

# Young Artist Training Program

Our Productions Theatre Co.



## 2020-2021 Young Artist Training Program

Dear Parent and Young Artist,

Welcome to a new and exciting year with the Young Artist Training Program, the educational outreach of our nonprofit, professional theatre company! Our educational program is unique in many ways.

- **A Good Fit:** We interview and audition every child to determine if they are well suited for this program. We only accept children that we feel will *grow and thrive* in our programs. We make recommendations of alternative programs to students to whom our program is not well-suited. It must be a match from both student and teachers.
- **Standards:** We hold extremely high standards and expectations for our students. Students are evaluated twice annually to help aid them in their studies and help them to reach their goals. We *keep students individually challenged* at every level, whether a first or tenth year student, and we constantly evaluate our program for the best possible results.
- **Experienced, Talented Faculty:** We bring in the best, highly qualified, caring, working professional instructors, to work with our talented students. We believe that faculty should only teach what they do as a profession. Beyond that, our faculty & guest artists are not only great artists, but also *highly experienced*, talented coaches that are passionate about educating the next generation. Our faculty waste no time in identifying the best course of action for each and every student.
- **Professional Environment:** We believe the best way to train young artists to be professional is by treating them like professionals. We do this in our class work, rehearsals and performances. We expect our students to be responsible, arrive on time, be prepared for every class, completing at home practicing on a regular basis, and treating others with professional courtesy and *respect*. We invest in our students and we expect them to return the same respect.
- **Small by choice:** After nearly three decades of training young professionals we know that a smaller program provides more exceptional, individualized, custom, unique training than a large one. Our Educational Director personally oversees the training of each student. We *know* our students. We know how they learn, and who they are. Our small student base & integrated curriculum increases the pace and speed at which our classes can move and *our students see serious, life-changing results*. Our students are also able to mentor and learn from one another in our small community. Quality over quantity is our goal.
- **Financial Assistance:** The cost of tuition should not discourage anyone from applying to our program. Limited financial aid is available to qualified students with applications reviewed annually by the Board of Directors. **We are a non-profit, 501 (c) 3 IRS recognized charitable organization.**

Our program is honored to have drawn people from around the Metroplex seeing the highest standard of performing arts training. Each year, we renew our commitment to uphold these goals and standards. We take the responsibility of giving your child the best performing arts training seriously. YATP students & alumni are well respected in the industry and we are proud to continue our 28+ year tradition with the next generation of performers.

***Please read the enclosed information carefully and keep it for your future reference. It is important for the success of your child and our program for parents to familiarize themselves with this information.***

Best regards,

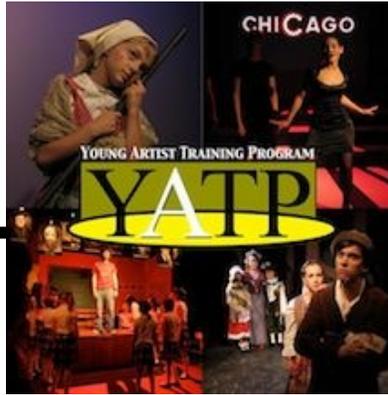
Stephanie Riggs, Educational & Artistic Director

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**Mailing Address: P.O. Box 271483, Flower Mound, TX 75027-1483**

**Physical Address: MCL Grand Theater, 100 North Charles Street, Lewisville, TX 75057**

**Email: [info@ourproductions.org](mailto:info@ourproductions.org) Ph: 972-724-2147 Online: [www.ourproductions.org](http://www.ourproductions.org)**



## YATP Student Handbook 2020-2021

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### Other Attachments *(Available for download from website.):*

- 1) YATP Proposed Calendar of Events 2020-2021
- 2) 2021 Summer Camp *(Information coming soon)*
- 3) Financial Assistance Application Information

The Young Artist Training program is an educational outreach of Our Productions Theatre Co. (*d.b.a. of Expressions Performing Arts*), a professional theatre company founded in 1993. We are a nonprofit, 501 (c) 3 IRS recognized charity celebrating more than 28 years entertaining and educating our community in 2020!

