

New Jersey Youth Theatre

State Recognized for Excellence in Theatre Arts Training



NJYT 2016 Production of *Into the Woods*

2016-2017 Performing Arts Classes (for Ages 8 to 21+)

STUDIO LOCATION:

172 W. Westfield Avenue, Roselle Park, NJ 07204

Office: 908-233-3200 E-mail: njyt.wyact@gmail.com

Website: www.njyouththeatre.org

A Nonprofit Professional Youth-Theatre Company



Dear Students and Families,

The New Jersey Youth Theatre (NJYT), formerly WYACT, is proud to once again begin its Fall semester of Theatre-Arts Classes for our expanding population of talented students and instructors from around the state and beyond.

Throughout the next eight months (two semesters) of training, we look forward to providing an excellent learning opportunity for all students (age 8 – 21+) interested in developing performing arts skills. Our professional teaching staff will provide instruction in the disciplines and techniques of dance, drama, musical theatre and vocal performance. Our students will gain the self-confidence and competency that not only helps them to pursue a career in theatre, if they so choose, but also to face life's challenges. Our training will instill in each student a life-long appreciation of the arts.

Founded in 1991, NJYT is celebrated today as one of the finest *youth*-theatre companies in the State of New Jersey. It is recognized by the New Jersey State Council On The Arts and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation for providing the highest quality theatre-arts education, in both performing and technical areas, to aspiring young talent.

Since 1992, NJYT's free summer program has continued to produce full-scale, professional theatre productions with all-youth casts and youth orchestras in professional theatres throughout New Jersey. This endeavor has introduced to young participants, and the population at large, not only cultural and classic theatrical events, but also lesser-known significant works rarely presented in the State. Last summer, in association with and at the Wharton Theatre in Berkeley Heights, NJYT presented the musical classic, *INTO THE WOODS*, Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, Book by James Lapine. The cast and orchestra received standing ovations at each performance, and the full experience introduced them to the protocols, processes, and demands of professional theatre production development.

Our participants in past productions have gone on to Broadway, prime-time television, movies and to major regional theatres across the country. As important, many were accepted into first-rate theatre-arts programs at major colleges and universities. We are very proud of our students, past and present, and continue to encourage them to strive for goals they previously thought unattainable. Our motto holds true: "Anything Is Possible!"

Sincerely,

Cynthia Meryl

Artistic Director

REGISTRATION & OTHER KEY INFORMATION

Class Registration: Thursdays, September 15 & 22, 2016 - 4 PM to 8 PM

Fridays, September 16 & 23, 2016 - 4 PM to 8 PM

Registration & Studio Location: 172 W. Westfield Avenue, Roselle Park, NJ 07204

For General Information, Call Office: 908-233-3200 between 10 AM & 4 PM, Mon-Fri;
or Studio: 908-620-2000, between 4 PM & 8 PM, Mon-Wed

Billing Address: 656 Westfield Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090

For Billing Questions, call 908-233-3200

School Year: **Semester (1)** October 10, 2016 thru January 17, 2017

Semester (2) January 23, 2017 thru May 2, 2017

Parent Viewing: November 14 thru 15, 2016; February 6 thru 7, 2017

(Dates subject to change)

Student Recital ("The Cabaret"): Saturday, May 6, 2017: Location: Westlake School,
1571 Lambert's Mill Road in Westfield, NJ

The Cabaret:

Auditions: Week of March 13, 2017

Students will audition in their respective class(es)

Technical Rehearsal: (at Cabaret Location)

Friday, April 28, 2017, 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Dress Rehearsals: (at Cabaret Location):

Saturday, May 6, 2017, 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Performances: Saturday, May 6, 2017

7:00 PM Curtain – Cabaret performers

Tickets: \$20-Adult; \$10-Youngsters (under age 18)

(Attendance at Technical and Dress Rehearsals is mandatory for all students in the Cabaret)

Class Vacation Schedule:

Mon., Dec. 26 -.27, 2016

(Christmas Break)

Mon., Jan. 2, 2017

(New Year's Day)

Mon., Jan. 16, 2017

(Martin Luther King Day)

Mon., Feb. 20, 2017

(Presidents' Day Break)

Mon., April 11 - 15, 2017

(Spring Break)

CLASSES

VOICE, DRAMA, MUSICAL THEATRE, BALLET

Voice: Private, individual voice classes concentrate on vocal technique, song selection, interpretation, coaching, and college audition preparation. Private lessons are limited to 18 students on a bi-monthly basis. Entrance into the Voice Studio is by audition only.

