



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Dutchess Arts Camp Appoints New Millbrook Director**

**MILLBROOK, NY** - Dutchess Arts Camp welcomes Deborah Coconis as the newest addition to the lineup of The Art Effect's summer program directors. Deborah will be leading the Millbrook location of Dutchess Arts Camp. A local to the area, Deborah has been living in the Millbrook area for the past fourteen years.

Coconis studied both theater and visual arts in college and later apprenticed with master mask maker Eric Bornstein. She combined her artistic expertise as mask-maker and performer with *Behind the Mask Theatre* in her native Boston, and has taught mask making techniques for many years. Locally, she has made and performed her masks at *New Year's Eve Millbrook*.

She continues her passion for acting as a touring performer to school-aged children with the *Center Players on Tour's* production of *Rip Van Winkle*, and she most recently directed their touring show of *The Pink Refrigerator*. Deborah has starred in numerous roles at the Center for Performing Arts Rhinebeck and was a company member and School of the Arts instructor at *Half Moon Theatre* in Poughkeepsie.

During the school year, Deborah serves as the current director of Millbrook Community Preschool at Grace Church, where she has taught for the past ten years. She finds preschool and teaching in general, to be a natural creative outlet for her artistic sensibilities; especially as a performer. Dedicated to community arts enrichment, she has served as a board member for the Millbrook Arts Group for the past ten years.

"It has been a joy to witness my child's passion for art and learning, grow and flourish over the course of her first year working with Deborah. As an art educator and a parent, it is a comfort to

know that art is being recognized as the asset it is to the process of learning,” says local parent Alyssa Ketcham. “Deborah has such a wonderful understanding of young minds and how children learn. She has truly managed to find the balance between the right amount of structure and creative freedom, and I am thrilled to have found such a positive learning environment for my daughter.”

Deborah also has been a teaching artist in Dutchess Arts Camp Poughkeepsie for the last five years, and will now bring her experience and magic closer to her home, students, and friends, and local families in Millbrook.

“What makes Dutchess Arts Camp so fun and engaging is that it is a creative, collaborative hub, where campers get to try new ways of making art in small group studios. It’s the place to try new things with others who are also trying new things in a fun, no pressure, supportive space,” Deborah comments, “As director, I’m here to facilitate the fun and exploration. The teaching staff are professionals in their field and they love sharing their art and knowledge with children, and it’s going to be a great summer in Millbrook!”

**About Dutchess Arts Camp:** Dutchess Arts Camp, with campuses in Poughkeepsie, Millbrook, and Red Hook; provides themed weekly sessions for ages 4 – 12. Children can explore their artistic abilities and express themselves through creative group and individual activities. The Millbrook DAC Campus has a professional staff of artists specializing in many different areas of art. The art disciplines offered are a sampling of performance, 2-D, 3-D, and clay arts. In addition to weekly themes, the professional teaching artists use a “child centered” approach to the arts and art-making. Each child’s unique thoughts, expertise and point of view are the vehicle for growth and imagination. For more information and to register for Dutchess Art Camps, visit [feelthearteffect.org/courses/summer-programs](http://feelthearteffect.org/courses/summer-programs) or call 845-471-7477.