### ***Mission Statement:***

*To develop cultural growth in North Texas by challenging audiences through presentation of new, diverse, and classic theatrical productions for both adults and children; raising awareness of important issues through performance; fostering the educational development of future artists; and preserving the heritage of theatrical performances for both current and future generations.*

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## Young Artist Training Program New Student Admissions/Audition Information

### For Potential Students & New Families:

We are honored to have you inquire about our programs. Our program is unique and unlike other area options in many ways. We are a technique based, mentorship program, building long term coaching relationships with serious students who are dedicated to their craft. Students normally train with us from 5 -10 years or longer, until graduation. When considering our program, please take a few minutes to read the enclosed information. It will help answer many of your questions, and let you know detailed information on our intensive training program. This page will let you know about the admissions process, what to expect, what we are looking for, and how to prepare for your auditions. We can't wait to meet you in person!

New students are admitted on a space available basis each year as determined by the Educational Director. Enrollment is not rolling, and students enroll each summer for the entire school year. YATP typically has approximately 3-6 opening each year based on attrition. We work hard to maintain a balance of ages from elementary to high school/college prep. We keep the program small by design, and cannot predict from year to year the number of openings.

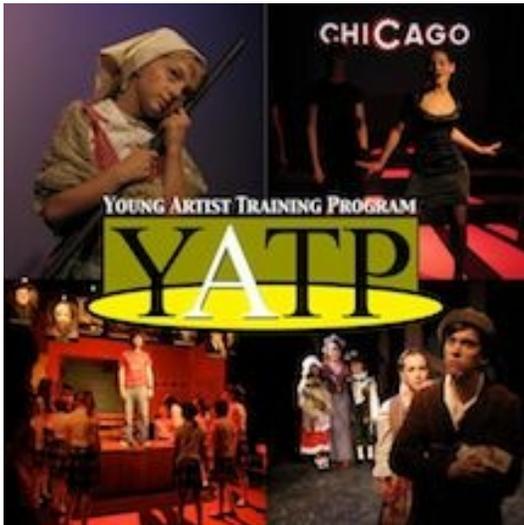
*Students desiring to audition need not have any previous experience.  
The faculty is looking for bright, naturally gifted children that take direction well.*

### Audition Process

- 1) **Grades 2nd - 10th** may audition in our annual *open enrollment summer camp* held annually in June. Students will be assessed by the Educational Director during the camp, and will also get a taste of what being a YATP student is like. *If any openings remain following camp, students may schedule a private audition on a case by case basis. This is rare, so please mark your calendars to attend the summer camp. Your child will want to have worked the week of camp to experience our program as well. It is essential to understanding the culture, expectations and community of our program. Camp fills quickly annually, so keep watch for registration information in February each year. Summer Camp is our only open enrollment opportunity.*
- 2) **Grades 11th grade or higher** must schedule a private audition (contact us directly for details) and submit two recommendation letters with request for audition. *Please be advised that starting in our program in high school is extremely challenging. It is not possible to push five years of training into a two or three year period. The key to great college preparation is to start early, be diligent, and train hard over a number of years.*

If the faculty feels that our program is well suited for the candidate, and an opening is available, the student will be admitted into the program. *If you are accepted, but waitlisted one year, please resubmit for audition the following year as space in your age group may become available.* It is highly recommended that prospective students attend a YATP youth performance before auditioning in camp, to understand the goals and standards of the program. If the program is not a good match for an individual student, suggestions will be made on other programs in the area. Notices for Summer Camp Enrollment/Audition are sent via email to our E-Newsletter members. To subscribe to this free, online playbill of the theatre, visit [ourproductionstheatreco.org](http://ourproductionstheatreco.org), click 'Contact' and enter your information.