Drama: The art and technique of Acting. The various levels of drama classes focus on improvisation, character development and scene study. The beginning levels concentrate on basic skills, technique, losing inhibitions, and the building of confidence as a performer. **Dress Code** – Comfortable clothing, rubber-soled shoes.

Students seeking the Intermediate-II/Advanced Acting class are required to audition for the class. Audition Date: October 10, 2016; **Audition Requisite:** Prepare a monologue of at least one-minute in length. Student must be “off book.”

Musical Theatre: Various levels of Musical Theatre classes focus on song selection, presentation and interpretation for audition and performance; ensemble work; voice technique/projection; musical theatre movement and dance. **Prerequisite:** Student is required to take at least one dance class per week (at least one year of ballet) in conjunction with this class. Good working knowledge of dance vocabulary and proper dance technique is essential. **Dress Code** – any color leotard and tights, jazz pants (optional), jazz shoes. **(NO JEANS)**

Ballet I: Learn the standard ballet vocabulary, the positions, port de bras, and other ballet techniques. This class consists of work at the barre, combinations in center-floor and across the floor. Students develop flexibility, strength, discipline, and a good technical foundation, the elements necessary for all forms of dance. **Dress Code** - Ladies: black leotard, pink tights, ballet shoes, hair securely pulled back off the face; Gentlemen: T-shirt, dance pants, ballet flats or jazz shoes.

PICK YOUR PAYMENT PLAN

Half-Semester Tuition Plan – Minimum Payment Plan: Tuition for first half-semester is **due in September 2016 at time of registration**. Each subsequent half-semester payment is due the week of **November 14, 2016, January 23, 2017** and **March 13, 2017**. (Refer to “Class Schedule & Tuition” chart for pricing.)

Full Semester Discount Plan: Semester I Tuition is due in full at registration. Semester II Tuition is due in full the week of **January 16, 2017**. (Refer to “Class Schedule & Tuition” chart for pricing.)

Private Voice Lessons are packaged in 4-lesson increments and require a 4-lesson minimum payment in advance. Tuition is due at the first lesson (starting at registration), and at every fourth lesson thereafter. (Refer to “Class Schedule & Tuition” Chart for pricing.)

**PAYMENTS BY MAIL ARE TO BE SENT TO NJYT’S BILLING ADDRESS:
656 WESTFIELD AVENUE, WESTFIELD, NJ 07090**

OTHER FEES

Registration Fee: \$45. This is a nonrefundable, annual fee due at registration.

Late Fee: \$25. This fee is imposed when tuition is not paid on time in accordance with your "Payment Plan." The Late Fee, along with the Tuition payment, is due on the Student's next day of class **without exception** or Student will not be readmitted to class.

Check-Return Fee: \$35. This additional fee is imposed when your check is returned to NJYT due to insufficient funds or any other default issued by your bank. The full Check amount including the Check-Return Fee must be paid to NJYT **in cash** not later than one (1) week following NJYT's notice to you of the returned check.

Reinstatement Fee: \$35. This fee is due when Student elects to rejoin Class after three absences and has the prior approval to do so by the School's Artistic Director.



SCHOOL POLICIES

Student Placement: Determined and governed by the School Faculty, a student's placement will be commensurate with his/her level of skill and experience.

Absenteeism & Tardiness: Students are expected to attend their scheduled classes on a regular, timely basis and are asked not to schedule other activities or appointments that affect their attendance.

Only illness or emergency is considered an excused absence from class. In such instance, a Student (or Student's parent or guardian) must notify NJYT (908-233-3200) of the illness or emergency within 12–24 hours prior to the absence. **An absence from class for reasons other than illness or emergency respectfully requires 24-hours advance notice to NJYT.**

Promptness is an essential part of training and, therefore, it is essential that students arrive to class on time. **Tardiness (late arrival to class) interferes with a student's progress and disturbs other students in the class.** Reasonable explanations may be acceptable, but habitual tardiness is not acceptable and may, at the discretion of the Class Instructor, disallow a student's return to class.

