

Youth Theatre Newsletter – August 2024

Dear All

What a great year we have had! Several members participated in the Pantomime, “Jack and the Beanstalk” which was great fun. There will be further opportunities to participate in this year’s panto “Snow White and the Seven People of Varying Heights”.

In May the older groups put on an evening of one-act plays. “The Match Girls” by Sonya Shaw, “Lost” by Lucy Driver and “Blood Brothers” by Willy Russell. This was very successful and there were some amazing performances.

Then we had a presentation of short performances by the younger groups. This played to a packed audience of appreciative family and friends.

Finally, the Musical Theatre Group put on four fantastic “Beauty and the Beast Jr” performances.

As always, we owe huge thanks to our technical team, stage crew, wardrobe department, front of house, publicity, chaperones and everyone else who is part of this big family of volunteers that keep the theatre running. If you would like to be part of this team then please get in touch.

I am looking forward to another busy and productive season ahead. To maximise opportunities to suit everyone I have slightly restructured the groups and times. I do hope this will not cause too many problems. Here is the following timetable – please message or call if you have any questions. Further details can be found on the Youth Theatre section of the Warehouse Theatre Website www.thewarehousetheatre.org.uk

Friday Evenings

Encore – 6.00 – 8.30 pm (years 9-13)

Young people will start to explore a range of texts and practitioners. They will take part in workshops to improve their acting knowledge and technique.

They will consider the processes involved in developing a strong, believable character. They will work towards a performance 15/16 May 2025.

Saturdays

Prologue – 9.15-10.00 (years 2/3)

This is an introduction to the theatre. We aim to build confidence through drama games and improvisations. The children get used to being on the stage and start to think about simple characterisation. Above all, we have lots of fun and work towards putting on a short performance in front of a friendly audience. (17 May 2025)

Act 1 – 10.00 – 11.00 (Years 4/5)

We build on the skills gained in the Prologue. We are now starting to think about vocal skills as well as physical skills and spatial awareness. We aim to work towards putting on a short performance in front of a friendly audience. (17 May 2025)

Act 2 --11.00 – 12.30 (Years 6/7/8)

We start to think about taking on larger roles, building on physical skills, vocal skills and learning the working stage areas. They will start to consider thinking about their character on a deeper level such as how their characters are feeling in the world of the play. They will work towards a performance for 17 May 2025. **Please note that we have extended the timing of this group to allow them to work on something more challenging.**

Arts Award – 12.30 - 2.00 pm

We are very proud to have been awarded Champion Centre status in recognition of the high quality of our candidates and the number of opportunities we are offering children at the theatre.

We offer Bronze and Silver in Terms 1 and 2 and Explore and Discover in Term 3.

Discover is an introduction to the Arts Award and a chance for children to discover the Arts in the world around them.

Arts Award **Explore** encourages children and young people to experience different art forms and artists and develop their creativity. Along the way, they record what they achieve and enjoy and share it with others.

As they work through Arts Award Explore, young people build their artistic knowledge, creativity, and confidence – and gain a recognized qualification in the process. They research a range of genres, creators, and arts organisations, and make full use of their imagination and communication skills.

Bronze Arts Award develops young people's artistic abilities alongside their research and communication skills. This level involves them in the arts as creators and audience members and encourages them to take their first steps toward leadership by sharing their learning with others.

This qualification develops art form knowledge and creativity alongside reflective practice, problem-solving skills, and confidence. Young people complete a portfolio as their Arts Award journey progresses, explaining what they've seen, done, and learned along the way.

Bronze Arts Award is designed for ages 11 to 14 and is open to anyone aged 11 to 25. It's a Level 1 qualification on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF)

Silver Arts Award

Where artistic challenge meets arts leadership. Silver Arts Award gives young people the chance to take on an artistic challenge and a leadership role too.

As well as being about creativity, it's about becoming a reviewer, researcher, and project manager. Participants build a broad range of transferable skills as they complete their portfolio and gain a Level 2 qualification.

