorium, SAP Lounge,
TEDxTeen.com)

Alessia Cara

Special Performance

Dave Fontenet

Hack Your Life in 48 Hours

Caitlin Haacke

How to Make Positivity Stick

Xavier Di Petta

How to Learn History in 140
Characters

Rebecca Dharmapalan

In Our Own Backyards

5:00pm—5:30pm

(Auditorium Lobby, Upper Lobby,
6th Floor, Bloggers Alley)

Before You Depart: Meet, talk,
think, share, explore and engage

Exclusive Speaker and partner interviews on
TEDxTeen.com will be screened throughout
the venue during the breaks.



MoniqueColeman Host

Monique Coleman is most recognized as Taylor McKessie in Disney's High School Musical franchise. However, her most significant role came in 2010 when she was appointed the first ever United Nations Youth Champion for the International Year of Youth.

With this title, Coleman self initiated and funded a global tour which spanned 24 countries in 6 months. Her aim was to raise awareness about the most pressing issues facing youth, encourage young people to foster progress in their communities and urge the international community to take responsibility of youth issues.

Following the tour, Monique continued to advocate for young people with a strong focus on girls education, ending violence against women and peace building through youth engagement. She has had the distinguished honor of interviewing the UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Monique is the Founder and CEO of GimmeMo.com, a multi-platform community that amplifies youth voices and supports organizations who are working to make the world better for young people.

Currently, Mo is a Champion for the UN Foundation's Girl Up Campaign, a Peace One Day Education Ambassador and a celebrity ambassador for PeaceFirst.org. Monique plays Girl Robin in the highly anticipated "Naomi and Ely's No Kiss List" and is currently on the cover of Role Model Magazine.

"Acting is my passion, advocacy is my purpose." - Monique Coleman

Find more about me here:

GimmeMo.com

PeaceFirst.org

SuChinPak

Online Host

SuChin Pak has been hosting and reporting on TV since she was 16, from teen news programs to covering youth news on KGO-TV (ABC Affiliate, San Francisco). She continued to work in television through college, becoming the youngest host of PBS's longest running science show, Newton's Apple. She moved to New York City in 2000 to host a live 2-hour talk show for young women, Trackers on the (then) new startup network, Oxygen. From there, she began her long career as a correspondent for MTV News. From co-hosting the pre-shows at the MTV Video Music Awards, MTV Movie Awards, the Grammys and delivering the news to the network's flagship show, TRL, SuChin has interviewed some of the biggest names in music and entertainment. She is most proud of her work as host and co-producer of the MTV documentary series, My Life Translated, which also aired on Oprah, telling the stories of multicultural teens growing up in America. Since 2001, SuChin has covered almost every major news story affecting young people, including Presidential elections, 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, Muslim teens in America. Even beyond national borders in Thailand and Haiti following relief aid, SuChin has been dedicated to giving young people a platform to tell their stories. In addition to her on-air work, SuChin is also co-founder and curator of the Hester Street Fair, an outdoor marketplace and eating destination in Manhattan's Lower East Side, showcasing local artisans, craftsmen and chefs. She will be launching her newest project, yearningformore.com in the summer of 2015, giving young women a community to share stories, ideas and great finds. SuChin lives in LA with her husband, 2 children and a rescue mutt.



Find more about me here:

[@suchinpak](#)

[facebook.com/suchinpak](#)

[hesterstreetfair.com](#)

“Simple can be harder than complex: You have to work hard to get your thinking clean to make it simple. But it’s worth it in the end because once you get there, you can move mountains.”

– Steve Jobs

Session 1

ThomasUiasz

LaurenSinger

DavidMace

AllisonWood

DreamRing



Thomas Uliasz

Thomas Uliasz is an experimental electronic musician interested in giving new life to old devices and creating innovative sound experiences along the way. His sonic arsenal includes hacked toys and vintage musical instruments all creatively rewired - circuit-bent and modified to unleash the expressive musical potential locked within them.

The musical group Burnkit2600 has been Thomas' creative outlet for the invention, composition, and performance of experimental electronics since the late '90s. In addition to concerts and festivals, Burnkit2600 has been very active in the growing D.I.Y. Maker movement, appearing at numerous Maker Faires, demonstrating their instruments, teaching workshops and empowering kids with the idea that the world can be made better with some simple modifications.

