Oklahoma Children’s Theatre

YOUNG COMPANY 2018–19

Welcome Pack

Bravery & Adventure!
Hello cast members and families!

Whether it’s your first time with us or you are joining us again, I’m excited to welcome you to our Young Company student production program. Our theme for our 2018-19 season is **Bravery and Adventure** and we’ve selected a range of great shows based off these themes.

Our first show of the season is ‘**Night of the Living Dead**’, which follows a group of desperate characters hiding from a zombie apocalypse. This high intensity one-act play is an adaptation of the 1968 B-grade horror flick that started the genre of zombie movies. Radiation from a fallen satellite is transforming the dead into flesh-eating zombies. It’s full of thrill, chills, and dark satire. This show is better for older students!

Our second show is ‘**A Christmas Story**’. This wonderful The Christmas classic that follows 9-year-old Ralphie Parker in his quest to get a genuine Red Ryder BB gun under the tree for Christmas. Ralphie pleads his case before his mother, his teacher and even Santa Claus himself, at Higbee’s Department Store. The consistent response: "You’ll shoot your eye out!" All the elements from the beloved motion picture are here, including Scut Farkas, the school bully; the boys’ experiment with a wet tongue on a cold lamppost; Ralphie’s father winning a lamp shaped like a woman’s leg in a net stocking; Ralphie’s fantasy scenarios and more.

Our first show in 2019 is ‘**The Jungle Book**’. Based on Rudyard Kipling’s classic tale, this is the extraordinary adventure of Mowgli, a boy raised in the jungle by wolves. Along with his cast of animal friends, he must face the dangers of the man-eating tiger Shere-Khan who has vowed to destroy him.

As always we also have four exciting summer productions, with two Mainstage Shows and two Stage-Two shows. Our Mainstage shows are great for older and more experienced cast members. These shows have more demanding rehearsal periods and longer performance runs, while our Stage Two shows have a shorter rehearsal and are a little more quirky.

Our Mainstage shows for 2019 are ‘**Treasure Island**’ and the musical ‘**Beauty and the Beast**’, while our Stage-Two productions are JM Barrie’s beloved tale of ‘**Peter Pan**’ and the new ‘**The School Play, A Farce**’ - a show where just about everything is going to go wrong!

We can’t wait to work with you to delight your audiences with these great stories!
Being in a show is serious business. As a member of the cast you need to understand and agree to the following rules:

- I agree to attend all rehearsals. If I must miss a rehearsal for any reason, I will contact the Director prior to the beginning of the rehearsal.

- If I miss a rehearsal for any reason, I understand that I may lose my lines or role. If I miss two or more rehearsals and do not contact the Director, I understand that my lack of consideration is enough for me to be dismissed from the show entirely.

- I agree to assist with the production of the show in any capacity.

- I agree to meet “off book” deadlines by having lines memorized.

- I understand that I may be personally responsible for parts of my costume.

- I understand that I am part of a team effort, so I must have a positive attitude, even on days when I have a million reasons to not be open-minded and willing to work.

- I understand this show requires collaboration, and I agree to contribute my ideas and energy at appropriate times.

- I understand the Director will make final choices pertaining to my role(s).

- I agree to do all that I can to make rehearsals the best they can be.

- If I cause problems by disrupting the cast or the Director during rehearsal, I understand that I may lose my role in the show.
**What is Young Company?**
Young Company is our year-round student production program for children and teens aged 7-16. We’ve always produced a range of exciting, diverse productions starring young people and we’re excited to now offer a more cohesive and understandable program for our students who love being on stage. Each year we produce seven Young Company shows.

**When will my child know their part?**
Generally, roles are not cast until the first day of rehearsal, which is the first time that the director can see everyone together.

**What happens if we skip a rehearsal?**
Rehearsals are the only opportunity for the cast to practice the play as an ensemble, so missing a rehearsal is a big problem. We ask that all appointments be scheduled outside of rehearsal time. If you know you will miss a rehearsal please let the director know as soon as possible. We will always try to work around conflicts if we are given notice. Please understand however that even if your child is not present the rehearsal is still going on. If they miss a rehearsal they must expect that any part rehearsed during that time will be assigned to other cast members.

**How many lines will my child have?**
Once kids receive their scripts they’ll be excited to learn how their part fits within the story. Often times cast members count and compare their lines, but within our program, this is strictly forbidden. Neither cast members or their parents are allowed to count lines, and we absolutely will not have discussions about part size. The playwrights have created every role for a reason and each role impacts the entire production. As the famous Russian director and acting teacher, Konstantin Stanislavsky once said, “There are no small parts, only small actors!” Please remember that what the show looks like on the script is different than what it looks like on stage. A cast member with a positive and helpful attitude will quickly find themselves being used in valuable ways.

