

Fort Wayne
youththeatre
*Education
Guide*



2023-24 SEASON

Fort Wayne youthatre

About Us...

As the fifth oldest active children's theatre in the nation, Youthatre is dedicated to its mission to "educate, engage and entertain" through quality theatrical experiences. In 1934, Dr. Clive McAllister, president of the Old Fort Players (now the Civic Theatre), appointed a committee to create a junior or children's theater branch of the organization. The committee established the philosophy that the new "Children's Theatre" would develop poise, better diction, and self-esteem for children through dramatic instruction. They would give at least one play a year, and awaken enthusiasm in children for beauty in art and integrity in dramatic literature.

The first class began with an enrollment of a whopping 40 students, each of which paid just \$1.00 for 8 classes! The first production, "The Steadfast Tin Soldier," was performed at the Majestic Theatre in Fort Wayne and had a cast of 75 young people. Tickets were only 10 cents for children and 25 cents for adults.

In 1954, the Majestic Theatre was deemed unsafe for children by the fire department and so the Children's Theatre spent the next 10 years at various locations in the city. By the time it rejoined the Civic Theatre at the Old Palace Theatre, it had a new name, the "Fort Wayne Youthatre." In 1973, both organizations moved to their current home in the Arts United Center on E. Main Street in downtown Fort Wayne. The Youthatre became autonomous in 1984.

In 1978, Broadway star Harvey Cocks became the Executive Director of Youthatre. Even after retiring from that position, Harvey remained as our Artist in Residence; inspiring young artists for over forty years until his death in 2022. In 2010, Leslie Hormann took the reigns, serving as Executive/Artistic Director until 2018.

Youthatre is currently managed by Executive/Artistic Director Todd Espeland, who came to us in 2018 after serving as Artistic Director of the Kalamazoo Civic Theatre. He is joined by Associate Director/Director of Outreach Christopher J. Murphy, Administrative Assistant/Marketing Director Morgan Montgomery, Administrative Assistant Kimee Gearhart and a staff of outstanding local artists who serve as teachers, guest directors, choreographers, music directors and designers.

For over three quarters of a century, Youthatre has produced classes, camps and theatrical productions for the artists and audiences of northeast Indiana. Our touring "Youthatre-On-The-Go" troupe takes literature-based shows into the community, performing in hospitals, libraries, community centers and more. In 2018, our Linda L. Ruffolo "Young Heroes of Conscience" Series, which has spotlighted the likes of Anne Frank, Ryan White, Harriet Tubman and Ruby Bridges, won the "Mayor's Arts Award."



ELEMENTS OF A PRODUCTION

SETS

The scenery pieces that form the area in which the performers act out the play. Sometimes scenery is very realistic, making the audience think they are inside a real house, for example. Other times the scenery is quite fanciful or limited. What different sets can you name in the show? What time and place does it look like?

LIGHTS

The lighting instruments that help to create the right atmosphere on the stage. Lights direct the attention of the audience to specific areas of the stage or to a specific performer. The lights may be different colors to add special effects such as nighttime or a storm. How do the lights in this production show changes in the time and place?

PROPS

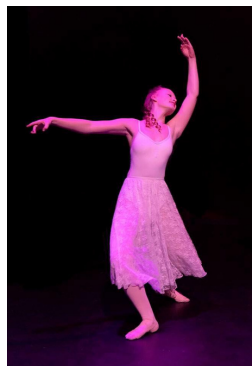
The objects performers carry to help them act out the story. Look for important props that help define character or place. Can you name a few?

MAKE-UP

The cosmetic bases, blushes, lipsticks, mascara and eye liners which helps the performer physically become the character he/she is playing. Make-up is also used so that the performers facial features can be seen clearly under the bright stage lights from a distance. Do you notice any special make-up in the show?

COSTUMES

The clothing the performers wear. Depending on the story being acted out, this clothing may be what a character of the time would have actually worn. It may also be very exaggerated or fantastic in the case of a dream or a fairy-tale. Costumes help the audience know what a character is like or where and when he/she lived. Are the costumes drab or colorful? Do they look realistic? What do they tell you about the time and place?



