

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE'S ACCLAIMED SUMMER WORKSHOPS FOR YOUNG THEATRE LOVERS RETURNS WITH ENRICHED PROGRAMMING FOR CONSERVATORY STUDENTS

RENOWNED AUDITION EXPERT AND THEATRE ARTIST JEFFREY HOWARD INGMAN TAPPED AS NEW CONSERVATORY DIRECTOR; AUDITION WORKSHOPS AND MUSICAL THEATRE STUDY ADDED FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 10-12

La Jolla, CA – La Jolla Playhouse embarks on another summer of creative, educational and interactive theatre programs for young theatre lovers with **Young Performers at La Jolla Playhouse (YP@LJP)**.

These popular, multi-step programs begin with **Young Performers' Workshop (YPW)**, running **June 18 – July 13**, which invites students in grades 3-12 to explore a wide range of theatre skills. **Young Performers' Academy (YPA)**, running **July 16 – July 27**, encourages students entering grades 5-12 to take their theatre skills to the next level beyond YPW. YPA is divided into **Ensemble** for grades 5-7 and **Company** for grades 8-12. High school students in grades 10-12 who are interested in preparing for a serious college theatre program and pursuing careers in professional theatre can take part in the **Young Performers' Conservatory (YPC**, formerly known as Summer Conservatory; audition required), running **June 18 – July 20**. The Playhouse's **Tech Theatre Class**, running **July 16 – 20**, is a special course that introduces young people in grades 7-12 to the vital work that goes on behind the scenes to make a production happen.

This year, renowned audition expert and theatre professional **Jeffrey Howard Ingman** will be leading Young Performers' Conservatory. Mr. Ingman has headed up M.F.A., B.F.A. and B.A. Theatre programs with over 20 years of teaching and is a sought-after audition coach. With his most recent performance as "George" in the Playhouse's *The Cake*, he continues to work as a professional actor and director in both professional and academic environments and has over 70 productions to his name as a director. While continuing the program's focus on developing college and career-ready skills for the serious young actor, he has reformatted the five-week YPC intensive to introduce a new musical theatre component to the curriculum and will also be adding extensive audition workshops for plays and musicals.

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"We are tremendously fortunate to have the opportunity to work with many young people each summer who are exploring their interest in theatre and delving into the thrill and joy of the creative process," says **Playhouse Artistic Director Christopher Ashley**. "The collaboration, the learning, the growth of confidence and the sheer fun that happens with their peers as they are guided by passionate teaching artists who are committed to each student's journey of discovery and self-expression are extraordinary things to witness."

"There's always incredible energy and enthusiasm surrounding the kick-off of our annual Young Performers programs. This year, I'm especially excited to be welcoming Jeffrey Ingman as Conservatory Director," says the **Playhouse's Education and Outreach Director Steve McCormick**. "Jeffrey has reimagined the Conservatory experience into one that is more stimulating and relevant than ever, ensuring that those five weeks of intensive training are simultaneously transformative and designed to suit each student's needs. The YPC group consists of dedicated young women and men who are ready to set forth on a theatre-focused path, and we are thrilled that an artist of Jeffrey's caliber will be offering them inspiration and instruction."

Young Performers' Workshop (YPW) offers students entering grades 3 -12 the opportunity to work with expert teaching artists to find new ways of expressing themselves. In a fun-filled, nurturing environment, students build theatre skills, gain confidence and develop social skills through collaboration and performance. Daily workshops provide age-appropriate activities focused on acting, improvisation, musical theatre and movement. Students also enjoy behind-the-scenes experiences at La Jolla Playhouse, meeting artists who help bring the renowned theatre's productions to life. Young theatre enthusiasts love the thrill of performing for an audience through an informal final presentation at the end of the workshop, which they share with family and friends.

Young Performers' Academy (YPA) is a two-week intensive that provides the next step beyond YPW in theatre training with a specific focus on the field of musical theatre. By teaching them how to dive deeper into their musical tool box, students build upon skills learned in YPW and discover techniques for applying them towards a more comprehensive rehearsal process. **YPA Ensemble** (Grades 5-7) and **YPA Company** (Grades 8-12) will either develop an original musical performance by utilizing their collective creativity and ideas or advance their artistry by learning the process of tackling an established script.

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Young Performers' Conservatory (YPC) offers an intensive five-week acting experience for high school students in grades 10-12. Centered on the actor's process, this program is designed for students who want to pursue a professional career in theatre and prepares them for a serious college theatre program. Each week, acting students spend 35 hours in intensive training classes which include: classical scene study, modern scene study, ensemble-devised performance, voice for the actor, movement and Yoga. In its revamped design, students will also be able to expand their knowledge of musical theatre and also bolster their audition packages for both college and professional auditions. Additionally, they get a chance to work with guest artists and cast members from Playhouse productions which have included *Escape to Margaritaville*, *Come From Away*, *Up Here*, *The Orphan of Zhao*, *Memphis*, *Limelight* and *Peter and the Starcatchers*. YPC students may also have the opportunity to attend rehearsals and La Jolla Playhouse productions.

Conservatory graduates have gone on to successful careers in television and on stage, including James Maslow (Nickelodeon's *Big Time Rush*), Bridget Regan (*Legend of the Seeker*), Christopher Douglas Reed (*Sons of Anarchy*) and Cashae Monya (*Miss You Like Hell* and *Memphis* in La Jolla and Seattle). Conservatory alumni have also been accepted to prestigious college theatre programs such as Yale University, New York University, Carnegie Mellon, Emerson College, Juilliard and the American Academy of Musical and Dramatic Arts.

Tech Theatre Class is a week-long program that introduces young people grades 7-12 to various aspects of technical theatre. Students receive an introductory survey course in the vocational skills necessary to become professional theatre technicians. Topics include: Costume, Lighting, Props, Scenic Building and Painting.

Registration for YPW, YPA, YPC (audition required) and Tech Theatre Class is now open! Apply online at **LaJollaPlayhouse.org** or by calling (858) 550-1070 x101. For more information, please contact Julia Cuppy, Associate Director of Education & Outreach, (858) 550-1070 x103 or jcuppy@ljp.org or visit the website at lajollaplayhouse.org.

La Jolla Playhouse Subscribers can save up to \$75 on registration on select classes. To check out the full schedule, please visit: LaJollaPlayhouse.org/education/training-programs/

The 2018 YPC is made possible in part by a generous grant from the Sidney E. Frank Foundation. YPW and YPA are supported in part by The Jordan Ressler Endowment Fund, the David C. Copley Foundation and The Roberto Quiñones, Jr. Scholarship Fund.

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La Jolla Playhouse is a place where artists and audiences come together to create what's new and next in the American theatre, from Tony Award-winning productions, to imaginative programs for young audiences, to interactive experiences outside our theatre walls. Currently led by 2017 Tony Award-winning Artistic Director Christopher Ashley and Managing Director Debby Buchholz, the Playhouse was founded in 1947 by Gregory Peck, Dorothy McGuire and Mel Ferrer. Playhouse artists and audiences have taken part in the development of new plays and musicals, including mounting 95 world premieres, commissioning 50 new works, and sending 32 productions to Broadway, among them the currently-running hit musicals *Come From Away*, *Escape to Margaritaville* and *SUMMER: The Donna Summer Musical* – garnering a total of 38 Tony Awards, including the 1993 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre. For more information, visit LaJollaPlayhouse.org.

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