

## **BACKSTAGE PASS SUMMER SESSION FAQs**

Tanglewood Youth Theatre has long been a successful and vibrant part of the creative education for youth in Western North Carolina. The continuation of popular favorite classes that have been recently introduced or offered for years, makes Tanglewood a wonderful choice for all children interested in exploring the exciting world of theatre. Younger students will have a chance to work with acting, music, movement, visual arts and improvisation through innovation and imagination. Along with developing other skills, older students will also explore courses that delve deeper into film and design. Each two-week session culminates with a performance showcase, so that each child will have a chance to perform on the ACT Mainstage for an audience of family and friends.

Session One: July 19<sup>th</sup>-July 30<sup>th</sup> (Ages 8-15: 9:00-4:00)

Advanced Camp: July 26<sup>th</sup>-August 6<sup>th</sup> (Ages 12-15 by permission only: 9:00-4:00)

Session Two: August 2<sup>nd</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> (Ages 5-7: 9:00-12:30; Ages 8-15: 9:00-4:00)

The price for Session One and Session Two Ages 8-15 is \$350. Tuition for Session Two ages 5-7 is \$225. Tuition for the Advanced Camp is \$500.

A non-refundable deposit of \$100 is required at the time of registration to secure the space. The remaining balance is due on or before the first day of camp. Please note that you may register and purchase a space in camp online for the full price only. If you wish to begin with a deposit, please call the box office at (828) 254-1320. Class size is limited.

### **Frequently Asked Questions about Session One or Two:**

**(Note—see FAQ about Advanced Camp on page 4)**

#### **Does my child need to have experience to participate?**

No. Our programs are geared for any child at any level of experience. We don't audition for roles in our program, we often ask the students to write and create their own characters. So no one is stuck playing a tree for two weeks while a more experienced kid is playing the princess.

#### **What will my child be doing during a typical day?**

Students are put into age-appropriate groups – for instance, an 8 year old will always be with 8-10 year olds, even if the session has 15 year olds enrolled. They will work with that group throughout the session. Younger students (age 5-7) have 3 classes during the day – a music & movement class, a design class (like an arts and crafts class), and an acting/storytelling class. For this age group, we build on children's natural ability to use their imaginations to tell a story. The songs they learn are familiar and fun, and the movement class uses exercises and dance to keep students active.

Older students (ages 8-15) have five classes every day. These classes are in Musical Theatre, Acting, Movement & Choreography, Film, and Design Crew. Each age group has a theme for the session and they learn a handful of songs that they help to choose, write a story linking those songs together, learn and create choreography, and put it all together into their own mini-musical. They write and/or develop short films that relate to the theme, and then put them on tape. We see the mini-musical and the films during the showcase on the last day of camp.

### **That's a long day. Do students get any free time?**

Yes. We have a snack break in the morning for the younger campers and in the afternoon for the older ones. ACT will provide the snack. Our lunch time allows enough time to eat and play. Most groups will have lunch at ACT, where we have a grassy lawn that's perfect for games. We also encourage groups to play theatre related games with their teacher's assistant. We like to have lunch outside every day, weather permitting. Also, we have times when the campers are led in visualization exercises that are meant to relax and prepare them for performance or classes.

### **When is the showcase?**

The showcase is on the last day of camp. For students age 5-7, the showcase is usually at 12:30 pm on the last day of camp. For older students, the showcase is usually later in the afternoon.

### **Do you have to buy a ticket for the showcase?**

No, families and friends of students are invited to watch. There is no cost for the performance.

### **Who are the teachers?**

Our teachers are school teachers (Lyn Nihart – Owen High School, Josh Batenhorst – ArtSpace, Bryan Morrissey – Asheville High School), local directors and musical directors (Michael MacCauley, Ginger Haselden, Gary Mitchell) and local actors and choreographers (Lisa Abeling, Cary Nichols). They have taught with us for years.

### **Who else is involved with this program?**

Our camp director, Janna Hoekema, is returning for her seventh summer. During the school year, she is a bookseller and graduate student and an elementary school substitute. She also volunteers with both NC Stage and ACT. We also have a teacher's assistant assigned to each group at all times. Our teacher's assistants are high school and college students who have either been former students and have aged out of the camp or are majoring in theatre and home for the summer. The full time staff at ACT is always accessible for questions or phone calls.