**How do auditions work?**
Audition requirements depend on the show. Some shows won’t have an audition whereas some will require it. If there is an audition your child will be asked to memorize a 1-2 minute monologue, and a 30 second part of a song (for musicals). We may also ask them to improvise some scenes or perform a reading of the script. We understand that auditions can be nerve-racking for kids and we strive to make them a positive experience.
**FAQs FOR PARENTS**

**My child does not like his/her role. Can I get a refund?**
We have a firm no refund policy after the program has started. We embrace the philosophy that there are no small roles, only small actors and must safeguard the productions accordingly. Tuition is not payment for a role or a certain number of lines, but rather it is for a performing arts experience. We encourage you and your child to embrace this philosophy. Before you sign up we strongly encourage you and your child to discuss expectations and decide if this program is right for them.

**What should my child wear to class?**
Cast members should come prepared everyday wearing appropriate shoes (no crocs, flip-flops, or open-toed shoes) and comfortable clothing that allows for freedom of movement. Please also make sure that they come to rehearsal well rested and fed.

**What are rehearsals like?**
Rehearsals are critical for the show. During rehearsals we expect cast members to be engaged, have a positive attitude, and treat each scene like it’s a performance. While they are not rehearsing they must be offstage learning lines or keeping themselves busy with a quiet activity so they don’t interrupt the people who are in the current scene. We encourage students to bring books, card games or other quiet activities- but no electronics! Remember, even in professional theatre that it’s quite common for cast members to spend their rehearsals waiting!

**Can my child join in if they are ‘almost’ old enough?**
We set age ranges for plays carefully, taking into consideration the script, subject matter, and intensity of rehearsals and performances. There may be limited options for younger cast members and we typically require that they have either previous production or camp experience with us. If you have a younger child please reach out to us to discuss options.

**How do I sign up?**
You can sign up online at www.oklahomachildrenstheatre.org or by calling (405) 606-7003.
Treasure Island
June, 2019
Based on the classic adventure novel by Robert Louis Stevenson. An unforgettable tale of the high-seas that follows a young Jim Hawkins who finds a treasure map in a pirate's sea chest. On his unforgettable expedition to recover the fortune of gold, Jim faces the fight of his life against the treacherous Long John Silver.

Peter Pan
June, 2019
Based on the classic tale by J.M. Barrie. Peter and his magical fairy sidekick Tinkerbell visit the Darling nursery one night and with a sprinkle of pixie dust, invite the darling children on a magical journey none of them will ever forget.

Beauty and the Beast
July, 2019
The classic story tells of Belle, a young woman in a provincial town, and the Beast, who is really a young prince trapped under the spell of an enchantress. If the Beast can learn to love and be loved, the curse will end and he will be transformed to his former self, but time is running out! If the Beast does not learn his lesson soon, he and his household will be doomed for all eternity.

The School Play. A Farce
July, 2019
It's the opening night of Elm St. Middle School's first school play and it's already off to a bad start. Everything that could go wrong is going wrong. Can the cast of the show make it through their opening night performance before the directors have a complete breakdown?
Night of the Living Dead
September - October, 2018
Fall out from a satellite probe shot to Venus returns to Earth carrying a mysterious radiation that transforms the unburied dead into flesh-eating zombies. Seven people trapped in an isolated farmhouse, held hostage by the ravenous ghouls, begin to turn on each other as the dead encroach. A gripping terror-filled monochromatic play that brings all the fright of the cult classic to life. This blend of thrilling horror laced with touches of black humor envelops the audience in the action and unfolds into a shocking theatrical ending.

A Christmas Story
November - December, 2018
The Christmas classic that follows 9-year-old Ralphie Parker in his quest to get a genuine Red Ryder BB gun under the tree for Christmas. Ralphie pleads his case before his mother, his teacher and even Santa Claus himself, at Higbee’s Department Store. The consistent response: “You’ll shoot your eye out!” All the elements from the beloved motion picture are here, including the family’s temperamental exploding furnace; Scut Farkas, the school bully; the boys’ experiment with a wet tongue on a cold lamppost; Ralphie’s father winning a lamp shaped like a woman’s leg in a net stocking; Ralphie’s fantasy scenarios and more.

The Jungle Book
February - March, 2019
You are invited to come along for the extraordinary adventure of Mowgli, a boy raised in the jungle by wolves. With the help of his animal friends, he must escape the dangers of Shere Khan, the man-eating tiger who has vowed to destroy him.