



YOUNG COMPANY 2025-26 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 morning 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, as part of our continuing expansion of 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 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 in Grade 7 and older. 20-25 students will be accepted into the program following an audition process. Auditions will be held in late September.

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

- The program runs from mid-November 2025 to the week before March Break 2026.
**See the attached rehearsal/production schedule for more details.*
**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, between February 27 and March 4.
 - This includes a full-day dress rehearsal on Sunday March 1, starting at 12 noon.

1-on-1 and SMALL GROUP COACHING SESSIONS

We will be providing each student with an additional two hours of more personalized coaching with one or more of the Young Company instructors. 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 in January – the dates will be included on the weekly schedule from Stage Management.

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

We have scheduled seven to ten public performances, including matinees for school audiences.

Public Performances:

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1) Thursday March 5 @ 7 pm | 4) Tuesday March 10 @ 7 pm |
| 2) Saturday March 7 @ 7 pm | 5) Wednesday March 11 @ 7 pm |
| 3) Sunday March 8 @ 1 pm | 6) Thursday March 12 @ 7 pm |

Weekday School Matinees*

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1) Friday March 6 @ 10:30 am | 3) Wednesday March 11 @ 10:30 am |
| 2) Tuesday March 10 @ 10:30 am | 4) Thursday March 12 @ 10:30 am |

*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 weekday 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 19 and Sunday October 26 from 6 to 9:30 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:

- Audition date and time
- Audition information package, including how to prepare for the audition, rehearsal schedule, performance dates, frequently asked questions, etc.
- Two YOCO 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 15 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 YOCO 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).

Notification of Audition Results:

Students will be notified by email by **Friday October 31** 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 November 23, 2025 at 10 am.

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

REGISTRATION FEE

- The course fee is \$675 (includes HST) - \$625 for students already registered in other YES Theatre classes.
- [A non-refundable deposit of \\$100 is due by Friday November 7, 2025](#)
- The balance of the course fee will be due on the last Friday of November.
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.

2026 PRODUCTION: "HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL"

Disney Channel's smash hit movie musical comes to life on your stage! Troy, Gabriella and the students of East High must deal with issues of first love, friends and family while balancing their classes and extracurricular activities.

It's the first day after winter break at East High. The Jocks, Brainiacs, Thespians and Skater Dudes find their cliques, recount their vacations and look forward to the new year. Basketball team captain and resident jock, Troy, discovers that the brainy Gabriella, a girl he met singing karaoke on his ski trip, has just enrolled at East High. They cause an upheaval when they decide to audition for the high school musical that is being led by Ms. Darbus. Although many students resent the threat posed to the "status quo," Troy and Gabriella's alliance might just open the door for others to shine as well.

Troy Bolton

The most popular kid at East High, he is the star of the basketball team who yearns to be more than what people want him to be. Troy discovers his love for music but refuses to admit it. Athletic, attractive, and a true leader. He becomes smitten with Gabriella.

Vocal range top: B5

Vocal range bottom: B3

Chad Danforth

Troy's best friend. A star basketball player, part of the jocks, and second in command. Extremely focused on winning his school's basketball championship, but is slowly understanding that there might be more to this world, including his sparring crush on Taylor

Vocal range top: B5

Vocal range bottom: A3

Zeke Baylor

A basketball player on the Wildcats Team. Energetic and charismatic. He has two secrets: a crush on Sharpay and a love for baking, which he is happy and relieved to eventually reveal

Vocal range top: G5

Vocal range bottom: B3

Sharpay Evans

The egocentric diva star of the school musicals, she is Ryan's older twin and the alpha dog. She thinks being the musical star defines her and clutches the title like her life depends on it, no matter what the cost to others.

Vocal range top: F5

Vocal range bottom: A3

Ryan Evans

Sharpay's fraternal twin and a self-delusional 'star in the making.' He typically feels the brunt of Sharpay's attacks and lives under her shadow. Although he possesses a diva exterior, he yearns to change.

Vocal range top: B5

Vocal range bottom: B3

Gabriella Montez

The new girl in school. She is trying to blend in and avoid 'labels' at her new school. Eventually becomes Troy's romantic counterpart. Pretty, shy, and smart.

Vocal range top: E5

Vocal range bottom: F3

Taylor Mckessie

The competitive head Brainiac of the school and President of the Science Club. She convinces Gabriella to join the Science Decathlon team. Taylor has a hidden soft spot for Chad, which she hides.

Vocal range top: C5

Vocal range bottom: G3

Jack Scott

The resident P.A. Announcer for the high school. He is shy and insecure in front of the rest of the kids, but smooth and confident at the mic. Known as the "Velvet Fog of East High.

Vocal range top: G5

Vocal range bottom: B3

Kelsi Nielsen

The drama club's rehearsal pianist and student composer extraordinaire who is having her musical produced at school. Underneath her shy demeanor, Kelsi is an outspoken firecracker.

Vocal range top: D5

Vocal range bottom: A3

Ms. Darbus

The kooky, eccentric Drama Club teacher. She has her self-absorbed moments but is still devoted to her students and constantly encourages them. Passionate about the art of theatre.

Coach Bolton

The stern basketball coach and Troy's dad. He lost the big game years ago and wants his son to succeed where he failed. Blinded by his ambition for his son, he is still a good guy and proud father

Ensemble

Jocks; Thespians; Skaters; Cheerleaders; Party Kids; Adults; Brainiacs; Spectators

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will every child who auditions get a part?

20-25 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 approx. two weeks after the audition date.

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

This is an ensemble program and every student is an important part of our performance. Though your child may not have a speaking/lead role, they will all have their moments to shine through 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**. (Students may leave the building to purchase meals with written parental consent.)

What clothing is required for rehearsal?

Comfortable clothing so that the student can move easily and work on the floor if necessary.

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 November 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 March 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 January rehearsal schedule should not interfere with high school exams or end-of-term projects – the performances have been moved to March to avoid the busy spring period.

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 weekday?

If the weather is bad or if school is cancelled because of snow/ice, YOCO rehearsal may be 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?

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 YOCO 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, props, and other production-related tasks. 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, October 24 (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.