MEET *the* TEAM

MORGAN MONTGOMERY, DIRECTOR

MORGAN MONTGOMERY is thrilled to be joining the Youtheatre family. Originally from Oklahoma, Morgan graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma with a Bachelor's in Theatre Arts. She spent a year in Detroit, Michigan, where she attended Wayne State University's graduate program. During that time, she had the opportunity to co-direct and production manage a devised piece of children's theatre called The Great Trickster Championship.

After interning and stage managing for Bristol Valley Theater, she was asked to join them full time as their Director of Development and Marketing. While there, she also ran the children's programming as well as directed and stage managed several mainstage shows.

Morgan can often be found backstage, mentoring stage managers, painting sets, pressing costumes, and taking a ton of pictures.



LINDSAY, PRICE, PLAYWRIGHT

Lindsay Price is the Vice President of Theatrefolk Inc. and the co-creator of the Drama Teacher Academy. She has been involved with theatre education for over 25 years as a playwright, adjudicator, workshop instructor, resource writer, curriculum supervisor, professional development creator and keynote speaker. Her plays have been performed in schools all over the world with over 1000 productions a year.

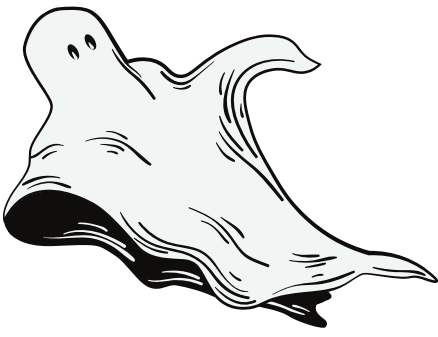
THEATREFOLK

Theatrefolk is the Drama Teacher Resource Company. They are your one stop shop for Plays, Resources, and Curriculum Support - all specifically designed for High Schools and Middle Schools. They are the creators of the Drama Teacher Academy (DTA), a provider of curriculum materials, educational resources, and professional development designed just for middle school and high school drama teachers. Founded in 1994 by playwright, Lindsay Price, and actor, Craig Mason, Theatrefolk is committed to supporting theatre teachers, students and education worldwide.



Q: What does a Director do?

A: A Director collaborates with and supervises all the other members of the production team (sets, lights, costumes, etc.) to make sure everyone is working together to tell the same story. He or she also directs the movement of the performers and helps them develop characters and relationships. In short, the Director is THE BOSS.



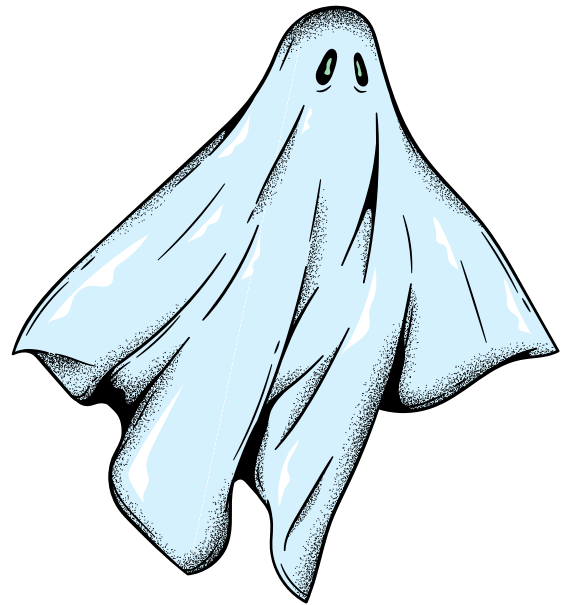
Types of Ghosts & Spirits

A ghost is the soul or spirit of a dead person or non-human animal that is believed to be able to appear to the living. In ghostlore, descriptions of ghosts vary widely, from an invisible presence to translucent or barely visible wispy shapes to realistic, lifelike forms.