A Student who is absent from or late to class three (3) times in a Semester for reasons other than illness or emergency will be suspended from that class and subject to a Reinstatement Fee (See "Other Fees"), if the student elects to rejoin that class.

SCHOOL POLICIES (continued)

Absenteeism & Tardiness (Continued): A Student in Private Voice is assigned a specific time-slot (a specific day and time, constant from lesson to lesson during the school year) for the period of his/her paid enrollment in Private Voice. Lessons are scheduled once a week or once every two weeks. (Minimum enrollment is 4 private lessons.) Each Voice student, within the first two weeks following enrollment, will receive a Contact List of names and phone numbers of all the students enrolled in Private Voice lessons. **If, for reasons other than illness or emergency, a voice student cannot attend his/her scheduled voice lesson, then the student, student's parent(s) or guardian must (1) provide NJYT with 48-hours advance notice of the absence, and (2) prior to the absence, personally arrange to exchange lessons with another NJYT voice student (on the Contact List) or to find another voice student (on the Contact list) willing to take the lesson in question as an additional lesson.** In either case, the intended absentee or his/her parent(s)/guardian must notify the school with the name of the student who will fill the time-slot. **If the time-slot cannot be filled, then the student intending to be absent will assume the cost of the lesson.**

Makeup Class: A Dance, Acting or Musical Theatre student returning to class from an excused absence may, in addition to that class, take any (age-/skill-appropriate) class of his/her choosing (except for Private Voice class) as a makeup. **A private voice student** returning from an excused absence may take an open voice slot (when available and only if the Student's recent payment covers that slot) or a musical theatre class (age-/skill-appropriate) as a makeup. **The makeup class for an excused absence is at no additional cost, provided that NJYT is notified of the absence within the hours specified under the Absenteeism policy above. Any unexcused absence does not entitle the student to a free class makeup.**

Registration Fee and Initial Class Tuition: Both are due at time of registration, either in cash or by personal check made payable to NJYT. **NEITHER WILL BE PRORATED OR REFUNDABLE.** Students who owe Tuition for prior-year classes will **not** be allowed in any class in the current year until back tuition is paid in full, along with a Late Payment Fee (See "Other Fees"). **Class tuition is to be paid in advance or on the day tuition is due without exception.**

Cell Phones/IPads/All handheld Technology Devices: The use of technology devices are restricted to school lobby and student dressing area only.

Student Recital (The Cabaret) To participate in the Cabaret, a Student must meet **all the following requirements:** a) Class tuition must be paid in full for the year, including registration and any other fees, if applicable; b) Student must not have more than three (3) unexcused absences in a semester; c) Student must audition for the Cabaret and **must attend all technical and dress rehearsals;** and d) **Student must attend his/her scheduled class(es) during the two weeks prior to Cabaret performances.** If Student does not comply with all the above (a-d), Student will **not** be permitted to perform in the Recital. ***(Cabaret Recital is subject to cancellation at the discretion of the Artistic Director.)***

Studio/Facility Damage: Student and its parent(s) or guardian shall be fully liable for the repair or replacement of any part of the premises deliberately altered, defaced, mutilated, changed, or otherwise damaged by the Student.

Insurance: Student or Student's parent(s) or legal guardian shall maintain, at its sole cost, Primary Accident Medical insurance to cover Student while in class or on studio premises.

CLASS SCHEDULE & TUITION
October 10, 2016 – May 2, 2017
(Schedule and Tuition Subject to Change)

Class	Day	Studio	Class Time (Hrs)	Time	Start Day	Half-Semester Tuition \$	Semester Discount Plan \$
BALLET I	Mon.	1	1	4:00-5:00 PM	10/10/2016	198	365
VOICE **	Mon.	V	0.5	4:30-5:00 PM	10/10/2016		
MUSICAL THEATRE I *	Mon.	1	1.5	5:00-6:30 PM	10/10/2016	270	498
VOICE **	Mon.	V	0.5	6:30-7:30 PM	10/10/2016		
ACT. ADV. (INT. II)	Mon.	1	1.5	7:30-9:00 PM	10/10/2016	212	390
ACT. BEG. I	Tues.	2	1.25	4:15-5:30 PM	10/11/2016	210	385
Voice **	Tues.	V	0.5	6:00-7:00 PM	10/11/2016		
ACT. INT. I (TEENS)	Tues.	2	1.5	5:30-7:00 PM	10/11/2016	212	390
MUSICAL THEATRE II	Tues.	1	1.5	7:00-8:30PM	10/11/2016	270	498

* MUSICAL THEATRE students are required to take at least 1 Dance Class weekly in addition to their Musical Theatre Class.