There are two strands to the Silver Arts Award – one focusing on artistic practice and the other on arts leadership. Completing both successfully requires teamwork and independence, creativity and critical thinking, leadership, and collaboration, and confidence and communication.

This session has also been extended to allow students to spend more time on artistic projects and portfolios.

Musical Theatre Group – 2.00 – 5.00 (Age 8 – 18)

Our 2024 production was Beauty and the Beast Jr. (see photo above) which was a great deal of fun. It was a huge team effort that paid off. For next year (2-5 July 2025) we are planning another similar show.

Initially, we will structure the sessions into singing, dancing and acting to give each discipline equal weight so that performers learn how to tell a story through musical theatre. We have extended the time to allow for this.

However, they need to understand the commitment that it takes to put on this kind of performance. All cast members must attend every week and during the final term of the show and be aware of additional rehearsals for dress and tech during the last couple of weeks leading up to the performance.

All cast members will be expected to attend all of these. Cast members will also be expected to attend every performance regardless of their role.

Additionally, we will encourage parents to sign up as a chaperone.

If you would like further details or have any questions, please contact lucydriver2000@gmail.com

You will notice that there are now more variations in the lengths of the sessions so we have adjusted our fees accordingly to make it a fairer price structure.

Weekly Youth Theatre Fees & Classes from September 2024

Prologue - £4.00

Act 1 - £4.00

Act 2 - £5.00

Arts Award - £5.00 (plus an additional fee for certification and moderation)

Musical Theatre £7.50

Encore £5.00

1 child doing 2 or more classes – 10% discount off the total fee.

3rd child from the same family – 50% discount off the lowest fee.

We would also continue to offer financial support by way of covering the term fees for any family who approaches us to say their child cannot continue due to financial difficulties.

New Teacher

I have run the Youth Theatre for 15 years and I am so proud that it has grown to a position where we can now offer seven different groups which provide opportunities for everyone. For the past few years, I have been running all seven groups and I feel that the time has come to invite in some additional help! I am very pleased to introduce Jemima Corbett who is a very experienced and professional Youth Theatre leader. She will be taking over the Prologue, Act One and Act 2 Groups.

From Jemima -

Hi everyone, I'm Jemima, the new youth theatre teacher leading on Prologue, act and act 2! I've worked professionally as an actor, director and theatre maker for a few years now and I'm so excited to meet you all, have some fun and make some fantastic theatre!



Term Dates to Christmas

Enrolment – please send your enrolment forms as soon as possible but wait for an invoice from our treasurer to send an invoice before paying.

13/14, 20/21, 27/28 September

4/5, 11 October (Encore at alternative venue to be confirmed) /12 October at the theatre.

18/19, 25/26 October

1/2 November (no Youth Theatre – half term)

8/9, 15/16, 22/23, 29/30 November

Additional Dates for Your Diary

8/15/21 August – 10.00 Clean up the theatre days. – please could you spare a few hours to either clear some rubbish, do a bit of cleaning or do some painting?

17/31 August – 10.00 – Panto workshop

1 September – 10.00 Panto auditions

6/7 September – production of “Wrong for Each Other” – see website for details (age recommendation 15+)

13 September – Quiz Night (adults-only event)

19 September – play reading group meeting

9 – 12 October – “Abigail’s Party” – production – see website for details (age recommendation 15+)

17 October – Play reading group meeting

17 November – Taylor Swift Tribute evening.

21 November – play reading group meeting

Panto dates

6th – 9th December

12th - 14th December

T-shirts – I am taking orders for t-shirts/hoodies. Please let me have your orders by 5th September 24. Order forms are available on the theatre’s website.

www.thewarehousetheatre.org.uk

LAMDA – Several of our members took their LAMDA exams this term and all were awarded merits and distinctions. LAMDA lessons are coaching in acting or communication and are recognised qualifications. These are private lessons which are not part of Warehouse Theatre so please contact Lucy for more information.