



HORN-BLOWING HEADMASTER

Paul Thompson, 35 | Trumpeter Paul Thompson earned a master's at Cal Arts, has composed works for orchestra and scores for film and television, and used to bop around L.A. with Black Eyed Peas and Me'Shell NdegéOcello. But his current job—as the principal of the newly opened Urban Assembly School of Music and Art in Fort Greene, which is affiliated with the likes of BAM, Pratt and Jazz at Lincoln Center—is his most challenging gig yet. "I've tried to integrate my life as an artist into the school," says Thompson, who grew up in the Bronx. "We aren't a conservatory, and students need not have prior arts knowledge or experience. We use the arts as a vehicle toward personal expression and as a means of making subjects stimulating that students might not have found relevant in the past." —Soren Larson

TOP: SARAH FRIEDLSTEIN