The **Interactive Personality** is the most common of all ghosts spotted and is usually of a deceased person, someone you know, a family member, or even a historical figure. These ghosts can be friendly or not. They can become visible, speak or make noises, touch you, or even emit an odor to let you know they're there. This type of ghost retains its former personality of when they were alive and can feel emotions. Often, they are visiting you to let you know something important.

The **Poltergeist** is a ghost with the ability to move or knock things over, make noise, and manipulate the physical environment. A poltergeist is one of the rarest forms of hauntings, and to many, the most terrifying, especially because they are sometimes known to become dangerous.

The **Ectoplasm** is a vaporous cloud that appears several feet off the ground and can move swiftly or simply stay still- almost like it's orbiting. Sometimes ectoplasms appear before becoming a full-bodied apparition.



Funnel Ghosts are frequently associated with cold spots. They take on the shape of a swirling funnel and most paranormal experts believe they are loved ones returning for a visit or even a former resident of the home.

Orbs are one of the most photographed types of ghosts. They appear as a translucent ball of light that is hovering over the ground. It is believed that orbs are the soul of a human or even an animal that has died and is traveling around from one place to another.

HISTORY:

Haunted Houses

A haunted house, spook house, or ghost house is a house or other building often perceived as being inhabited by disembodied spirits of the deceased who may have been former residents or were otherwise connected with the property.



World History

Hauntings in the British Isles were usually attributed to fairies, but today hauntings are usually associated with ghostly or supernatural encounters. In other cultures around the world, various spirits are said to haunt vacant homes and locations. Historically, since most people died in their homes, whether they were mansions or hovels, these homes became natural places for ghosts to haunt, with bedrooms being the most common rooms to be haunted. Many houses gained a reputation for being haunted after they were empty or abandoned. It was believed that if people were to fail to occupy a human space, then external forces would move in.

Proposed Causes & Skepticism

Even the biggest believers in ghosts over the centuries recognized that many hauntings were frauds. For skeptics in past and present, the house was obviously the center of hauntings because it was where people slept and dreamed of the dead or where people lay hallucinating in their sickbeds. Basic ghost activity such as rapping or knocking were very easy to orchestrate. Creaking sounds and odd noises are typically present in any home, especially older ones, and such noises can easily be mistaken for the sound of footsteps by those inclined to imagine the presence of a ghost in their home. A sensed-presence effect, the feeling that there is someone else present in the room, is known to happen when people experience darkness, cold, hunger, fatigue, fear, sleep deprivation, and being alone. When people expect paranormal events, they tend to notice conditions that would confirm their expectations. Chronic exposure to substances such as carbon monoxide, pesticide, and formaldehyde can lead to hallucinations of the type associated with haunted houses. This could explain the connection between the prevalence of gas lamps, during the Victorian era and start of the twentieth century, as well as stories of ghost sightings and hauntings.

Investigations

Investigations of supposed hauntings often result in simple explanations, although there are some houses that are infamous for their unexplainable paranormal activities. Simple, controlled experiments should be conducted by ghost hunters to clearly demonstrate if there is a difference between a supposed haunted location and one that is not haunted.

HISTORY:

Ghosts

Since ancient times, there have been stories of spirits who return from the dead to haunt the places they left behind, based on the ancient idea that a person's spirit exists separately from their body and may continue to exist after that person dies.



Early Ghost Sightings

The first known ghost sighting dates back to the first century A.D. from Roman author Pliny the Younger, who reported that the ghost of an old man with a long beard and rattling chains was haunting his house in Athens. Centuries later, the first poltergeist was reported at a farmhouse in Germany. The poltergeist tormented the family living there by throwing stones and starting fires, among other things.

Fear of Ghosts

While deceased ancestors are universally regarded as respectable, and often believed to have a continued presence in some form of afterlife, the spirit of a deceased person that exists in the material world is regarded as unnatural or undesirable. This is universally the case in pre-modern folk cultures, but fear of ghosts also remains an integral aspect of the modern ghost story, Gothic horror, and other horror fiction dealing with the supernatural.

