

YOUNG ACTORS THEATRE

2026-2027 ENRICHMENT HANDBOOK



WELCOME TO YOUNG ACTORS THEATRE COMPANY

Since 1975, Young Actors Theatre (YAT) has been a cornerstone of the arts in Tallahassee, dedicated to inspiring and educating young performers through a vibrant and engaging performing arts experience. Our mission is to deliver exceptional training in dance, drama, and music, within a nurturing, creative, and secure environment. At YAT, our goal is to cultivate more than just talented performers; we nurture confident, compassionate, and capable young individuals.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Each week, our Enrichment students participate in age-specific training sessions designed to build their theatrical skills while fostering discipline, teamwork, and creativity. Each class will have an acting, music, and dance section. Below are the guidelines for each class on what you can expect each class to accomplish.

CREATIVE PLAYERS: In Creative Players we focus on basic emotions, creative movement, feeling independence, following directions. You can expect small showcases, where we encourage speaking in front of a group. This is practiced through narration guidance, call and response with the Teaching Artist, as well Teaching Assistant support onstage. At this age we often have group lines throughout the showcase as needed for our beginner performers. Our ultimate goal is for each child to make it onstage, and have a good time. Hitting all their lines or dance moves is a bonus at this age, not a requirement. This class is a huge step in building confidence. The level following Creative Players is Actors Unlimited.

ACTORS UNLIMITED: In Actors Unlimited we start to give each student more responsibility. We work more on character choices, and move away from Teaching Artist narration. As they build their reading skills these students will have more individual lines, and learn more structured dances with formations, new techniques, and stage directions. This class is a huge step in learning ownership and independence. The level following Actors Unlimited is Performers Unlimited.

RISING STARS: This class is for 3rd-5th grade students new to performing. We welcome them to learn about theater and find their voice on the stage. We work on character choices, stage directions, learning cues, and types of genres. For showcases you will get to see your rising star take ownership of lines, dances, and scene changes. This class is a step towards learning the world of theater! The level following Rising Stars is Performers Unlimited or Company Prep depending on age.

PERFORMERS UNLIMITED & COMPANY PREP: These are our advanced classes where our students combine all the skills they have learned in previous levels with a new set of skills. This ranges from longer and more challenging scenes and dances, to learning more theater terminology, understanding preparedness and responsibility. Understanding character types, principal characters and ensemble characters, protagonists and antagonists. More ways to audition successfully and more preparation for our Company program. Following this level, rising 4th grade and older students are eligible to audition for our Company program.

SHOWCASES

Showcases will occur in January and April - you will find the specific date and time for your child's class listed on the calendar provided. The showcase will be fully costumed, and will be 15-30min depending on class level and size. Showcases will occur on a class day - students will come at their regular class time for a final rehearsal. Doors for each showcase will open 15min prior to showtime, seating is first come first serve.

CLASS CANCELLATIONS

YAT follows the Leon County School District's decisions regarding weather-related closures and emergencies. Classes missed due to national holidays or emergencies are not rescheduled.

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STUDENT EXPERIENCE

At YAT, we are proud of the unique culture we have built, and work to ensure that each student feels welcomed, valued, and supported. It is our mission to set every student up for success, while ensuring they have a fun time exploring their imagination through storytelling.

YAT also offers free tickets to our Enrichment Students through our Super Star Subscription program. When you purchase a season with the Super Star form you will receive your desired ticket package plus a free ticket to each show for your YAT student. It is important to us that our Enrichment students have this accessibility to see the 'big kids' perform, and feel the magic of where YAT can take them. We hope to have your student audition for Company one day, and this shows them what opportunities it brings. You will find the Super Star Subscription form in your welcome packet.

