

Our Productions Theatre Co.

Young Artist Training Program

Young Artist Training Program 2024-2025

Developing talent and producing professionals since 1993.



Conservatory. Mentorship. College Audition Prep.
Serious training for students with big dreams.

Comprehensive performing arts training for rising 5th - 12th graders in musical theatre, acting, and other areas of the industry. A small group of hand selected students being mentored in individualized curriculum by professional artists over a multi-year period as they continue to work and perform both in professional and educational settings. Our students receive individualized curriculum that targets issues quickly and directly resulting in rapid improvement and growth. We build students with a skillset of techniques needed to grow into long term, successful, artists and/or other professional creative fields. Many of our students are current working professionals, or hoping to be soon, or are actively involved in their school programs, and carve out time for class to keep their competitive edge in the business and grow their skillset.

Equity & Diversity Statement:

Our Productions Theatre Co. and our educational outreach, The Young Artist Training Program, believe our differences make us strong. We strive for a safe, inclusive environment dedicated to promoting the performing arts. We do not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, national origin (ancestry), disability, sexual orientation, or socio-economic status.

All are welcome here.

Why choose YATP?

Ready to Learn

YATP is an artist development and mentorship program. We are not pay-to-play.

We interview and audition every prospective student to ensure program suitability. It is important for the student to feel good about our work pace and intensity. We are not filling quotas or spaces, but rather only offer acceptances to select children that we feel will **grow and thrive** in our program working directly with our professional artist mentors over a long-term relationship. It must be a mutual match for **both** the student, group, and coach/mentor. A typical year has enrollment of 14-22 students in total from 5th - 12th grades. Most students stay with the program for more than five years or until graduation from high school. Our students are extremely diverse, but all share a common goal of being hard-working, respectful, and are ready to learn.

Standards

We hold extremely high standards and expectations for our students. Students are evaluated twice annually (written in fall/conference in spring) to help aid them in their studies and help them to reach **their** goals. We **keep students individually challenged** at every level, whether a first or tenth year student, and we constantly evaluate our program for the best possible results. We see what are students are capable of and then help them see their own power to deliver more than they ever dreamed. We build on a solid foundation of technical skills, experience and results you can see from term to term and year to year. For those students who choose to pursue other career goals, their years at YATP are not wasted. The work ethic and self-discipline garnered from our program help carry them through in many other professions.

Highly Experienced, Talented Faculty/Professional Artists

We bring in the best, highly qualified, caring, working professional instructors, to work with our talented students. We believe that faculty should only teach what they can do as a profession. Beyond that, our faculty & guest artists are not only great artists, but also **highly experienced**, talented coaches that are **passionate about educating** and being mentors to the next generation of performing artists. Not all great performers are great teachers. Our faculty are selected specifically **because they are both**. They waste no time in identifying the best course of action for each and every student and design a personalized plan that returns tangible results. Our students all work with lead faculty who have a long history with YATP including our Educational Director (30+ yrs), Musical Director (20+ yrs) and resident Choreographer (8+ yrs.)

Professional Environment

We believe the best way to train young artists to be professional is by treating them like professionals. We do this in every aspect of our class work, rehearsals & performances. We expect our students to be responsible, arrive on time, be prepared for every class, and complete at home practicing on a regular basis. We treat ourselves and each other with professional courtesy, inclusion, and **respect**. We support and build each other up as family, and have a strong alumni network and legacy as a result. Connections made through YATP last a lifetime. YATP Students are family.

Small By Design

After nearly three decades of training young professionals we know unequivocally that a smaller program provides a more exceptional, individualized, custom, unique training than a large one. Our Educational Director personally oversees the training of each student within our small company of youth artists. We **know** our students. We know how they learn, what their goals are, and who they are as people. Our students are also able to mentor and learn from one another in our supportive, tightly knit community. Our small student base and integrated curriculum increases the pace and speed at which our classes can move and **our students see serious, life-changing results**.

We Are Invested in the Future of the Arts

The cost of tuition should not discourage anyone from applying to our program. Limited tuition assistance is available to qualified students. Applications (available by request) are reviewed by the Tuition Assistance Committee/Board of Directors. **We are a non-profit, 501 (c) 3 IRS recognized charitable organization and depend on donations to carry on our robust tuition assistance.**

Our program is honored to have drawn from around the Metroplex students seeking the highest standard of performing arts training. We take the responsibility of giving your child the best performing arts training seriously and each year renew our commitment to uphold those high standards.

YATP students & alumni are well respected in the industry and we are proud to continue our 30+ year tradition with the next generation of performers.



Young Artist Training Program History & Legacy

The Young Artist Training program is an educational outreach of Our Productions Theatre Co. (*d.b.a. of Expressions Performing Arts and formerly Theatre FMPAT*), a professional theatre company founded in 1993.