Common Appearance

A widespread belief concerning ghosts is that they are composed of a misty, airy, or subtle material. This idea is believed to be linked to the early idea that ghosts were the person within the person, most noticeable in ancient cultures as a person's breath. Ghosts are often depicted as being covered in a shroud and/or dragging chains.

Eastern & Western Culture

Belief in ghosts in Western culture is based on the recurring fear of "returning" deceased who may harm the living. Traditionally, ghosts would appear disguised as humans and could only be identified by their behavior. They may be mute, appear and disappear suddenly, or leave no footprints or other traces. In Eastern culture, the focus falls more on deceased ancestors. It is believed that if respected and rewarded properly, ancestors can help you and give you guidance. People believe that you should respect ghosts, but not seek them out.

Your Fav Ghost!

SOME OF THE MOST FAMOUS GHOSTS IN POPULAR CULTURE WORLDWIDE

In just about every culture in the world, there is some version of the spooky ghosts that we are so superstitious of. Below are some of the most famous ghosts in fiction: do you spot any you know?



Casper: *Casper the Friendly Ghost*



Moaning Myrtle: *Harry Potter*



Cyan Ghost: *Pac-Man*



Jacob Marley: *A Christmas Carol*



Slimer: *Ghostbusters*



The Flying Dutchman: *Spongebob Squarepants*



King Boo: *Mario*



Beetlejuice: *Beetlejuice*

Fort Wayne Youtheatre
ACADEMY
of Performing Arts

Where Creativity Plays



CLASSES FOR AGES 3-18

ACTING | MUSICAL THEATRE | DANCE
VOICE | TECH THEATRE

FALL SEMESTER: SEPT. 9 - NOV. 11, 2023

SPRING SEMESTER: FEB. 24 - MAY 4, 2024

PRIVATE VOICE & ACTING LESSONS

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For more information, visit our website:



ACTIVITY #1: PAPER HAUNTED HOUSE

This activity, best suited for Pre-K to 5th graders, encourages students to get thinking about how to visually design their own spooky haunted house!



Materials needed:

- Colorful cardstock
- Black marker
- Craft sticks
- Safety scissors
- Stapler
- Glue stick



Steps:

1. Begin by drawing your house on a sheet of colored cardstock with a black marker. The great thing about a haunted house is none of the lines need to be even. Just make it however you want!
2. Line up another colored sheet of cardstock behind the sheet with the drawn house. Use the lines of the house to carefully cut both sheets in the same shape.
3. Now, cut the side and top of the door and fold it open.
4. Have an adult help you carefully insert the tip of the scissors inside the window. Cut the windows out.
5. Cut a rectangle the same size as the house and glue to the bottom of the house. Use the black marker to draw a line at the bottom of the door. Cut off any excess.
6. Glue the edges of the roof of the outside house color to the roof of the inside house color.
7. Staple around the two sides, leaving the bottom of the house open.
8. Next, cut a small ghost shape from white cardstock or paper.
9. Draw circles for the eyes and mouth with the black marker. Glue the ghost to the top of the craft stick.
10. Slide the ghost through the bottom opening in the bottom and let your ghost haunt your house!

DISCUSSION TOPIC:

There are many spirits that haunt the house explored by Carmel, Raimy, and Lex, called the Chosen Ones. Do you believe in ghosts? Have you ever seen one? Heard one? Have you ever purposely tried to encounter one?

ACTIVITY #2:

SHADOW PUPPETS



Good theatre can be done just about anywhere! In this activity, best suited for 6th to 12th graders, students will build their own shadowbox and create theatre using light obstruction and shadow displacement.

Materials needed:

Puppets:

- Ghost puppet print out (next page)
- Scissors
- Tape
- Pencil

Shadowbox Theatre:

- Cereal box
- Thin white paper or wax paper
- Desk lamp or flashlight

Making shadow puppets with your hands has been a pastime since the earliest of times as humans sat around an open fire. Let's dress it up a bit by designing a small theater and paper shadow puppets!

To make the paper shadow puppets: cut out one or both of the ghost silhouettes on the next page, then tape the back to a pencil. This way you can prop up the puppets without your hand being in view.