** PRIVATE VOICE requires a minimum payment of \$220 in advance for four half-hour lessons. Each subsequent payment requires the equivalent amount in advance, covering four half-hour lessons.

FACULTY



CYNTHIA MERYL (Acting, Musical Theatre, Voice) is the Artistic Director and Master Teacher for NJYT's School for the Performing Arts. A professional theatre arts educator for forty-five years, she works with all age groups, elementary through college students, teaching acting and musical theatre classes, providing private training/coaching in voice, as well as free audition workshops to high schools throughout New Jersey. Ms. Meryl is also Stage Director of NJYT's professional productions at various professional theatres in NJ. Her stage direction credits include 40 major musicals and plays including last summer's NJYT production of *Into the Woods*. Other directorial credits include *Cabaret*, *Oklahoma!*, *Smokey Joe's Café*, *Kiss Me, Kate*, *Rent*, *Sweeney Todd*, *1776*, *Carousel*, *Guys and Dolls*, and *Midnight Madness* (a new musical with Book and Lyrics by Cynthia Meryl, Music by Jack Bender). Since 1998, the shows have been produced at and in association with such theatres as the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), Morris Museum's Bickford Theatre, the Algonquin Arts Theatre, the Wharton Arts Theatre, and Centenary Stage, receiving rave reviews from theatre critic Peter Filichia of the Star Ledger and TheatreMania.com. NJYT's *Ragtime*, *The Musical* in 2006 and *Sweeney Todd* in 2009 were not only lauded by Peter Filichia as "Best Musical Revivals," but held Cynthia Meryl as "Best Director of a Musical" in New Jersey. Ms. Meryl has also directed and adapted for the stage a radio version of *A Christmas Carol* and all of NJYT's Cabaret Recitals. Her performance credits as a professional actress include the original award-winning Broadway musical *Nine* with Raul Julia, *My Fair Lady* opposite Noel Harrison, Nellie in *South Pacific* opposite Giorgio Tozzi, and the list goes on.



KIANA ROSA (Ballet) received her B.F.A. in Dance from Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University in 2016. Before Mason Gross, Kiana trained under Cleo Mack while attending MCVTS School of the Arts for dance during her last two years of high school. While training at MCVTS, she worked with and performed works by Cleo Mack, Blair Ritchie, Michelle Robinson, and Stuart Loungway. At Mason Gross, she performed faculty works by Randy James, John Evans, Keith Thompson, Chien-Ying Wang, Meghan Frederick, and guest works by Camille A. Brown, Kyle Abraham, and Netta Yerushalmy. In 2015, her choreography was presented at ACDA at Brockport in Rochester, NY. Kiana participated in NJYT's musical productions of *West Side Story* (2013) and *Oklahoma!* (2014), both choreographed by Sherry Alban. She is also PMA teacher certified in Pilates through the Polestar Education program.



ALBERTA HANDELMAN (Acting) is an actor, acting teacher, writer, director, and founder/artistic director of the award-winning Blooming Grove Theater Ensemble. She has been teaching acting in professional training programs, and private and public schools for more than 40 years. Highlights of Alberta's acting career include the roles of Mrs. Cage in *Mrs. Cage*, Edna in *Prisoner of Second Avenue*, and Golde in *Fiddler on the Roof*. Her professional directorial credits include *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Man for All Seasons*, and the premiers of the operetta *Rappaccini's Daughter*. Alberta's greatest pleasure is in the training of young actors, enabling them to use theater as a means of self-expression, and directing them in plays characterized by fine acting and high production values. She currently teaches at the New Jersey Youth Theater, the Blooming Grove Theater Ensemble, and Broadway Performing Arts. Alberta received her theater training at Northwestern University and the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, and earned her B.A. at Barnard College and her M.A. at Columbia University. She is a member of Actors Equity Association and holds NJ Teaching Certificates in Speech Arts and Dramatics, and in English.