*We look forward to meeting you at Summer Camp! Our summer campers work hard, learn much, and are proud of what they accomplish at the end of the week. It is the absolute best way to see if the program is right for YOU and if YOU are the right fit for the program. Training and mentorship is a team journey!*



# Young Artist Training Program Musical Theatre Syllabus

*New Students admitted by audition-Please see New Student Admissions/Audition Information.* We train students to work in the professional performing arts. Our program accepts only a small number of new students annually. Most students train for 5-10 years, or until graduation. The program requires preparation for each student & custom curriculum, therefore; late or rolling admissions are not accepted. Students commit for an entire school year. Our classes are held in mixed aged groups, with elementary/middle and high school students separating for independent study as needed during the fall term, and coming together for the spring term. As most professional settings call for a wide variety of characters, ages, and types, mixing of ages is a prime component of YATP training. Mentoring is also an enormous part of our teaching philosophy, patterning up younger and older students many times during the year. During pre-production weeks, student schedules are determined by the director.

## **YATP Musical Theatre Conservatory - Unique & Outstanding Training with Experienced Professionals**

Our program focuses on advancement of musical theatre techniques & skills, along with required audition skills in the fall, and culminates in the preparation of a musical theatre production (live or filmed) in the spring with a professional team of directors and designers. Skills include proper vocal technique, coaching in a variety of vocal styles, learning sight-reading skills, music theory work, musical theatre dance skills, acting skills & methods, acting through a song, character development, audition preparation techniques and audition book building. The focus is on training young performers with a solid foundation of technical skills needed to book roles/audition professionally and if desired, assist them in gaining admittance to an outstanding university program.

*\*\*It is essential that all MTH students also be enrolled in as many additional, regular dance courses outside of YATP as their schedule allows.*

### **Schedule:**

**Our classes meet on Saturdays.** *\*\*Please see YATP Calendar for specific schedule for each week and to determine "S=short" or "L=long" schedule days.*

#### **Fall Term:**

**2nd-8th Grade Students: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. (S), 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (L)**

**College Prep. Students (High School/8th Grade Audits): 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (S), 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.(L)**

#### **Spring Term:**

**Students are typically scheduled to meet from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m./3:00 p.m., with call time schedules emailed weekly.**

\* **Students enroll for the entire school year.** This includes approximately 18-20 regular weekly meetings plus additional rehearsal days, other events, gatherings & performances to equal 100+ hours of instruction annually.

\*\* **Please note that regular attendance is mandatory for all classes.**

This is very crucial for keeping up with the class work. YATP's attendance policy will allow no more than 2 absences from regular classes per term. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> absence, faculty *may* drop the student from the class or the performance as to not hold back the other class members. A student missing more than 30 minutes of class will be counted absent for that day. College/ University Audition days and mandatory school events (for a grade) are considered excused absences. However, performance roles and assignments will be adjusted accordingly for the benefit of the group as needed. Please check the 'Performer/ Attendance Contract' and the 'YATP Calendar of Events' for a list of mandatory tech rehearsals and production performances prior to enrolling in a class. Students may be dropped at faculty discretion due to absences that cause undue stress on other students or that cause the student in question to be unprepared for class. A dropped student does not receive a tuition refund.

## **Student Boot Camp/Parents Meeting**

Boot camp is held the first Saturday of each fall term and will encompass detailed instruction on what to expect in class and an introduction to technical exercises to be added to the student's practice routine. Boot Camp is our fun way to get in gear for the year ahead and make sure parents and students have all of the information they need, as well as to meet the other YATP families!

