

Accent on People

Three Riverdalianians are given prestigious BRIO Awards

Three Riverdale artists are among the 22 Bronx artists to receive the Bronx Council on the Arts' prestigious BRIO Awards for artistic excellence.

Bruce Tallerman won the award for fiction writing; Julio Antonio Toro for screenwriting; and Jennifer Shyu for music composition. They will be honored on Wednesday, June 6, at 5:30 p.m., at the Longwood Art Gallery at Hostos Community College, 450 Grand Concourse.

Mr. Tallerman studied creative writing at UCLA as well as the New School for Social Research and the Sewanee Writers' Conference. His short stories have appeared in such literary magazines as *Laurel Review*, *The Patterson Review*, *Quarter After Eight* and *The Green Hills Literary Lantern*. He is shopping around his first novel and is working on a second. He also writes speeches and articles for corporate clients.

Mr. Toro attended the School of Visual Arts as a student in the illustration/cartooning program. He served as a writer and director at the Mezcla Latino International Film Festival, a not-for-profit media organization which promotes Hispanic artistic and literary works.

Mr. Toro is also the co-founder of the movie production company Holly Hood Productions, Inc. *The Phenom* is his first feature-length screenplay.

Born in Illinois, from parents of East Timor and Taiwan, Ms. Shyu is a multi-disciplinary performer/composer touring internationally with saxophonist/visionary Steve Coleman since 2003. She performs on his latest albums, *Luciddarium* and *Weaving Symbolics*. She produced her debut album *For Now* in 2002 and is currently developing a new release, *Jade Tongue*.

Each of the 22 winners receives a \$2,500 grant, however, they must complete a one-time public service activity to receive the award.

Since its inception in 1989, the BRIO — Bronx Recognizes Its Own — Awards program has provided support for the artistic development of Bronx artists.

Over the years, more than \$500,000 has been awarded to 185 artists.

The selection of the awardees is based solely on the artistic excellence of the work submitted and judged anonymously by a panel of professional artists from outside the Bronx and working in each respective field.



JENNIFER SHYU



BRUCE TALLERMAN



JULIO ANTONIO TORO