



YES THEATRE

YOUNG COMPANY
2024-25 Information Package

Program Goals:

YES Theatre launched the *Young Company* program in 2024, a re-branding of our *Students on Stage* program which began in 2003.

This auditioned program provides students with an opportunity for growth through a more in-depth theatre education beyond our Saturday Youth Drama / Musical Theatre classes.

While this unique program moves toward a final performance, *process* is where the emphasis lies. The rehearsal space is a place to take risks, experiment, build self-confidence and develop skills in personal relationships and teamwork.

This program includes theatre training in acting, voice, and movement. Students will also have opportunities to learn about many interesting elements that contribute to a theatrical production including costuming, set and props, lighting and sound, and backstage work.

The success of the program is the result of the skill and dedication of a collaborative team of teachers, theatre professionals and volunteers. The support of YES Theatre personnel has been a huge factor in the redevelopment of the program.

Young Company members are selected as they show great promise as performing artists. Some may be identified as potential future members of the professional company. Participants are expected to consistently behave in a professional manner and show respect for a professional theatre environment.

A note about our ***Young Company*** from Artistic Director, Alessandro Costantini

The *Young Company* is the next step in the evolution of our YES Theatre programming. Over the last two years, we've been considering the ways in which we can develop the next generation of artists and how we can make professional theatre experiences more radically accessible.

The intent of this renewed program is to place participants on a more direct trajectory to the professional company. This is for young people who are interested in the hard work and sense of community that can be experienced through a rigorous rehearsal and production process. It is for people who live and breathe theatre; those who want to challenge themselves and work with incredible mentors who will lead them on a journey that can enrich their future as artists.

Answers to some *Frequently Asked Questions* about the *Young Company* can be found on pages 6 & 7.

For more information about the *Young Company* and other STC educational programs, please visit our website at www.yestheatre.com or contact Education Director Ralph McIntosh at 705 674 8381 x6

We are looking forward to a fun and engaging season as part of our *Young Company*!

Ralph McIntosh
Education Director
Phone 705 674 8381 x 6
Email r.mcintosh@yestheatre.com

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Young Company is open to students age 11 and older. Up to 15 students will be accepted into the program following an audition process. Auditions will be held in late October.

Students wishing to audition for the program would benefit from having previous theatrical experience in the community, at school or in drama classes, but it's not a requirement for entry.

(*See page 3 for more information about the audition process)

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

- A complete production schedule will be provided at the first rehearsal.
- The program runs from the first weekend of February 2025 to the last weekend of May 2025.
- Rehearsals are on Sundays from 4pm to 8pm and Mondays from 5pm to 8pm, for 16 weeks, followed by a week of technical rehearsals. Rehearsals will not be held on the following dates:
Sunday February 16 (Family Day weekend), Sunday March 9 and Monday March 10 (the first weekend of March Break), and Sunday April 20 (Easter Sunday).
**If we lose any rehearsals due to inclement weather, we will make up for the lost time by extending the length of other rehearsals.*
- Extra rehearsals will be required during the week leading up to the first performance.
 - Daily rehearsals will be held Wed. May 14 to Sunday May 18, from 5pm – 9pm
 - There will also be a full day dress rehearsal on Monday May 19, starting at 10 am

NEW for 2025: 1-on-1 COACHING SESSIONS

This year, we will be providing each student with an additional two hours of 1-on-1 coaching with one of the Young Company instructors (two one-hour sessions per student). The sessions will be customized to the needs of each student to help improve their technique and give the students the extra boost of confidence for their performance. These sessions will begin after the March Break – the dates will be included on the weekly schedule from Stage Management.

PERFORMANCES

There will be seven to nine public performances and three to four matinees for school audiences.

- Public Performances:
 - 1) Wednesday May 21 @ 7 pm (opening night)
 - 2) Thursday May 22 @ 7 pm
 - 3) Friday May 23 @ 7 pm
 - 4) Saturday May 24 @ 2:30 pm
 - 5) Saturday May 24 @ 7 pm
 - 6) Sunday May 25 @ 2:30 pm
 - 7) Tuesday May 27 @ 7 pm
 - 8) Wednesday May 28 @ 7 pm
 - 9) Thursday May 29 @ 7 pm (closing night)
- School Matinees: 1-4) Friday May 23, Tuesday May 27, Wednesday May 28 and Thursday May 29*

*The school matinee schedule will depend on the number of seats requested by schools. Students will be required to be absent from school on all scheduled matinee dates.

