The underlying goal of our educational programming is to use the framework of theatre and creativity as a way into developing both as a human and artist. We believe theatre education fosters the intrinsic understanding and practice of many vital and rarely deliberately taught ‘soft’ skills. Examples include using empathy as a lens into processing the world around you, effective communication and collaboration, and developing deliberate intrapersonal (inside the self) awareness and intentionality.

Education that prioritizes evolving its students into mature and reflexive artists is a primary guiding concept for our curriculum. Through a combination of teaching substantial and well-researched theatrical techniques along with consistently exercising a spirit of openness, experimentation, and an attitude just as interested in the things that don’t work as much as the things that do, we believe the Artist Mindset prepares students of all ages (adults too!) equally well for a life in the arts/theatre or any path they choose to pursue.

The way we teach theatre supports multiple modes of intelligence that don’t always get practiced through more traditional educational frameworks, including kinesthetic/spatial, musical/rhythmic, and making the interpersonal/intrapersonal explicit. In addition, logical/quantified and verbal intelligences are practiced and reinforced through the lens of critical thinking, experimentation, and creativity. We feel strongly that this process not only creates great theatre artists, but also bolsters aptitude and a sound foundation for all arenas of learning. In other words: theatre training makes for good lawyers, doctors, scientists, and engineers just as much as it does for actors, writers, designers, and musicians.

Our program emphasizes two core areas of in-depth training: Acting and Music Theatre. Additionally, multiple Special Topics will also be offered that allow for exploration into related disciplines. We also are working hard to create opportunities for all types of theatre artists—designers, technicians, directors, choreographers, playwrights, just as much as actors, singers, dancers—to grow and learn. We also prioritize the importance of diversity of opinion, of identity, of background, and of experience within our classrooms and rehearsal rooms. We know that the more varied the outlooks from individuals in our programs, the better the art we will make. We are working hard to find ways to reduce the barrier of entry to our programming, and want everyone to know they are invited not only to Duluth Playhouse, but also to theatre in a larger sense.
COURTNEY LAINE SELF has recently joined the Duluth Playhouse staff as the Director of Education and Children’s Programming. She has an MFA in Directing from Southern Illinois University, a BFA in Music Theatre from The Hartt School, and has taught for age groups anywhere from pre-K through adults. For the past decade, she lived in NYC and freelance directed/choreographed around the country.

PHILLIP FAZIO is the Producing Artistic Director at Duluth Playhouse. He earned a BFA in Musical Theatre from The Boston Conservatory and a MFA in Directing from Pennsylvania State University. Phillip lived and worked in NYC for nine years and has been an assistant for Tony Award winner Christopher Ashley and Tony Award nominee Jeff Calhoun.

ALYSON ENDERLE has had the pleasure to work on several Playhouse productions (Once, Ragtime, Little Women, The Musical), and has performed at several theaters in the Twin Cities (Artistry, Lyric Arts, Daleko). She graduated from the University of Minnesota-Duluth with a BFA in Musical Theater in 2018, and is looking forward to collaborating with future young artists.

NAOMI CHRISTENSON has always loved dancing and is passionate about bringing quality dance opportunities to adults. She holds a BFA in art, design and dance from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, and she has studied tap online with Demi Remick, Sarah Reich, Kaleena Miller, Andrew Nemr and Lisa LaTouche.

RYLEE KUBERRA grew up in Duluth and earned her BA in Theatre Arts & Psychology from Flagler College in St. Augustine, FL. Her teaching artist experience extends into typically underserved groups including the deaf/blind community and the elderly community. Her hope is to aid in the development of upstanding youth citizens who will have a better sense of who they are through the tools of theatre!

JONATHAN MANCHESTER has been teacher theatre at the Duluth Playhouse for over a decade now. He makes use of that theatre degree most weekends with Renegade Improv. Along with teaching for the Playhouse, Jonathan and Christina Stroup Manchester work with students heading off to college.

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CHERYL SKAFTE is a local theater educator and performer. She has taught with the Duluth Playhouse since 2005. Most recently she played Viola in Wise Fool Theater’s production of Twelfth Night. When she isn’t at the theater, she spends her time working her day job for the City of Duluth, reading, running and thinking about summer.

JONATHAN MANCHESTER has been teacher theatre at the Duluth Playhouse for over a decade now. He makes use of that theatre degree most weekends with Renegade Improv. Along with teaching for the Playhouse, Jonathan and Christina Stroup Manchester work with students heading off to college.