We are a nonprofit, 501 (c) 3 IRS recognized charity. YATP is our world class musical theatre training & mentoring program. Established in 1993 in Flower Mound, YATP is now in it's 32nd year. YATP has trained students with careers on both stage and screen, that span across the United States and Europe, from London to Los Angeles, New York to Chicago, Broadway to the Silver Screen, and right here at home in Dallas-Fort Worth.

YATP students make a big impact wherever they go.

The small, conservatory style program trains naturally gifted and well suited students from all across the D-FW area that gain admittance by auditions held each year. Less than two dozen selected students study with the program year round, most being mentored for five plus years, or until graduation, when they move on to both professional careers and/or outstanding university programs. Many of our alumni are working professionals today, and credit YATP with giving them the strong foundations for their start. In addition to their professional mentorship relationships with our outstanding faculty, our student Big Sibling program also help as students connect and learn from each other through vital and important connections.

Putting learned skills into action reinforces techniques, builds confidence and community.

Beyond YATP

Current students and alumni students have appeared in, or worked on, several off-Broadway and Broadway productions, National and International Touring productions, as well as having appeared locally at Tony Award winning Dallas Theater Center, Casa Manana, Lyric Stage, WaterTower Theater & of course, here at Our Productions, as well as with many other local professional companies. Students are also currently appearing in & working on national television series, Disney Co. & Nickelodeon projects, in commercials, feature films locally, and nationally and internationally. They have also expanded into careers as opera singers, professional dancers, comedians, writers, cabaret artists, casting directors, designers, T.V. production team members, producers and in other areas of the performing arts both onstage and off. Alumni university acceptances range from UCLA to NYU to Juilliard, and include most every prestigious collegiate level program in the United States.

#YATPstrong

Mission of Our Productions Theatre Co.:

To develop cultural growth in North Texas by challenging audiences through presentation of new, diverse, and classic theatrical productions for both adults and children; raising awareness of important issues through the arts; fostering the educational development of future artists (YATP); and preserving the heritage of theatrical performances for both current and future generations.

Admissions

Students rising 5th through 10th grade are evaluated for fit through participation in our annual Summer Musical Theatre Intensive. Summer Musical Theatre Intensive is our only open enrollment event of the year. Decisions are released following camp with either an “offer of admission”, “wait-list” or “camp again” status. Several factors determine eligibility for the program including spaces available by age group and individual student readiness. Openings are determined annually based on attrition. Contracts are sent to admitted students at the conclusion of the Summer Intensive.

Some students choose to remain “campers only” and are with us for many years in this capacity. We love our campers both new and returning! For those that qualify for the annual program, they begin weekly classes for the year from August through April.

Admissions decisions for 11th grade/rising Senior students are made following an interview/audition process with the Educational Director on a space available basis. Contact our office directly for more information. info@ourproductions.org Auditions may also be scheduled at a general call as needed in June or August, based on openings available. We do not offer rolling enrollment due to the structure of our curriculum.

We encourage students to start the YATP Conservatory Program between 5th-8th grade as the best results are achieved from those students able to complete many years of consistent training. The earlier we start, the faster we can lay a good foundation of skills to subsequently help our college bound students realize admissions at the program of their choosing at a collegiate level. Older beginners are not excluded. Each individual student will follow their own path. Regardless of whether pursuing a professional arts career, or entering another field, we mean to walk with our students through their high school graduation.

School Year Conservatory Schedule & Course Information

Students participate in approximately 135-150 hours of coaching/training from August to April. We meet on select Saturday mornings (see current calendar for exact timings) for audition prep, voice, acting (monologues and songs), and dance technique class typically for 3-4 hours per week in the Fall Term, along with community concert/performance opportunities. Spring term meetings start with a technique class each day, and are generally 3-6 hours of time scheduled between 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Schedule adjusts slightly based on space availability and curriculum needs. Students may also participate in a fully produced production in April, which requires two weeks of additional daily rehearsals.

Students enroll for the **entire school year**, August to April. Regular attendance is a necessity. Talented students are often busy and involved in many activities. We do our best to work around limited conflicts when we are notified in advance. However, if a student falls too far behind the rest of the group, they may forfeit opportunities at the discretion of our faculty team. “We can’t coach them if they aren’t here.”

Fall term focus is on skillset improvement with an emphasis on audition preparation and audition portfolio building. **Spring term** focus is on performance skills, working as an ensemble/company, technical theatre and production skills. **Summer** continues with skillset building for younger students and leadership opportunities for our upper grades/high school students.