AUDITION INFORMATION

Audition Dates and Times:

Entrance to the Young Company program is by audition only. Auditions will be held at the Sudbury Theatre Centre on **Sunday October 27 from 4 to 8:30 pm.**

****Students cannot simply show up at any time – they must pre-book an assigned time.***

How to Register:

To book an audition time, students/parents must contact the YES Theatre Education Director

Email: r.mcintosh@yestheatre.com Phone: 705.674.8381 x 6

Information required: Student's full name & age / Parent's name, email & phone number

The following information will be provided by email to those who sign up for an audition:

- a) Audition date and time
- b) Audition information package, including how to prepare for the audition, rehearsal schedule, performance dates, frequently asked questions, etc.
- c) Two YC application forms: Student Registration form and Student Information form

Please complete the ***Student Registration Form and Student Information Form*** and bring them with you to your audition

Both forms are also available on our website www.yestheatre.com/young-company

Audition Process:

Students should arrive 20 minutes ahead of their scheduled audition time, with their completed Audition forms. (1-2 volunteers will be in the lobby to greet students and ensure that their forms are complete. We will have extra forms on hand just in case.) Students will audition one at a time

Parents will have the opportunity to learn more about the program in the lobby when the students are in their audition. A member of the YC production team will be available to answer questions.

Preparing for your Audition:

- Wear whatever you consider appropriate to wear to a professional audition.
- ***Students are to prepare a ONE MINUTE monologue of their choice. This can be a scene from a movie, TV show, play or musical.***
- ***They must also prepare up to ONE MINUTE of any musical theatre selection of their choice (NOT a pop song) sung without accompaniment.***
- The audition will also include a brief Q&A session with the audition panel

Audition Panel:

The audition panel will consist of the Young Company creative team (Director, Assistant Director, Stage Manager, Vocal Director, etc.), Artistic Director Alessandro Costantini and Associate Artistic Director Ruthie Nkut.

Notification of Audition Results:

Students will be notified by email by **Friday November 8** regarding whether they have been accepted into the program or not.

Successful candidates and at least one parent/guardian are required to attend a full cast meeting on Sunday February 2/24 at 4pm.

More details about this meeting will be provided a few days before.

REGISTRATION FEE

- The course fee is \$550 (includes HST) or \$500 for students already registered in other YES Theatre classes.
- [*A non-refundable deposit of \\$100 is due by Friday, November 29, 2024.*](#)
- The balance of the course fee will be due on the last Friday of January. If necessary, payment in installments can be arranged through the Education Director.
- Students requiring some financial assistance may apply for a Student Bursary. Application forms are available from the YES Theatre Box Office or Education Director.

2025 PRODUCTION: "CHOIR!"

A Musical by Anika Johnson and Barbara Johnston

SYNOPSIS:

Long before 'Glee' and 'American Idol,' there were Community Youth Choirs across the land where young singers gathered because they loved to sing, loved each other, or "their mother made them do it!".

CHOIR! is a musical comedy that follows the Tierce de Picardie Children's Chorus (TDPCC) through a year of the ups and downs of their lives and their music under the exacting baton of their intrepid leader Mary Dean. Headed for the bright lights of the big choir competition in Sudbury, they dream of choir glory but find a bigger prize along the way.

CHARACTER LIST:

NOTE: The cast of CHOIR! is musically arranged to include vocal parts of SATB. Casting can range from about 11 years old - 19 years old. Mary Dean is the one role played by an adult.

**The TDPCC is split into social groups, indicated below.

PRUDENCE: Social/Choir outcast. Strong actor/singer.
JESSE: The new girl. "Choir cool" and "school cool". Strong actor.

THE "COOL'S"

KIM: Mean girl leader. Ex-girlfriend of Duncan.
VANESSA: A "Cool"
TALIA: Another "Cool"

THE DICKIE'S (*a family of four siblings who are fiercely ambitious*)

JEN DICKIE: Eldest Dickie daughter. Strong actor/singer.
JASON DICKIE+ REPORTER: Second eldest Dickie. Strong singer.
JULIE DICKIE: Second youngest Dickie. Strong Singer.
EZRA DICKIE: The adopted Dickie. Gets the "ick" from his sibs.

BRYAN "THE COMIC": Choir standup comedian. Strong comedic skills.

MORDECAI (MORTY): The "page turner." A baritone/bass. Former soprano.
TERRY: The star boy soprano. VERY strong soprano singer.

PATRICK: Dating an older woman. Strong actor, tenor voice.
DUNCAN: Jesse's love interest who aspires to be Eminem.
JANICE: Choir thief.
HAZEL + REPORTER: Head of Chamber Choir.
JAMIE: As aspiring composer.
RUBY: Member of the chamber choir. Strong singer.
P.J: Buddy of Duncan
CLARENCE: Buddy of Duncan.
CHELSEA: Patrick's older girlfriend. Grade 12.

THE GOTH'S

ASHLEY: Head Goth. Strong comedic presence.
ANNA: Goth
ROXY: Goth

NATALIE DEAN: Nepo baby. Mary Dean's daughter.

