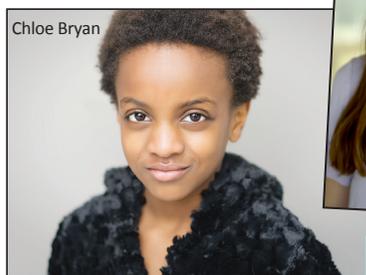


STARS in our Midst



Victor Lopez



Chloe Bryan



Sissy Sheridan

Since Reston's beginning, performing arts have been a part of this community. *Lopez Studios Performing Arts School* (www.lopezstudiosinc.com), located in Isaac Newton Square, has been an integral part of Reston's performing arts landscape for nearly 25 years. This preparatory academy—specializing in music, dance, and drama for youths of all ages—is a foundational experience for young performers. According to the founder, Victor Lopez, the studio is “dynamically evolving, based on the needs of the community.” One of the most significant changes has been expanding educational programs. In fall 2019, Lopez will launch The Lopez Acting-Masters Program (LAMP) for ages 13-18. This rigorous training program caters to those who are focused on non-musical theatre.

Many Lopez Studios graduates have gone on to professional theatre, including the big lights of Broadway!

One alumni, Chloe Bryan, who took vocal coaching lessons at the academy, joined the company of *School of Rock* on Broadway in 2016. “I felt that I learned a lot at Lopez and that I could also be my quirky, silly self...Mr. Lopez and the staff made me feel that my talent was special. Victor taught me how to ‘act the song’ and sing with a gospel tone.”

Reston resident and Lopez alumni, 15-year-old Sissy Sheridan, took private vocal lessons with Lopez. She was cast as Nickelodeon's “DIY With Me” host in 2018 after having made her New York theatre debut in summer 2017 as Duffy in the Off-Broadway production of *Annie Warbucks*. Her equity debut in winter 2017 was the role of Pepper in *Annie* at Olney Theatre. Sissy was also the Grand Marshal for the 2018 Reston Holiday Parade. She performs in local theatre, is a member of the cast of “Chicken Girls,” a series on YouTube, and has co-starred in the Netflix show *Maniac*.

Brandon Diaz, an Ashburn native, studied voice and piano with Victor Lopez from 2008-2012. He participated in numerous camps as well as performing in *Seussical Jr.* while studying at Lopez Studios.

Brandon is a graduate of Briar Woods High School, Ashburn, VA and recently from the Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA. Brandon shot to fame last year as a top contestant on *American Idol* and in November 2018, Brandon released his debut single, “Groovin.”

Lopez shares that “our students go out to do theatre programs and they take their talent and give back to the community.”