For TEDxTeen 2015, Thomas will give a brief performance with his new instrument the TV Synth, which merges a vintage portable television with basic analog sound circuitry. The result is a highly expressive, light-sensitive musical synthesizer designed for high visibility and maximum playability.

Find more about me here:

[@burnkit2600](#)
[facebook.com/burnkit2600](https://www.facebook.com/burnkit2600)
burnkit2600.com

Lauren Singer

Lauren Singer is author of the Zero Waste blog, Trash is for Tossers and founder of organic cleaning product company, The Simply Co.

She is an Environmental Studies graduate from NYU and former Sustainability Manager at the NYC Department of Environmental Protection, and the amount of trash that she has produced over the past two years can fit inside of a 16 oz. mason jar.

Through her blog, she has empowered millions of readers to produce less waste by shopping package-free, making their own products and refusing plastic and single-use items.

Her work has been profiled by New York Magazine, MSNBC, NBC, AOL, CNN, Yahoo, Fox Business, BBC and NPR, among others.



Find more about me here:

[@trashis4tossers](#)

facebook.com/TrashIsForTossers

facebook.com/thesimplyco

instagram.com/trashisfortossers

trashisfortossers.com

thesimplyco.com



DavidMace

At 17, David was one of the youngest authors to be published in a major computer science journal (ACM Intelligent User Interfaces) for his novel machine-learning technique to classify gesture interface motions. At 18, David sold a war prediction algorithm to the United States government for use in directing its international aid efforts. He was chosen as a Thiel Fellow for this accomplishment, but opted to continue his education and war prediction work at the California Institute of Technology, where he is currently a sophomore.

David has also built artificial intelligence algorithms for IBM Watson's Jeopardy-beating system, created data analytics tools for NASA Jet Propulsion Lab's Mars Rover and worked with Lightspeed Venture Partners to identify investments in young entrepreneurs.

AllisonWood

Allison was born and raised in Princeton, NJ. She attended to Mount Holyoke College where she studied sociology and art history. After graduation she moved to NYC where she worked in fashion with a focus in accessories. With a desire to explore her love for design, architecture and human interaction, Allison began to pursue an MFA in interior design at Pratt Institute. While at Pratt, she became curious regarding how technology influences and shapes space and decided to pursue a second MFA in digital interactive art. She went on to work for acclaimed artist Jamie Zigelbaum where she developed and produced large scale interactive works.

In 2013 Allison co-created and became the CEO of REIFY, a software and product company that transforms sound into something people can hear, see and hold. REIFY is an inaugural member at The New Museum's New Inc., the first museum led incubator.

Allison lives in Brooklyn with her dog, Chad.



Find more about me here:

[@REIFY_nyc](#)

[instagram.com/reify_nyc](#)

[reifynyc.tumblr.com](#)



Find more about us here:

[@dreamnhd](#)
[Facebook.com/The Dream Ring](#)
[instagram.com/_thedreamring_](#)
[YouTube.com/thedreamring](#)
[Dreamringxperience.com](#)

DreamRing

Reggie Regg Roc Gray was born in East New York. His journey with dance began when he was 3. Introduced to reggae music by his family, Reggie took a liking to it. He wanted to learn this dance style, called Dancehall/ Brukup. He and his friends went onto form an elite dance group based on this type of dance. The group HYPERACTIVE eventually led to Reggie being a pioneer in developing a new genre of dance – FLEXIN.

Since then, Reggie has founded a dance competition, D.R.E.A.M (Dance Rules Everything Around Me), appeared in several commercials and traveled around the world to share the dance style of Flexin. He and his dance crew won “Wild Out Weds” twice, and were featured in music videos such as Sean Paul’s “Like Glue,” Wayne Wonder’s “Elephant Man,” Nicki Minaj’s “Massive Attack” and more. They also competed on America’s Best Dance Crew Season 3 under the name Ringmasters. More recently, Reggie has explored his passion further by co-directing FLEXN with Peter Sellers at the Park Avenue Armory in New York City. He believes that dancers must realize their role as innovators.

“Any intelligent fool can make things bigger, more complex, and more violent. It takes a touch of genius — and a lot of courage to move in the opposite direction.”

