



GEORGE STREET PLAYHOUSE

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Contact: Christopher Howatt, (732) 846-2895, ext. 131
Email: chowatt@georgestplayhouse.org; or

Brian Kelley, (732) 846-2895, ext. 133
Email: bkelly@georgestplayhouse.org

George Street Playhouse Theatre Academy for Youth and Teens Offers Opportunity to Investigate, Collaborate and Transform July 6-July 31, 2015

Limited Number of Spots Available for a Fun, All-Day Theatre Camp for Youth and Teens

New Brunswick, NJ – George Street Playhouse's Summer Theatre Academy celebrates creative expression and provides a fun, engaging environment for youth and teens to explore theatre, develop self-confidence and collaborate with others. These affordable classes are for budding thespians, ages 13-18, of any experience level and vary in length between two and four weeks in duration.

Class hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and extended-care packages offering the convenience of early drop-off and late pick-up for busy parents are available. A 12:1 student-to-teacher ratio, professional facilities and the quality of its programs have made GSP's Summer Theatre Academy a popular summertime destination.

Two-week programs for students ages 5-8:

Song as Stories explores how songs tell stories. Students will play exciting games, create wonderful characters and learn the basics of musical theatre. The program concludes with students sharing the songs and theatrical storytelling they have learned in a performance on George Street Playhouse's mainstage. *Song as Stories* runs from July 6 through July 17.

Junior Company cultivates students' imagination, creativity and spirit of fun as they learn the foundations of theatre. By participating in theatre games, collaborative activities and improvisation, students will develop, rehearse and perform an original play based on a classic children's story. Students create the characters, design the costumes and develop ideas for the set as they prepare for a celebratory performance on George Street Playhouse's mainstage. *Junior Company* runs July 20 through July 31.

Two- and four-week programs* for students ages 9-12:

Musical Theatre: Rising M Company explores the joy of musical theatre through the rehearsal and performance of *Once on This Island, Jr.* by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty, presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International. Our team of theatre professionals will inspire confidence each step of the way as students develop singing, dancing and acting techniques that will culminate in a fully produced performance for family and friends on George Street Playhouse's mainstage. *Musical Theatre: Rising M Company* runs July 6 through July 31.

Play Production: Rising Company ventures into a fun, mythic world of imagination to develop, rehearse and perform an original, action-packed play. Students learn the foundations of acting through improvisation, character development and collaborative activities as they create a performance to share with family and friends on George Street Playhouse's mainstage. *Play Production: Rising Company* runs July 20 through July 31.

Two- and four-week programs* for students ages 13-18:

Teen Conservatory focuses on the fun, transformative process of bringing a character fully to life. Working as an ensemble, students will develop acting, improvisation, movement, and vocal techniques as they rehearse monologues and develop improvised scenes for a final sharing on George Street Playhouse's mainstage. Teen Conservatory runs July 6 through July 17.

Young M Company provides students with a fun, imaginative opportunity to develop acting, singing, and collaborative skills. Starting with exciting source material, students work with professional playwrights, composers and choreographers to create, rehearse and perform an original play with music. On the final day of the program, the curtain rises on Young M Company performing on George Street Playhouse's mainstage. Young M Company runs July 6 through July 31.

(As these programs run concurrently, a student may only register for one of the two courses offered for that age group.)*

"While essential for those with aspirations in the performing arts, the skills learned and the friendships formed during Summer Theatre Academy can last a lifetime – no matter what the child's lifetime profession may be," said GSP Director of Education Jim Jack.

For information on the full slate of classes offered by GSP's Summer Theatre Academy, or to register, visit www.GSPonline.org or call 732-846-2895, x117. George Street Playhouse is located at 9 Livingston Avenue in the heart of New Brunswick's vibrant Arts District.

About GSP's Educational Programming

The centerpiece of George Street Playhouse's educational programming is its **touring theatre**, which commissions and produces first-class productions with relevant themes for young audiences, such as respect, cyber-bullying, conflict resolution, health and wellness, and climate change. Each play is followed by a post-play discussion providing excellent starting points for engaging classroom conversations that can be used to fulfill New Jersey Common Core State Standards. GSP's Educational Touring Theatre features four issue-oriented productions seen by more than 40,000 students annually during the academic year. GSP's Theatre Academy, which offers classes throughout the year, focuses on the process of creative self-expression – enhancing students' artistry and creative problem-solving skills, while building self-esteem and a lifelong appreciation for the performing arts. For further information on any of GSP's educational opportunities, visit www.GSPonline.org, or call 732-846-2895, extension 117.

About George Street Playhouse

Under the leadership of Artistic Director **David Saint**, George Street Playhouse has become a nationally recognized theatre while providing an artistic home for established and emerging theatre artists. **Kelly Ryman** was appointed Managing Director in 2013. Founded in 1974, the Playhouse has been well represented by numerous productions both on and off-Broadway – including the Outer Critics Circle Best Musical Award-winner *The Toxic Avenger*; the Outer Critics Circle, Drama Desk and Drama League-nominated *The Spitfire Grill*; David Auburn's Tony and Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Proof*, which was developed at GSP during a two-week workshop in 1999; and *It Shoulda Been You*, which will open on Broadway in spring 2015 after a 2011 debut at GSP.

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