TUITION & FINANCIAL INFO

The financial commitment for our Enrichment program includes a registration fee of \$95 charged annually. There is also a costume fee charged each semester with tuition: \$50 the first semester, and \$25 the second semester. This costume fee will include the YAT class shirt, as well as their costume for their showcases. Tuition is divided into two payments, due in August and January. Tuition can also be divided into monthly payments with a \$50 processing fee. Payment plans will be split up into eight payments with the first payment due upon signing the payment plan with the subsequent payments processed on the 15th of each month Sept-Nov and Jan-April. If you opt for the payment plan, you will be contractually obligated to continue payment until the balance is paid in full.

DRESS CODE

All students in Creative Players, Actors Unlimited, and Rising Stars are expected to wear their official YAT T-shirt and closed toe shoes.

All students in Performers Unlimited and Company Prep are required or wear their official YAT T-shirt, black jazz pants or leggings, and black jazz shoes.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance at all Enrichment classes are crucial for each student's growth and success in their class. Students who miss multiple classes in a semester will be reviewed to determine if they can participate in the showcase. Absences must be reported to Fran Lagos by email at office@youngactorstheatre.com.

A reminder that young students working collaboratively rely on consistency in order to gain confidence in their final performance. One student's failure to attend class consistently impacts the whole group.

ENRICHMENT CALENDAR

YAT aligns its calendar with the Leon County Schools schedule. A complete list of Enrichment classes and showcases are provided in your welcome packet. In the event of a closure, YAT will communicate via email.

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DROP OFF, PICK UP, & PARKING PROCEDURES

On the first day of class each family will be provided with two car hangers on the first day of class for their vehicles. These will ensure we get your student to you efficiently.

- When utilizing the driveway for pick up or drop off, please pull all the way to the end of the building. A Teaching Assistant will come to your car and escort your student to or from your vehicle.
- If you prefer to park and come to the porch to drop off your student, please park in the gravel lot, not in the drive way. *If you park and walk up to get your student please bring your YAT car hanger with you.
- If you are picking up your student without your car hanger you will need to provide your ID at the office window.
- If someone other than a parent is picking up your child, please give them your car hanger, or email us with the name of the authorized pickup person - without the car hanger they will need to show their ID at the office window.
- If you are picking up your student early you will need to come in to the front office to sign them out with your ID.
- Standard drop off and pickup windows are 15min before and after your child's class time. Early drop off or late pickup could incur an additional fee.

*Our classes are closed to the public. Parents are welcome to wait in the lobby or on site in their vehicle if they wish to be nearby during class. This policy is to ensure safety of all students, as well as avoid class disruption. While we do not allow parents in the classroom, we are happy to give a tour outside of class. Please contact our Program Manager, Kassidy Canova, to schedule a tour.

SAFETY & SECURITY

For everyone's safety, YAT's front doors remain locked at all times. Visitors should ring the doorbell to the left of the main doors to enter. Adult supervision is available 15 minutes before and after classes. Students who are picked up more than 15 minutes late may be charged a late fee. All staff members have passed background checks. All classes through 5th grade will have a Teaching Assistant that will assist students getting in and out of vehicles, making sure they get from class to class, and escorting them from place to place as needed. Teaching Assistants are YAT High School Company members, selected through an application process.

Young Actors Theatre is a safe space for all students. We expect students to treat others with kindness and respect, use appropriate language, act responsibly, follow staff classroom rules and directions. Actions such as bullying, teasing, dishonesty, are will not be tolerated. If a student observes inappropriate behavior or feels unsafe, please report it to Kassidy Canova. Violations of these policies may result in warnings or removal from the program.

LOST ITEMS

YAT is not responsible for any lost or misplaced items. We do not maintain a lost and found. Items left behind will be donated.

CONTACT REFERENCE GUIDE

Question Topic Contact

Class Placement / Billing / Behavior / Safety
Kassidy Canova - kcanova@youngactorstheatre.com

Class Absences / Shirt Purchase
Fran Lagos - flagos@youngactorstheatre.com

*Unless it is an emergency, an email inquiry is the best form of communication.

We are honored to welcome your student into the YAT family. Here's to a year filled with growth, creativity, and unforgettable memories!