## **Private Lessons**

Private vocal coaching is available from Stephanie Riggs, Educational Director, to students currently enrolled in the Young Artist Training Program. If you are interested in PRIVATE COACHING, please contact the office to be placed on the waiting/stand-by list or for further information. ***You must be a current YATP student to be on the stand-by/waiting list for private tutoring/coaching with Ms. Riggs at the MCL Grand.***



## Young Artist Training Program School Policies 2020-2021

- \* **A non-refundable \$450 Application/Enrollment Fee & tuition deposit is due at time of enrollment. This secures your child’s spot in the program.**  
*Student space is not guaranteed until enrollment contracts and deposit has been made.*
- \* Tuition may be paid in two, four or ten equal payments **via auto-charge/draft** after *Initial Registration/ Enrollment Fee* has been paid.
- \* All tuition payments and fees are non-refundable.
- \* Students enroll for the entire school year (August/fall & April/spring) & are responsible for the full tuition for the year unless drop notice per term is received by below dates.
- \* Withdrawal/Drop deadlines are July 15th (fall) and November 15 (spring) for the next term.
- \* Enrollment in a class constitutes parent/student agreement to all YATP policies.
- \* Enrollment is not rolling. We hold each student’s place in the program for the entire school year regardless of their completion of that term.
- \* Returning current students need not re-audition annually as their work and progress in the program will determine re-enrollment eligibility for the next year.
- \* Graduating Seniors are responsible for tuition for the entire year, regardless of spring term completion due to the enormous amount of front loading of instruction and college coaching during Senior year.

### Tuition & Fees for School Year 2019-2020

**Annual Tuition & Fees - \$3750 paid as follows:**

**Application/Registration & Deposit Fees - \$450** (*Discounted to \$350 for returning students enrolling by 5/31*)

**Remaining Annual Tuition - \$3300**

*\*Payable in installments - 2 pmts of \$1650, 4 pmts of \$825, OR 10 pmts of \$330-July to April*

*\*\*Families with multiple children take a 20% discount off of the tuition for the second child enrolled (2+).*

#### ***Tuition Assistance/Financial Aid***

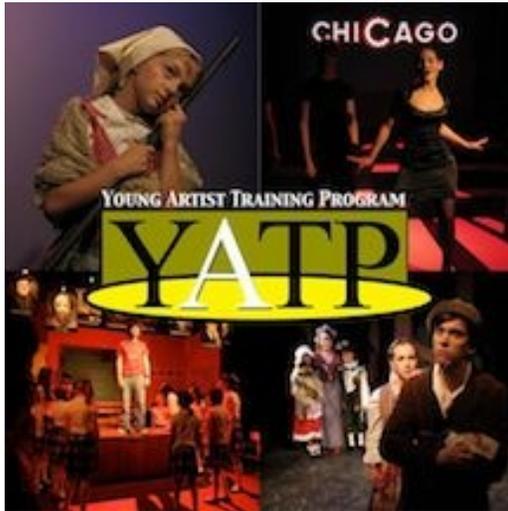
YATP never wants to lose a qualified student due to financial constraints or concerns. Need based financial assistance is available for qualified students. It is the goal of the Board for admitted students to be able to participate in our programs regardless of ability to pay tuition. Aid is limited, administered on a first come/first serve basis, and awards must be reapplied for each year. Please see “Financial Assistance” letter via website for instructions on how to apply.

**Financial aid applications are due by May 10th for returning students and June 10th for new students.**

### **To complete enrollment follow these steps:**

- 1) **NEW Students:** Enroll in Summer Technique Camp for audition. Admissions decisions will be **emailed** to parents on the last day of camp as “Admitted”, “Waitlisted”, or “Re-Audition” in the future. If admitted following camp, you will receive enrollment contracts via email. Only if any openings remain following camp acceptances, will individual auditions be scheduled at discretion of Director. *Please note that it is common for students to audition more than once prior to gaining acceptance, and a Waitlisted or Re-Audition student is WELCOME and ENCOURAGED to reapply the next year. Admission offers are time sensitive must be accepted by deadline as space is not guaranteed until completed contracts and deposits are received.*
- 2) **RETURNING Students:** You will receive an **email** with the ONLINE enrollment contract. Space is not guaranteed until completed contracts and deposits are received. Returning student enrollment closes 5/31.