Forming excellent habits and techniques early in training is extremely important and that is our goal. We do not believe in “pay to play” programming. While fun, putting up show after show doesn’t actually expand skillset. **Our goal is the broader long term development of the professional young artist.** We are a *technique* based program developing students abilities to be competitive & ready to book gigs and work in many professional settings. For those students whom are currently working in the industry, we help them to be able to keep and improve their edge, always reaching to the next level. Most students find their way to our program after they “top out” of other area programs, and/or when they notice they are not truly improving are ready to refine and broaden their skillset to see real growth.

Community is important to us within both our students and parent groups, and we work hard to foster a spirit of support and **inclusivity** for our YATP family. Lifelong bonds are formed within our program. Parents join us for our first meeting of the year in August, known fondly as “Boot Camp” as we discuss the year ahead and strengthen our community while students get their first workout for the year under their belts. Each new student is assigned a YATP BIG to help them navigate their first exciting and demanding year of study. YATP is an ensemble, a team, all working towards a common goal of developing performers & artists and growing together.

College Audition Prep

College Audition Prep begins years before graduation. In fact, every single YATP class from elementary school up is college and professional audition prep. The College Audition Prep CAPstone of the YATP program helps students prepare rising junior and senior high schoolers through graduation as they prepare individualized audition portfolio based on their school selections. We aid in choosing the best repertoire, pre-screen filming, cuts, material finalization, and all the myriad of other details required for a slick, professional portfolio for university or conservatory audition. Inquire for more information at info@ourproductions.org. Our graduates traditionally secure spots in their top choice programs, offering them the “right fit” for next step in their careers. CAPstone program is included with regular YATP tuition.

Private Coaching

Students wanting to improved their skillset even faster or go deeper into personalized material benefit from private coaching. Contact the Educational Director for more details at info@ourproductions.org. Current YATP students are always given a priority over non-current students for scheduling and receive a discount on private coaching sessions.



YATP Annual Traditions, Events & Celebrations

- * YATP Boot Camp/Parent Coffee - August
- * Touring Performances - Various Community Bookings
- * North Texas Giving Day - September
- * Fall Mock Auditions - November
- * Winter Private Student Showcase/Charity Benefit Event - Nov./Dec.
- * Practice-A-Thon Fundraiser (PAT) - January/February
- * Spring Performance Event - March/April
- * Student Awards, Art & Song Event (SAAS) & Senior Celebration - April
- * Summer Musical Theatre Intensive & Internships - May/June



Tuition & Fees

2024-2025 Conservatory Program

Full Year \$4950

Enrollment fee of \$450 and 10 monthly installments of \$450 payable July thru April.

Families save 10% off 2nd child tuition installment.

Summer Intensive - May 27-31, 2025

\$525 (Discounted to \$395 through February 1st)

College Audition Prep Program - Fall

Included in annual tuition for regular YATP students.

(Contact info@ourproductions.org for a la carte coaching fees.)

Private Coaching/CAPstone Sessions

Fees determined by each instructor. Discounted rate & scheduling priority for regular, current YATP students.

Limited Tuition Assistance is available. It is the goal of YATP that every qualified student admitted is able to train regardless of their financial situation. Contact info@ourproductions.org for more info.



Experience Matters.

About our Faculty Mentors...

Ms. Stephanie Riggs
YATP Educational Director
& Founding Artistic Director of
Our Productions Theatre Co.

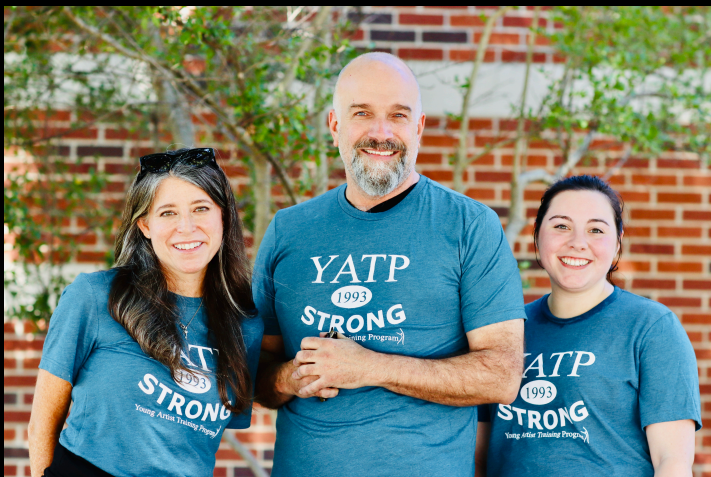
Ms. Riggs holds a B. F. A. in Theatre and Television from Texas Christian University, where she received the Fine Arts Guild and Ann Bradshaw Stokes Scholarships for her work in Musical Theatre. While at TCU, Stephanie studied voice under Dr. Vincent Russo, editor of *The Journal of Research in Singing* and Jan Sullivan, author of *The Phenomenon of the Belt-Pop Voice*. An award winning and nominated actress and director, Stephanie has performed locally with GFour Productions, Casa Mañana, Lyric Stage, Our Productions, PRT, Theatre Three, Uptown Players, and WaterTower Theatre. She appeared in the regional premier of multiple Tony Award® winning producer, GFour Productions' touring production of *Motherhood, The Musical*. Stephanie is a multiple time featured soloist with the Las Colinas/New Arlington/Garland Symphonies and performed cabaret entertainment regularly both with Uptown Players and independently as both a solo and collaborative artist. She is also an accomplished voice-over/recording artist working for companies such as Mary Kay Cosmetics, The Staubach Corp., Southwest Airlines, WRR Classical 101.1 & The Las Colinas Symphony. She is the current Educational Director and Artistic Director of Our Productions Theatre Co., a professional, nonprofit theatre & is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers.