To create a shadowbox theatre to accompany you puppets, follow the following instructions:

1. Tape the ends of the cereal box up well so that it's sturdy and closed.
2. Then trace about 1 - 1 1/2 inches away from the edges of the large faces of the box to create a large rectangle. Do this on both sides. These are your marking lines.
3. Next, using scissors or a utility knife, cut out the large rectangles you just drew
4. Tape your wax paper over the hole on one side only. That side with the paper faces your audience.
5. Shine the your light through the opposite side of the box: and you have a theatre!

DISCUSSION TOPIC:

At the end of the play, the three students are faced with a very difficult and scary situation. They question Ms. Paha and try to bargain with her, but to no avail.

What would you have done in this situation?

Would you have done anything differently than them?



POP QUIZ:

Test Your Memory

See how much you remember from the performance of **THE HOUSE** with this brief quiz on the play, the plot and characters.



1. Who is Liath?
 - a. The Grey One
 - b. The first of the Chosen Ones
 - c. The one who looks after the Chosen Ones
 - d. All of the above
2. Why can't the 3 friends leave the house?
 - a. The door is locked
 - b. It's storming outside
 - c. The door is missing
 - d. There's a ghost in front of the door
3. Why did Don Juan sell his soul?
 - a. To discover his wife's secret lover
 - b. To become handsome
 - c. For ultimate power
 - d. For unlimited knowledge
4. What is Lex known for?
 - a. Being top of the class
 - b. Punching someone
 - c. Always being sick
 - d. Being able to talk to ghosts
5. Carmel's father is a doctor: true or false?
 - a. True
 - b. False
6. What did Hart see when he stayed in the house?
 - a. Floating candles
 - b. A talking owl
 - c. A dragon
 - d. An old woman
7. What happened to Sarah?
 - a. She saw something in the house
 - b. She fell down the stairs
 - c. She ran away
 - d. She got lost
8. Why did the students go to the house?
 - a. For a school project
 - b. On a dare
 - c. To get out of the rain
 - d. They live there
9. Why did Nish go to visit Roderick?
 - a. She left something at his house
 - b. He was sick
 - c. To deliver food
 - d. To warn him
10. What advice does Liath give at the end of the show?
 - a. Listen to your parents
 - b. Eat your vegetables
 - c. Look at the bright side of things
 - d. Stay out of houses that don't belong to you

Answer Key

Q1: d: All of the above Q2: c: The door is missing Q3: a: To discover his wife's secret lover Q4: b: Punching someone Q5: b: False Q6: d: An old woman Q7: a: She saw something in the house Q8: a: For a school project Q9: b: He was sick Q10: d: Stay out of houses that don't belong to you

Want to get involved?...

23-24 season AUDITION DATES:

THE HOUSE.....Aug 21 & 22, 2023

A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS.....Oct 9 & 10, 2023

THE PROM.....Dec 10, 2023

RUBY BRIDGES.....Feb 26 & 27, 2023

GO, DOG! GO!.....Feb 26 & 27, 2023

fortwayneyouththeatre.org/auditions

Suggested Reading...

Elementary: *At the Old Haunted House* by Helen Ketteman, *Goosebumps* by R. L. Stine, and *Ghosts!: Ghostly Tales from Folklore* by Alvin Schwartz

Middle School: *The Folcroft Ghosts* by Darcy Coates, *Spirit Hunters* by Ellen Oh, and *The Girl in the Locked Room* by Mary Downing Hahn

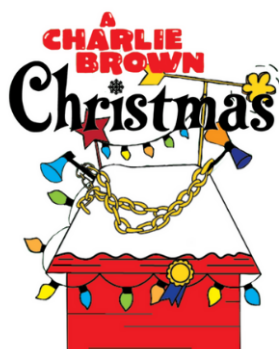
High School: *The Fall of The House of Usher* by Edgar Allen Poe, *The Haunting of Hill House* by Shirley Jackson, and *Charlotte Says* by Alex Bell



2023-24 SEASON SCHOOL SHOWS

Did that door just creeeeek open on its own? Where did those eerie footsteps come from? Do ghosts roam the halls or is the house itself evil? A trio of students enter a haunted house determined to answer this question. Using spine-tingling tales from authors like Edgar Allen Poe, Youtheatre and Theatrefolk Publishing collaborate on this world premiere about the stories that lie within the walls of these haunted habitats. Only the spirits know....and they're watching you....