[www.ourproductions.org](http://www.ourproductions.org), [info@ourproductions.org](mailto:info@ourproductions.org)



## Young Artist Training Program Class Supply List & Dress-Code

- Female students should wear dance attire and have their hair pulled out of their face. Male students may wear athletic pants & t-shirts.
- Rubber soled shoes or jazz shoes(preferred). Girls 8th grade and older should plan on having heeled character shoes for class work and auditions.
- Personal recording device** – Recording with phones is acceptable, **but using cell phones during class for purposes other than recording is not allowed.**
- Sturdy, 3 ring binder of 2”+, dividers or tabs, plastic page protectors (non-glare)
- Multiple sharpened pencils and highlighter
- Water jug or bottle of water

*Supplies should be brought to every class/rehearsal. Students that attend class without proper attire & supplies may be asked to sit out and observe that day. Students are responsible for keeping up with their own music and scripts given out in class. Most production scripts are rentals, and may only be marked in pencil, and must be returned fully erased at term's end.*

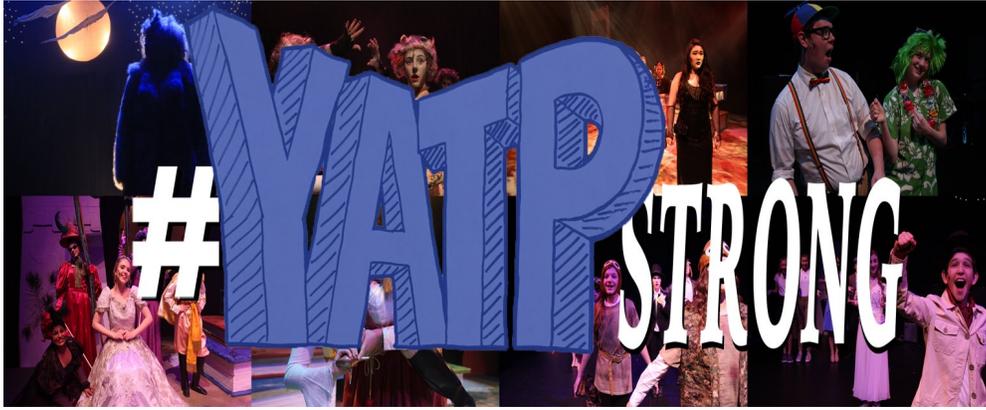
## Young Artist Training Program Stephanie Riggs, Educational Director

*Guest artists & additional faculty are subject to change due to professional schedules, and will be scheduled through out the year as deemed appropriate by the Educational Director.*

Ms. Riggs holds a B. F. A. in Theatre and Television from Texas Christian University, where she received the Fine Arts Guild and Ann Bradshaw Stokes Scholarships for her work in Musical Theatre. While at T. C. U., Stephanie studied voice under Dr. Vincent Russo, editor of 'The Journal of Research in Singing' and Jan Sullivan, author of *The Phenomenon of the Belt-Pop Voice*. An award winning and nominated actress and director, Stephanie has performed with Casa Manana, Lyric Stage, Theatre Three, Uptown Players, PRT, WaterTower Theatre, and Our Productions. She appeared in the regional premier of multiple Tony Award winner producer, GFour Production's *Motherhood, The Musical* in 2011. Stephanie is a multiple time featured soloist with the Las Colinas/New Arlington/Garland Symphonies and performed cabaret entertainment regularly both with Uptown Players and independently. She is also a voice-over/recording artist working for companies such as Mary Kay Cosmetics, The Staubach Corp., Southwest Airlines, WRR Classical 101.1 & The Las Colinas Symphony. She is the current Educational Director and Artistic Director of Our Productions Theatre Co., a professional, nonprofit theatre & is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers. As a teacher with over 26 years of teaching experience, Stephanie holds her Teaching Certificate with the [Royal Academy of Dancing](#), and has studied classical ballet with Egan Weng of the Royal Danish Ballet, and in Oslo, Norway with the Royal Norwegian Ballet. She has attended multiple [R. A. D.](#) workshops with Lynn Wallis and Dame Antoinette Sibley as well as esteemed prima ballerina Irina Baronova in Banff, Canada and London, England. In the States, she has received teacher training from Gillian Davis, [R. A. D.](#) Examiner at the Callanwolde Fine Arts Center in Atlanta, Georgia. Stephanie's past and current students have worked in National, Regional and Local professional productions. As a director, Stephanie's work has been award winning and critically acclaimed in the Metroplex. Stephanie has also twice directed the youth choir composed of her own students for the Dallas Summer Musical's stop of the National Tour of *Joseph...Dreamcoat*®.