– Ernst F. Schumacher

Session 2

EeshaKhare

BenNemtin

TaylorTrudon

MihirGarimella

RachelFox



EeshaKhare

Eesha Khare is a rising junior at Harvard University studying Biomedical Engineering. In 2013, Eesha developed a nanomaterial supercapacitor energy-storage device with faster charging times to potentially replace conventional batteries in consumer electronics. For this research, Eesha was awarded the Young Scientist grand prize award at the 2013 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair and the California State Science Fair Project of the Year, and was named one of Forbes 30 under 30 in Energy. Eesha is passionate about developing technology for a sustainable world and has spoken on multiple platforms including Women in the World, Chicago Ideas Week, the Conan show and the NBC Today show.

Currently, Eesha is engaged in developing a biomaterials scaffold for tissue engineering. This summer, Eesha will be conducting materials research at University of Cambridge as a recipient of the Harvard-Cambridge fellowship. In addition to her passion for science research, Eesha is actively involved in the Institute of Politics at Harvard, where she currently serves as the Chair of the Women's Initiative in Leadership and on the Student Advisory Committee. Eesha is also a trained Indian classical dancer.

BenNemtin

Ben and his friends started The Buried Life in their parent's garage in 2006. They made a list of '100 things to do before you die' and for every list item they accomplished, they helped a stranger to do something on his or her own list. What began as a two-week road trip quickly became something bigger. Since then, they have crossed off 'Make a TV Show' (MTV), 'Write a #1 New York Times Bestseller', 'Play Ball with Obama', 'Have a Beer with Prince Harry' and they have encouraged millions to believe that anyone can do anything. Nemtin and the creators of The Buried Life have recently launched Four Peaks Media Group, which is producing new series for MTV, HGTV and Bell, as well as The Buried Life feature documentary.



Find more about me here:

[@BenNemtin](#)

facebook.com/tbl

fourpk.com



Taylor Trudon

Taylor Trudon is the Millennial Voices Editor at The Huffington Post, where she provides a platform for thousands of talented teens to talk about what's really happening in their lives – socially, academically and culturally. She is passionate about community-building, advocating for young voices and using social media as a catalyst to start conversations.

Taylor studied Journalism and Women's Studies at the University of Connecticut, during which she was a two-time New York Women in Communications, Inc. Scholarship recipient. She currently serves as co-chair of Scholar Relations on the the NYWICI Foundation Board and is a volunteer journalist fellow for the News Literacy Project, a national educational program that teaches middle and high school students how to navigate media in the digital age.

Find more about me here:

[@taylortrudon](#)

[@HuffPostTeen](#)

[instagram.com/huffpostteen](https://www.instagram.com/huffpostteen)

huffingtonpost.com/teen

MihirGarimella

Mihir Garimella is a student at Fox Chapel Area High School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He is passionate about using computer science and robotics to make a difference. His latest work draws inspiration from nature to create low-cost flying robots for search and rescue and emergency response.

Mihir won the 13-14 Age Category Award and the Google Computer Science Award at the Google Science Fair for his work on Flybot. Flybot is a tiny quadrotor that can avoid moving obstacles (like falling ceilings in collapsing buildings) by mimicking the way fruit flies detect and respond to threats. Currently, he is creating hardware and software for a low-cost flying robot platform that can autonomously explore a burning building, avoiding obstacles while using sensory information to quickly locate the source of the fire or a trapped victim.

Aside from his work with flying robots, Mihir has designed a robotic violin tuner, wrote an image-processing program to help doctors diagnose brain tumors and built a device to embed smells within movie clips. He has also created many tools to help students, including Citelt, which has been used by hundreds of students to create accurate bibliographies, and Classroom, which is a mobile app that replaces traditional student planners handed out by schools.



Find more about me here:

mihir.garimella.io



Find more about me here:

[@rachelgfox](#)

[@foxonstocks](#)

foxonstocks.com

RachelFox

Rachel has been working as an entertainer since she was 5-years-old. She has grown up performing and entertaining via music and film, and will continue to do so for the rest of her life. Rachel and her band, No Babies No Bullets have played at different music festivals and venues through the West Coast, including Sundance Film Festival 2015, NAMM, The Viper Room and others. She has also worked on films and television shows with Daniel Craig, Naomi Watts, Patricia Arquette, Daryl Hannah, Michael Chiklis and many more.

