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## AS220 AT THE RITS

Rhode Island Training School

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# AS220 AT THE RITS

Welcome to the first issue of *AS220 at the RITS*, a bi-monthly newsletter created to report on the programs that AS220 sponsors at the RITS. In this issue we highlight several of these programs, including the Friday-afternoon Visual Art class, the mentoring program, and the incorporation of arts lessons into classes at the RITS. AS220 provides three other Friday afternoon classes, including **Hidden Trewth**, a workshop in journalism and creative writing which publishes the Hidden Trewth newspaper; **Hip Hop**, which focuses on creating and performing hip hop

music; and the **RITS Orchestra**, in which students compose and perform music based on Afro-Caribbean drumming traditions. One-on-one lessons in bass, guitar, and keyboard are also offered to students in the class. All classes correlate to youth-run arts businesses at Broad Street Studio and culminate in a **Performance Showcase**. In addition to the Friday-afternoon workshops, creative writing and visual art classes are also held in Rossi House on Monday nights. **\*Questions or comments about AS220 programs? Contact Meghan or Marie at 462-7248.**

## AS220's Visual Art Class at the RITS

In AS220's Friday afternoon Visual Art class at the RITS, students are learning fundamental drawing skills such as form, line, and shading. Bert Crenca, Artistic Director of AS220 and the instructor of the Visual Art class, focuses on these skills in order both to create a strong foundation in drawing and to build a platform from which students may learn about other art forms and gain a broader knowledge base through the arts which is relevant to their own lives and experiences.

Victor, a student in Visual Art, has had extensive experience in theater, and sites the opportunity to learn about new art forms as one of his favorite aspects of the class. He commented, "I like using my skills in other areas of art—not just theater—and learning things about different kinds of art." Victor feels that mastering drawing skills such as shading is the biggest challenge he faces in the class, but says that the most valuable thing he has learned is the importance of practice. He said, "You have to keep practicing and you'll get better. When I first went into the class I wasn't that good, but I've gotten better."

Crenca helps students develop these fundamental drawing skills through a variety of academic exercises. For example, students learning to draw a face must first learn to draw and shade a... (continued on p. 2)

## AS220 in the Classroom

The visual arts advisor position at the RITS is designed to incorporate arts projects into the classroom based on the classroom's curriculum. **Arts projects are a good way to enhance any lesson plan.** Depending on the project, art can allow for students to think differently about the subject being studied, allow for greater insight, or reinforce the ideas being discussed. So far projects have been designed for groups E, F, L, K, R, S, M, and N. (continued on p. 2)

## DON'T MISS THE PERFORMANCE SHOWCASE!

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31ST**  
**12:45-1:30 (UNITS 1,2,4)**  
**1:45-2:30 (UNITS 3,5,6)**  
**IN THE CAFETERIA**