Her alumni students have appeared in or worked on several off-Broadway and Broadway productions along with many National Touring productions, appeared in locally at Dallas Theater Center, Casa Manana, and other local professional theatre productions including Lyric Stage, WaterTower Theater & of course here, at Our Productions. Students are also currently appearing in & working on national television series, for the Disney Co., in commercials and feature films. Stephanie also offers private vocal coaching to selected Y.A.T.P. students developing both the proper belt/pop placement and a classical/legit sound. Her students are known for their technical skill, discipline, courteousness, and work ethic and most alumni students that are working professionals today credit Y.A.T. P. with giving them a solid foundation that helped them off to a great start. Stephanie's graduating seniors historically and regularly gain admittance to top university programs, most attending with scholarships.



April 25, 2020

**A note to our YATP Family about Covid-19 Strategic Planning for 2020-2021:**

During these uncertain times, our faculty and Board want to assure you that should ongoing or secondary waves of social distancing be required, we have some certainties that you can count on. The safety of our families, faculty and students is paramount to us...but so is the advancement of our student's training, ability for them to have a creative outlet & social/artistic connection, and good mental health. Regardless of what 2020-2021 throws our way, we will be ready to tackle it. We have multiple back-up plans in place for distance learning, including for both our fall 2020 and spring 2021 term curriculum, including performance alternatives for our students.

As of the current time, with so many professional theaters and university programs moving to online/taped audition submissions, we are planning a shift for our fall audition curriculum to focus on the art of taping auditions for submissions both for musicals/play auditions as well as university submissions. This will be in addition to our regular, fundamental techniques studied in class and will occur whether or not classes are in person or have to shift to online/distance coaching.

In addition, similar to the trends in entertainment happening prior to the pandemic with live stream musicals and/or T.V. series becoming more and more prevalent and popular, we also have plans in place to consider a filmed spring musical or live streamed musical event in 2021. The decision on this angle of performance vs. an in person production will be determined towards the end of 2020 by the faculty based on current conditions and circumstances to best keep our students safe.

***Know we are planning for and will be prepared for many different scenarios to best continue the paramount task of training our young artists to handle this new world for which they are being thrust into. Regardless of whether we are in person or apart, we will be ready to make any transitions necessary as seamlessly as possible and without skipping a beat, so that our student's training continues. We will prepare them as artists with skills needed to remain competitive and at the top of their game in this ever changing world.***

Additionally during this time, our Board of Directors would like to let you know that if anyone experiences financial concerns as a result of the pandemic, we will be reviewing emergency financial assistance requests on a continual basis through the end of spring term 2021, rather than the previous once annual date. Please reach out to us if you need assistance at any time over the year. We never want to lose a qualified student due to financial concerns.

**We are #YATPstrong and in this together.**

We look forward to the next year with our fantastic students! Thank you for entrusting their performing arts training to us.

Stay safe and healthy!

Warmly,

Stephanie Riggs  
Educational & Artistic Director