Performance: Monday, October 2, 2023 | 10:00 AM | First Presbyterian Theater



Everyone's favorite holiday classic returns to Youtheatre in an all new production. Charles M. Schulz's Emmy Award-winning **A Charlie Brown Christmas** has been warming hearts since it debuted on television over 50 years ago. Now the whole family can join Snoopy, Lucy, Linus, good ol' Charlie Brown and the whole Peanuts gang as they sing, dance, and learn the true meaning of Christmas LIVE ON-STAGE!

Performance: Monday, December 11, 2023 | 10:00 AM | First Presbyterian Theater

Since 2014, Youtheatre has shone a light on young people making a difference with our *Young Heroes of Conscience Series*. To celebrate the series 10th Anniversary, we revisit a past hero whose story seems all too relevant today. Ruby Bridges was born in 1954, the same year Brown v. Board of Education ordered schools to integrate with "all deliberate speed." Six years later, as immortalized by the famous Norman Rockwell painting, Ruby became the face of integration when she enrolled in the all-white William Frantz Elementary School. Her story shows one little girl's unbeatable courage in the face of adversity, helping lead the Civil Rights movement up the front steps and into America's classrooms.

Performance: TBA



Youtheatre and the Allen County Public Library team up for the first in our *Stories from the Stacks: Theatre for Young Readers Series*. Aimed at Pre-K through 3rd Graders (but with plenty to enjoy for all ages), P.D. Eastman's classic children's book **Go, Dog. Go!** comes to life on stage in an exploration of movement, music, color and space. The dogs delve into life with gusto, creating a visual spectacle for the audience to feast upon. They snorkel. They howl at the moon. They ride a ferris wheel. They sing and dance and climb trees. This is a rollicking free-for-all of chicanine-ery. . A big and little musical world of doggy fun. Like a pop-up book that comes to life – and never stops.

Performance: Monday, April 29, 2024 | 10:00 AM | Downtown ACPL Theatre

For more information and resources for your classroom,
visit our website at fortwayneyoutheatre.org/school-shows-resources

LANGUAGE ARTS

STANDARDS

Most Youtheatre productions are literature-based and on the recommended reading list of the Library of Congress.

Language Arts Standard: Perceive, identify, describe and analyze the distinguishing characteristics of form, structure and style of story.

- Retell story identifying plot, theme, characters, and setting.
- Recall story plot utilizing chronological order.

Language Arts Standard: Evaluate Theatre/Literary work based on critical perception and analysis.

- Share perception of theatre experience in the area of voice, movement, mood and motivation.
- Make suggestions for alternative endings.
- Analyze and critique story and performance through creative writing.
- Create a similar story through creative writing.

Language Arts Standard: Use Theatre /Literary work to develop affective areas of self-concept, problem solving and interpersonal skills.

- React to feelings of self and others within a production.
- Identify conflict within story as it relates to self and others.
- Compare and contrast problems and resolutions found in different stories and real life situations.
- Express personal attitudes, values, and belief systems as it relates to theatre piece.
- Interact freely in conversations, class discussions and dramatic activities.
- Contribute to the solving of problems through dramatization/improvisation.

Language Arts Standard: Examine Theatre /Literary work in a historical and multicultural context.

- Identify similarities and differences between characters from diverse cultures depicted.
- Identify historical differences/figures in different time frames depicted in story.
- Identify significance of historical aspects in story.

Exploring Aesthetics: A Philosophical Basis for Life!

- Attending live theatre helps children value its importance to the community and helps develop a lifelong commitment and love of Theatre and Literature. Students experience aesthetic growth through appreciation of Theatre.
- Students discover through experience that making art is an essential human activity. It requires collaboration, and enhances creative thinking.

