Young Writers Group Information Sheet

Since 2007 the Young Writers Group sessions have run on a term by term basis and often concluded with a production or showing of work performed by members of the Youth Theatre.

We have often found that this is a very short period of time to allow the Young Writers to develop their work and for the Youth Theatre members to have sufficient time to rehearse the scripted material.

So, from Autumn 2012 we are planning Young Writers Group projects that span the Autumn and Spring terms and produce scripts that can be taken into rehearsals by the Youth Theatre in the following Autumn. We hope this allows time for all participants to accomplish their best work and benefit from collaborating with each other in making theatre.

The sessions are designed to be practical and enjoyable, rather than a series of ‘lectures’ and putting pen to paper will be only part of the process!

So, we are looking for people who are inspired by and dedicated to the idea of writing for the stage. Young Writers need to be able to commit to sessions in both Autumn and Spring terms. Whilst most of the activity takes place in the weekly two hour sessions there will be writing tasks to complete in their own time.

Writing Team

The sessions will be run jointly by Stefan Escreet and Annie McCourt:
Stefan has run many of the Young Writers Group sessions since they began. He has directed numerous productions at Theatre by the Lake and takes the lead on the theatre’s New Writing. He has also worked on script development as a Radio Drama Producer for the BBC and has been an actor for many years.
Annie is an award winning playwright, having won the Trinity College London International Playwriting Competition 2011 with her play Moth to the Flame. As Creative Director with two North East theatre companies that specialised in work for younger audiences she has produced a wide variety of work by, with and for children and young people.

Content

Over a two term period each Young Writer will be working towards the creation of a short play. The works produced will be shared with the youth theatre performers during May. After this point some of the pieces created may be considered for development for performance by members of the Young Actors Company for the Festival of Youth in February 2014.

Young Writers will work collaboratively on a series of exercises to build an understanding of the playwright’s consideration of the audience, the performers and the performance space.

Exercises will also develop an understanding of Character, Dialogue, Narrative and Plot and Language.

The aim is to introduce the Young Writers to a ‘toolkit’ for future writing.
We are using a theme to inspire individual responses that will come together in the final production. This year’s theme is: Lest we forget . . .

N.B. Due to the age range of participants content produced may contain adult / teenage themes and some strong language.

**Arts Award – Bronze or Silver Level**

As a new element of this year’s Young Writers programme we are offering participants the opportunity to attain a national qualification. The young people’s Arts Award recognizes the efforts of young people to grow both in their art form and in leadership skills which enable them to inspire other young people to become involved: it is creative, valuable and accessible.

There will be additional costs attached to the programme if participants would like to undertake the Arts Award. These costs are to cover resources and a moderation visit to obtain the qualification.

### Dates for Term 1

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No. of places: 12 (allocated on a first come first served basis)

Age Range: 14 – 20

Venue: Theatre by the Lake, Keswick

Cost: £70 per participant (per 10 week term)

For further information or to book a place please contact Amy Fergusson on 017687 81108 or e-mail amy.ferguson@theatrebythelake.com