She became involved with investing and trading at 15. Before trading, she was looking for ways to grow her savings and become financially independent at a young age. Her parents were very financially aware and infused that into her life early on. At 15, Rachel began researching how to invest and trade on the Internet. She opened her first joint online trading account with her parents, started with stocks, and 3.5 years later, she is currently trading stocks, futures and options successfully.

Since Rachel was home-schooled for high school and finished early, she began blogging about finance and investing to continue while in-between working on sets and playing music. Her blog is read by people both young and old who want basic answers to their finance questions and want to start investing. Rachel was on CNBC, YahooFinance and Fox Business to discuss Fox on Stocks and trading as well as named one of Time Magazine's 25 Top Most Influential Teens of 2014.

When she's not trading, she loves to travel, run and play music.

“I think a simple rule of business is, if you do the things that are easier first, then you can actually make a lot of progress.”

– Mark Zuckerberg

Session 3

AlessiaCara

DaveFontenot

CaitlinHaacke

XavierDiPetta

RebeccaDharmapalan



AlessiaCara

There's a new breed of pop star seizing hold of the world's airwaves and online— more accurately, a conscious pop star who has set to subversively top charts and sway hearts and minds. This enigma embodied is 18-year-old, Canadian-Italian Alessia Cara, who is riding the refrains of her ironic anthem, “Here.” Premiered by The Fader, “Here” garnered over 500,000 total streams in its first week, resounding praise for its freshness and insight.

“Here” is unapologetically autobiographical: “‘Here’ is a true story,” Alessia confesses. “It’s a party song, but really it’s the complete opposite of a party song. It’s absolutely me; it shouts out the person in the corner of the party, looking around uncomfortably. I feel like this song narrates what the wallflower is thinking.”

Alessia’s mature pen game is matched by her larger-than-life voice; she’s dazzlingly chameleon-like, boasting the kind of versatility that makes Rihanna such a force. In short, Alessia has cause to be confident, but she is still the bashful, small-town girl, even in the big city: “You don’t think you’re ever going to end up here from Brampton, Ontario, Canada. Instead, you think, ‘Who’s going to see me?’ I can’t wrap my head around everything that’s happened: the chemistry with Sebastian Kole, the producers, the label. Def Jam got what I am trying to do. I want my music to be cool and reflective of my influences – Drake, Amy Winehouse, Ed Sheeran— but still new. Def Jam gave me the opportunity to say something meaningful and positive without being preachy. I didn’t expect everything to feel so natural and organic. And I can’t believe how quickly it’s gone.”

Alessia is equal parts fresh face, old soul, newcomer and lifer. She’s going, quickly. Now it’s up to the rest of the world to catch up and catch on.

Find more about me here:

[@alessiacara](https://twitter.com/alessiacara)
facebook.com/alessiacara
instagram.com/alessiamusic
youtube.com/alessiacaraVEVO
youtube.com/user/alealeluia

DaveFontenot

Dave Fontenot is the hackathon guy. In 2013, he started MHacks, the largest hackathon in the world. Since then, over 5,000 students have attended.

He dropped out of the University of Michigan and devoted his life to spreading the hackathon movement. After Airbnb-ing for 17 months to start hackathons all over the country, he created HackMatch to help engineers find the perfect startup.

Dave envisions a world where people can simply create things without worry. Hackathons provide that to attendees for a weekend. He wants them to have that for their entire lives.

The Hacker Renaissance has only just begun.



Find more about me here:

medium.com/@davefontenot

youtu.be/qpKLMrV60fs



Find more about me here:

[@caitlin_haacke](https://www.facebook.com/positivepostitday)
[facebook.com/positivepostitday](https://www.facebook.com/positivepostitday)

CaitlinHaacke

Caitlin Haacke is changing the world, one Post-It at a time. At 16, she is the creator of Positive Post-It Day. She uniquely created the event to put an end to bullying after a bully urged her to die. Positive Post-It Day has grown to an international level, celebrated as far as Japan, Brazil, England and the United Arab Emirates. Her CBC National news segment has been viewed over 4 million times. As an anti-bullying advocate, Caitlin has spoken to thousands of kids, adults and elderly across the world about combating bullying with positivity. In addition, she empowers youth to change their world by treating others with kindness, respect and empathy. Caitlin truly believes that positivity and kindness can stop bullying, as well as solve world issues like homelessness, world hunger and violence. Currently, Caitlin attends high school and spends her spare time chairing her city's Youth Council. She enjoys volunteering and fundraising for charities such as the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Alberta Children's Hospital, Airdrie Food Bank and The Royal Canadian Legion. Caitlin is also known for her monthly Kindness Campaigns, in which she distributes positive post-its, gas cards, flowers, gifts and groceries to strangers, as well as teddy bears to sick kids. Her goals are to become a human rights lawyer, and one day, Prime Minister of Canada. Caitlin is living proof that anyone can change the world - one act of positivity at a time!