SOPHIE: BFF of Zoe. Does some narration.
ZOE: BFF of Sophie. Does some narration.
DANIELLE: Choir member
SARAH: Choir member
SABRINA: Choir Member
GRACE: Choir Member
MALLORY MORNINGSTAR: The "fainter".

MARY DEAN: Alessandro.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will every child who auditions get a part?

Up to 15 students will be accepted into the program. Admission into the program is determined by the Audition Panel – all casting decisions are final.

When will students find out if they are in the program?

You will be notified by email or by phone approx. two weeks after the audition dates.

Will all the students get lots of stage time, even if they have just a few lines?

YES. This is an ensemble program and every student is an important part of our performance. Each child will have a speaking role as well as other performing opportunities such as movement and music. Please help us in reinforcing that the number of lines a performer has does not indicate how important and rewarding their role will be.

How many adults will be working with my child?

3-4 adults (director, assistant director, stage manager, and one or more others as required) will work with the students throughout the rehearsal process. A team of 4-6 additional adults provide support with the technical aspects of the production over the final two months.

Can the students bring food to their rehearsals?

Students are encouraged to bring a snack or bag lunch. Please, nothing messy or with **nuts**. (Dinner breaks are not long enough for students to leave the building to buy their food.)

What clothing is required for rehearsal?

Comfortable clothing so that the student can move easily and work on the floor if necessary. Hair is to be off the face for rehearsals (this applies to boys as well as girls)

Indoor shoes are required at each rehearsal.

Running shoes are acceptable. *Please put the student's name in their shoes.

Can the student leave their indoor shoes at the theatre?

Sorry, no. We have no storage facilities for the shoes.

Do I have to buy a costume for my child?

The students, the costume team and parent-volunteers all contribute to the costumes.

More information about parent volunteer opportunities will be provided at the mandatory February meeting of cast members and parents.

Students and parents will be asked to provide basic clothing items to wear underneath costumes such as: T-shirts, long sleeved T-shirts, leotards/body suits, leggings/sweat pants, tights, and/or socks.

Confirmation of any required costume pieces will be given prior to the beginning of May to allow students and parents sufficient time to organize and find any needed items.

My child is in high school. How will their participation affect their end-of-term exams?

The production should not interfere with high school exams or end-of-term projects – their final performance is scheduled two full weeks before the June exam period begins.

What do I do if my child has a class trip or is on a school sports team?

The commitment to this course is HUGE. Just as members of a sports team understand that they cannot let their teammates down, so the student actors must realize that they are an integral part of the production and **should not miss, arrive late or leave a rehearsal early.**

What do I do if my child is sick and cannot attend rehearsal?

Send an email to youngcompany@yestheatre.com as soon as possible that day. If the student's condition improves by the end of the day and they are well enough to attend rehearsal, please send another email to let us know that they are coming.

Students who miss three rehearsals for any reason may be removed from the program at the discretion of the program staff and YES administration.

What do I do in the case of snow / icy conditions, or if schools are closed on a Monday?

If the weather is bad or if school is cancelled because of snow/ice, SOS rehearsal is usually cancelled that day as well. Sometimes, the weather/driving conditions improve sufficiently as the day progresses to make it feasible to go ahead with the regularly scheduled rehearsal.

An official confirmation about that day's rehearsal will be sent out via group email by 12 noon.

Are there rehearsals on holiday weekends and the March Break?

Sunday rehearsals are sometimes cancelled on holiday weekends, but some of the Monday evening rehearsals will proceed as usual – please check the schedule carefully.

Am I able to watch rehearsals and classes?

Sorry, parents are not permitted to attend rehearsals or to come backstage at show time.

If I can't watch classes, how do I know what is going on?

Each student is asked to bring a 3-ring binder for their script. They will also be given notes throughout the course which will keep you informed about the course and other details. This binder must be brought to every rehearsal. Group emails will be sent periodically to give updates on any necessary rehearsal changes or other important information. You may also email the YC staff at youngcompany@yestheatre.com with any questions you may have.

Are parents involved in the show in any way?

Parents may be invited to help with costumes and props, and other areas of the production. More details will be provided at the Parents' Meeting at the end of the November meeting.

What are the Student Bursaries?

The Koivu Student Bursary program provides financial assistance to help reduce registration fees. A limited number of bursaries are available for eligible students, based on need. Bursaries are generally awarded for 50% of a program's tuition, but in cases of exceptional need full bursaries may be available.

- If the parent/guardian wishes to apply for a Student Bursary for this program, contact Ralph McIntosh, Education Director, for a copy of the Application Form.
- Please fill out the form and return it by Friday, November 29 (the date the deposit is due).

Any other questions? Please contact Ralph McIntosh, Director of Education, at r.mcintosh@yestheatre.com or by phone at 705 674 8381 x 6.