FACULTY (continued)



JAMES CAMPODONICO (Musical Director/Accompanist) has taught vocal music for thirty-three years in the New Jersey public school system and has acted as musical director to over one hundred musical productions. An accomplished composer, his musical *Between The Lines* premiered at Luna Stage in Montclair and received the New Jersey Tony Award for “Best Musical Score Of The Year” from drama critic Peter Filichia of the *Star Ledger*. His musical *Murder On Broadway* also had a successful presentation at the York Theater in NYC. Mr. Campodonico’s

notable engagements include collaborations with the Paper Mill Playhouse, North Shore Music Theater, Luna Stage, Westbury Music Fair, Two River Theater in Red Bank, The Gateway Playhouse, and teaching musical theater classes at the Whole Theater in Montclair, NJ under the artistic direction of Olympia Dukakis. James recently composed a new musical called “What Do Critics Know?” which has been selected as one of ten finalists by the New York Musical Festival’s Next Link Project. The show was performed in the festival as a full production at the end of July 2015.

THEODORE J. AGRESS (Executive Director) has had a successful and diversified career in both theatrical and non-theatrical endeavors over the last 35 years. Starting in show business at age 17 as an aspiring actor led to a 20-year professional career on Broadway, National Tours, TV Soaps and film in productions such as: the original *Hello Dolly* (with Carol Channing and Ginger Rogers), *Dear World* (with Angela Lansbury), *Woman of the Year* (with Lauren Becall), *Coco* (with Katherine Hepburn), *As the World Turns*, *All My Children*, *One Life to Live*, *Ryan’s Hope*, *Captains & the Kings*, *Trip to Holocaust*, *Most Wanted* and many others. In search of change and other challenges, he found new opportunities, non-theatrical, for the next 10 years working in middle management at two major pharmaceutical companies in New Jersey, Ciba-Geigy and Merck & Co., achieving major business challenges for these corporations. In his spare time, still with one foot in theatre, he decided to help his wife Cynthia develop one of the most successful youth theatre companies in New Jersey, namely NJYT, now in its 23rd successful year. Before managing the business of NJYT, he was the Associate General Manager of the Paper Mill Playhouse.



NJYT’s production of *Anything Goes*



NJYT’s Production of *Kiss Me, Kate*

ATTENTION SUMMER PRODUCTION PARTICIPANTS

Our professionally produced production of *INTO THE WOODS* featuring young talent and professionals this past summer was a huge success. NJYT extends its sincere thanks and gratitude to all who helped make it possible. NJYT hopes to continue its collaboration with various professional theatres in New Jersey, and to again produce quality, live-stage production for the coming summer.

**Audition and Performance information for NJYT's 2017 production/s will be posted in February 2017 on NJYT's website:
www.njyouththeatre.org**

***For further information, call NJYT at 908-233-3200
or E-mail to njyt.wyact@njyouththeatre.org***

In support of future productions and classes, we look forward to again seeing all of our students and parents at our summer productions, fundraising events, and, of course, at our annual school recital: the **Cabaret Recital (May 6, 2017)**.

Thank you for your support.



NJYT's production of *Smokey Joe's Cafe*

All show Photography by Warren Westura



These are a just few of our
Alumns !!!

Okieriete Oneodowan - *Hamilton*, Broadway

Adam Rodgers - *An American in Paris*,
Broadway

Daisy Hobbs - *Aladdin*, Broadway

Matt Ban - *Rock of Ages*, Broadway

Jon Hoche - *Warhorse*, National Tour

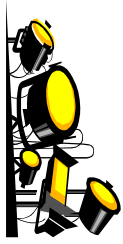
Lauren Palmeri - *Beauty and the Beast*, and
Elf the Musical, National Tours

Eryn LeCroy - *Jekyll and Hyde*, National Tour

Justin Gregory Lopez - *Paint Your Wagon*,
Off-Broadway

Kevin Sebastian - *Rollo's Wild Oat*,
Off-Broadway

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TO:

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