XavierDiPetta

Xavier is an 18-year-old serial entrepreneur from rural Australia who has recently made the big move to California.

In 2014, as a senior in high school, Xavier and his co-founders raised 2 million dollars from several investors, including Upfront Ventures and 500 Startups, to build All Day Media. All Day is a digital media company that shares news and media content with the world through images.

Xavier aims to educate people of all ages in history, science and culture. He believes that our world has not only shifted to use images to communicate with the rise of platforms like Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat, but that these platforms have built loyal followings.

AllDay.com features interesting stories that will make you “unknowingly smarter.” The All Day team knows that an image is worth a thousand words, and pictures are the way to tell a story, rather than through slabs of text. They have proven this belief with an online following that currently exceeds 25 million.

Xavier began working with digital media at 11, uploading comedy skits on YouTube, and then moving onto use platforms that were up and coming at that time, such as Facebook and Twitter. He was attracted to social media because of its power to give ordinary people the ability to spread their messages across the world instantly.



Find more about me here:

[@xavierdipetta](#)

[About.me/Xavier](#)



Find more about me here:

[@RebeccaDharma](#)
[instagram.com/karmapalan](https://www.instagram.com/karmapalan)
[rebeccadharmapalan.com](https://www.rebeccadharmapalan.com)

Rebecca Dharmapalan

Rebecca Dharmapalan is a 19-year-old artist and activist, born and bred in Oakland, California. Her work is primarily focused around the issue of Commercially Sexually Exploited Children in her city. Rebecca exposed this issue in her first film, “International Boulevard a Documentary,” which won grand prize at Girls Impact the World film festival at Harvard University, the Los Angeles International Film Festival and received Honorable Mention at Harvard Westlake Film Festival in Los Angeles, CA. “International Boulevard” also won the Jewish American Film Festival in Los Angeles, was a second place winner of Adobe Youth Voices in New York and recently won the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival.

Rebecca’s continued her work, becoming Chair of Oakland Youth Commission and creating the first ever CSEC task force in the country. Through the Youth Commission, Rebecca worked on a citywide billboard campaign to create awareness of child sex trafficking and reach children who were trapped in “the life.”

Now, Rebecca is embarking on her latest project: a feature film. This feature film will be a sequel to her short documentary, in which she will finally be able to expose the entirety of the industry of sex trafficking through complex, multidimensional characters, hard facts and evidence. Rebecca says, “I am not a filmmaker, I am a change-maker,” and she continues to change the world through art everyday.

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About TED

TED is an annual event where some of the world's leading thinkers and doers are invited to share what they are most passionate about. "TED" stands for Technology, Entertainment, Design — three broad subject areas that are, collectively, shaping our future. And in fact, the event is broader still, showcasing ideas that matter in any discipline. Attendees have called it "the ultimate brain spa" and "a four-day journey into the future." The diverse audience — CEOs, scientists, creatives, philanthropists — is almost as extraordinary as the speakers, who have included Bill Clinton, Bill Gates, Jane Goodall, Frank Gehry, Paul Simon, Sir Richard Branson, Philippe Starck and Bono.

TED was first held in Monterey, California, in 1984. In 2001, Chris Anderson's Sapling Foundation acquired TED from its founder, Richard Saul Wurman. In recent years, TED has expanded to include an international conference, TEDGlobal; media initiatives, including TED Talks and TED.com; and the TED Prize.

TEDWomen 2015, "Momentum" will be held May 27 - 29, 2015, in Monterey, California. TED2016, "Dream" will be held February 16 - 19 2016, Vancouver, BC, Canada.