As a professional director/producer, Stephanie's work has been award winning and critically acclaimed. Stephanie has also twice directed the youth choir composed of her own students for the Dallas Summer Musicals stop of the National Tour of Joseph...Dreamcoat®. Stephanie holds her RAD Teaching Certificate & Major Ballet Certificate with the Royal Academy of Dance, and studied classical ballet with Egan Weng of the Royal Danish Ballet, and in Oslo, Norway with the Royal Norwegian Ballet. She received additional RAD teacher training with Lynn Wallis and Dame Antoinette Sibley as well as esteemed prima ballerina Irina Baronova in Banff, Canada, and London, England at the Royal Academy Headquarters. In the States, she received teacher training from Gillian Davis, R AD Examiner at the Callanwolde Fine Arts Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

As a coach with over 30 years of teaching experience, her alumni students have appeared in or worked on several off-Broadway and Broadway productions along with many National Touring productions, appeared in locally at the Tony Award winning Dallas Theater Center, and other local professional theatre productions including Lyric Stage, WaterTower Theater, Casa Mañana & of course here, at Our Productions Theatre Co. among other area theaters. Students are also currently appearing in & working on national television series, for the Disney Co., and in both commercials and feature films. Stephanie also offers private vocal coaching/tutoring to selected YATP students simultaneously developing both the proper belt/pop placement and a classical/legit sound in addition to other musical styles as well as monologue coaching, character development and emotional connection to both their text and songs. She is a deeply caring educator, who brings out the best in every student with whom she works.

Her students are known for their technical skill, discipline, courteousness, and work ethic. Most alumni students that are working professionals today credit YATP with giving them a solid foundation that helped them off to a great start in their careers. Stephanie's graduating seniors historically and regularly gain admittance to top university & conservatory programs, most attending with scholarships. Previous graduates have been accepted to NYU Tisch School of the Arts, Marymount Manhattan, AMDA, CCM, New York Film Academy, Studio School LA, CAP21, The Juilliard School, OCU, Texas State, Pepperdine, Elon, SMU, TCU, Colorado State University, Michigan, Millikin University, Baylor, Pace, New York Conservatory for the Dramatic Arts, University of Oklahoma, American Academy of Dramatic Arts and many other outstanding collegiate programs.

Guest artists & additional YATP faculty are subject to change due to professional schedules, and will be scheduled during the year as deemed appropriate by the Artistic & Educational Director.



Ms. Alex Davison, Resident Choreographer/Dance Faculty

is a YATP alum (10 year club) and so excited to be back where it all started as a resident choreographer, faculty & board member! Previous choreography credits include *Dear Edwina*, *You're...Charlie Brown*, *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical* (YATP), *Spamalot* (University of North Texas), *Big Fish* (Rockwall High School), and *Christmas Wonders*, *Christmas Stars* (Theatre Frisco). Previous stage credits: *How I Became a Pirate* (Dallas Children's Theater), *West Side Story* (Garland Summer Musicals), and *The Boy From Oz* (Uptown Players). Alex holds a Bachelor's of Music in Musical Theatre from the University of Central Oklahoma.

Mr. Mark Mullino, Music Director/Acting/Voice Technique

has worked extensively throughout the Metroplex and the United States as a musical director and actor. Locally Mark has directed/musical directed/conducted at Water Tower Theater, Dallas Theater Center, Uptown Players, Plano Repertory Theater, Lyric Stage, Labyrinth Theater, Collin Theater Center, Our Productions/ Theatre FMPAT, PFamily Arts and Theater Arlington. Mark Has received numerous Column Awards and Leon Rabin Awards and nominations. In addition to musical directing/acting, Mark plays piano for the weekly Cabaret show "Mama's Party", has coached musical theater students for Broadway & National Touring productions, maintains a private studio and is an artist. Additionally, Mark is the Co-founder of Dallas Young Artists. Mark received his Bachelors in Music from Hardin-Simmons University.

Questions? Email us at info@ourproductions.org