### **What does my child need to bring?**

On the first day of camp, each child needs to bring a box or a milk crate. This will serve as their cubby or locker during camp. Please mark your child's name clearly on the box – and feel free to decorate the box with stickers, pictures, whatever. Your child will need to bring a lunch everyday. Lunch must be something that does **not** need to be refrigerated or microwaved. Each child will also need to bring a raincoat or umbrella that can stay in their box. Older students will have classes at ACT and the United Church of Christ (UCC) on Oak Street and they will walk approximately three blocks to get to these other spaces. If it is raining, they will still need to make this short walk, and thus need to have rain gear stored in their box.

**Tell me more about these classes in other locations – will my child be roaming the streets of downtown Asheville unsupervised?**

Absolutely not. ACT is located on Walnut Street in downtown Asheville and is only separated by approximately three blocks from the UCC on Oak Street. Every student will be dropped off at ACT in the morning, where we have our morning assembly. After assembly, groups may leave ACT for the satellite location where they may stay until lunchtime, when they will walk back to ACT. After lunch, a different group will leave ACT for one of the satellite locations, where they will stay until the end of their last class. Then, they will walk back to ACT for the afternoon assembly. Every student will be picked up at ACT after the afternoon assembly.

Groups walking to the UCC and back will be accompanied by their teacher's assistant. They will also be accompanied by at least one other member of the ACT summer staff, be it their teacher, a camp director, or a junior assistant.

The older age groups will be the groups splitting their days between the satellite space and ACT. If your child is in the 5-7 age group, they will definitely spend their entire day, every day, only at ACT.

**Is there financial assistance available?**

This year scholarship funds are very limited. As such, we ask every family to pay as much towards the tuition as they can afford so that we may spread the scholarship money to as many families as possible.

**How do I get a scholarship?**

We have a Financial Assistance Form that you will need to fill out. It can be downloaded from the ACT Web site, or you may contact the box office at ACT to e-mail or mail a hard copy to you. We will be collecting the financial assistance forms until April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at which point a decision will be made. Please expect to be contacted about the financial assistance we can offer by the middle of May.

**Frequently Asked Questions about Advanced Camp:**

**How is Advanced Camp different from the regular sessions of camp?**

It is intensive training in acting and design and expands the parameters of study to lighting, sound and stage combat, to name a few. The schedule will be different and expectations will be higher for the campers in effort, behavior, memorization and performance.

**Participation in Advanced Camp is by permission only. How do we obtain permission for my child to attend the camp?**

Contact the ACT box office to express interest in participating in the Advanced Camp. Students for the advanced camp will be chosen on an individual basis and ACT staff will get back in touch with you within two weeks to let you know if your child can be enrolled.

**If my child likes to work on design but does not enjoy acting as much, will they enjoy Advanced Camp?**

As Advanced Camp stands now, it is a camp for serious actors who are interested in learning more about design and other aspects of theatre. In future summers, it is possible that there will be a choice for a more focused design experience with less acting.

**Can my child attend both Advanced Camp and one of the camp sessions?**

Not this year. The summer schedule this year prevents double camp attendance given that the sessions overlap with Advanced Camp. In future summers, we hope to avoid such overlaps.

**When will the final performance be for Advanced Camp and whom can I invite?**

The final performance will be at 2pm on Friday August 6<sup>th</sup> at Asheville Community Theatre. As with other performances for camp, you may invite anyone you wish to come and see the show!

**Is financial assistance also available for Advanced Camp?**

Yes, a limited amount of financial assistance is available for Advanced Camp as it is for the other sessions of camp—see the last two questions above for instructions and please be sure to get the form in before April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

**How does a youth go about applying for a Teacher's Assistant or Junior Assistant Position with summer camp?**

If someone is interested in a position, they will need to fill out an application by April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Applications can be obtained by contacting the ACT Box office or by contacting Janna Hoekema, Camp Director, at [summercamp@ashevilletheatre.org](mailto:summercamp@ashevilletheatre.org)