About TEDx

In the spirit of ideas worth spreading, TEDx is a program of local, self-organized events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience. At a TEDx event, TEDTalks video and live speakers combine to spark deep discussion and connection in a small group. These local, self-organized events are branded TEDx, where x=independently organized TED event.

The TED Conference provides general guidance for the TEDx program, but individual TEDx events are self-organized. (Subject to certain rules and regulations.)

For information about TED's upcoming conferences, visit ted.com/registration. Follow TED on Twitter @TEDTalks, on Facebook at [facebook.com/TED](https://www.facebook.com/TED) and on Instagram @tedtalks.



**WE ARE FAMILY
FOUNDATION**

We Are Family Foundation (WAFF)

is a non-profit organization that's dedicated to the vision of a global family by creating and supporting programs that promote cultural diversity while nurturing the vision, talents, and ideas of young people who are positively changing the world. Since its inception in 2002, WAFF, founded by legendary songwriter/musician/producer Nile Rodgers, has created global initiatives like Three Dot Dash and TEDxTeen and has mentored and empowered extraordinary teens from more than 60 countries on six continents by giving them platforms to share their messages, tell their stories, inspire others, amplify their work and foster respect and understanding across cultures.

Online:

wearefamilyfoundation.org
threedotdash.org
TEDxTeen.com

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Investing in and supporting our youth is what the We Are Family Foundation does.

TEDxTeen Thanks

2 Billion Under 20 for widening our community of ambitious millennials

Adobe for providing innovative story-telling tools and a platform for The Next Big Thing

Amber Schreiner for curating our audience and organizing our viewing parties

Bill McDermott for joining forces with us to power the next generation

Breakout Hosts & Social Spaces for expanding the TEDxTeen experience

Burning6 for our cool TEDxTeen.com

Diego Paul Sanchez for ensuring our global online audience has a front row seat

Film Team – Marta Gac, John Hudak, Garrett Kafchinski, Jamie Rosenberg, Vince Vennitti and team for capturing the Talks that will live on forever

Food Team – Michele Cousens and Sandy Kaszer for feeding us well

Fran DeFeo for spreading the word about TEDxTeen

GA Gear for making t-shirts for our crew

Greg Titian for skillfully directing and editing our TEDxTeen Talks

Handheld Films for providing the gear that makes TEDxTeen possible

HuffPost Teen for teaching us how to share our stories

ImageThink for sharing our story LIVE with their creative designs

Jess Teutonico for curating TEDxTeen meticulously (again!)

John DeGraw for great looking graphics

Jonny Dunkle for a stunning light design

Juniperus for engaging our community in social media conversations

KCI for coordinating our travel and assuring smooth arrivals and departures

Lenn Pryor for bringing the power of Facebook to TEDxTeen

Lionfish Design, LLC for our fab new stage design

Livestream for taking us LIVE to the world

Marc Birnbach for capturing the emotion

Matthew Stern for calling a spectacular show

Monique Coleman for being a #SimplyIrresistible host

Nicholas de Miranda for running our TEDxTeen Audition Booth

Nile Rodgers for, well, everything

Pete Connors for marvelously managing our stage

prinkshop for creating messages to keep the conversation going

Propel Productions for making sure we are all in the right places

Rob Dressler for giving us great audio

Robert Galinsky for coaching all of us along the way to the stage

Rose Baroness for making us look our best for the camera

Sandy Proksa for running our auditorium lobby

SAP Team – Bill McDermott, Nick Tzitzon, Lourdes Rosales and Amira Polack for supporting young people and their ideas around the world

Scholastic Headquarters for providing a beautiful space to host TEDxTeen each year

SuChin Pak for being an incredible online host

Star for being our star breakout coordinator

TEDxTeen Speakers for being #SimplyIrresistible

THINK Global School for your partnership every year and daring to change the education paradigm

UnCollege for inspiring young people to create their own future

uPPstream and Chris Creter for a flawless production

Upstage Right Productions for fabricating our new TEDxTeen sign

US Limo for safely navigating the NYC traffic and getting us where we need to go

Volunteers whose time and energy are invaluable – we can't do this without you!

We Are Family Foundation Team – Nancy Hunt, Jess Teutonico, Michelle Posadas, Ali Caplan and Jon Greenberg for their hard work and dedication to making TEDxTeen awesome

Whole Foods for providing us with delicious food and snacks

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