WES DRUMMOND is the Executive Director at Duluth Playhouse. He earned an BFA in Musical Theatre from Western Kentucky University and an MFA in Directing From Pennsylvania State University. Directing in Chicago, NYC and regionally, Wes has been an assistant to Tony Award winner Matthew Warchus and Tony Award nominees Michael Greif and Susan H. Schulman.
SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS

ADULT CLASSES

As adults, we often aren’t encouraged to keep learning—it’s something that gets reserved and prioritized for young people. But our Education Department knows that it doesn’t have to be either/or and that the best way to live a fulfilling life is to keep learning, create relationships and community, and to explore things you’re passionate about.

We offer courses that fulfill a range of needs for our students. Whether you are a veteran performer looking to keep in artistic shape, somewhat new to the craft and want to gain more experience, or if you’re looking to explore how to engage with the theatre in a more discussion-based class while also building connections with like-minded people, we have classes for all needs.

SHOW STUDY

walks students through entire production process of Duluth Playhouse mainstage show, “The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime”

Peek behind the curtain with this lecture/discussion-based course where participants will follow Duluth Playhouse mainstage production, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime, from budget through design process through rehearsals and onto the stage. Participants will also have a chance to witness part of a blocking and tech rehearsal. Your guide through the course will be Director of Education Courtney Self (and special guests every class!) and whether your interest is getting more involved with the Playhouse, hearing from the people who make a production happen, building relationships with other people in the community, or simply curiosity, this class is a welcoming and creatively fulfilling space for all. A ticket to the show is included!!

PLAY CLUB

for the theatre lover looking to learn about & read plays, in-depth discussions, create community

This class is like a Book Club—but with plays! Each week we will discuss and read parts of (only those who want to read will read) a different play, ranging in style. The discussions will range from dramaturgical concerns (playwright background, historical context, production history, etc) to plot/story analysis to character examination all the way to just talking about how the play made us feel. This class is appropriate for a wide range of experience levels, age, backgrounds, etc. The more diversity of experience the more rich and nuanced the discussions can be. Led by Duluth Playhouse’s Artistic Director, this class is a great place to build community and break up your normal daily routines by throwing in some creative discussions surrounding top-rate dramatic literature.
**AUDITION TECHNIQUES**
*audition process—from first through getting cast, focus skills experience confidence - new headshots*

This hands-on class will change how you feel about one of the scarier things in theatre: auditioning. The technique of auditioning is very different from rehearsals or performance, but traditional acting classes do little to address this very important aspect of being an actor. By exploring the individual facets of auditioning, each lesson will de-mystify the process and give the student a ton of practice and the room to try new things—from outfits to monologues, open call to callback, headshots to resumes, cold readings to responding to coaching from directors. New headshots included!

**PLAY CLUB**
* Ages: 19+
* DAY: Sunday
* TIME: 2:00-3:30pm
* DATES: April 30-June 4
* TUITION: $95
* INSTRUCTOR: Phillip Fazio

**AUDITION TECHNIQUES**
* AGES: 19+
* DAY: Wednesday
* TIME: 6:00-7:30pm
* DATES: April 26-May 31
* TUITION: $160
* INSTRUCTOR: Wes Drummond

**TAP–INTERMEDIATE/OPEN**
* AGES: 19+
* DAY: Tuesday
* TIME: 5:40-6:40pm
* DATES: April 25-May 30
* TUITION: $95
* INSTRUCTOR: Naomi Christenson

**SHOW STUDY**
* AGES: 19+
* DAY: Thursday
* TIME: 6:00-7:30pm
* DATES: April 27-June 1
* TUITION: $160
* INSTRUCTOR: Courtney Laine Self

**TAP: INTERMEDIATE/OPEN**
* creative/musical/physical outlet for all students.

This class is an intermediate/open level, so it’s a great fit if you have some experience with tapping, or any form of choreography and want to expand your skills, or even if you’re just curious and open to learning something new while using your body. The structure of teaching tap dancing is progressive, which means variations are built into the curriculum and combinations that allow the student to choose their difficulty level. The physical component in this art form is combined with more deeply understanding and exploring rhythms and patterns. This type of mind-body connection helps with focus and memory in all areas of your life.
The acting curriculum at Duluth Playhouse trains students not only in the skills and techniques specific to performance onstage, but also in broader concepts inherent within acting methodologies such as the structure and importance of storytelling, making the creative process explicit, critical thinking and problem solving, and exercising multiple types of communication.

Students will study and work on different established acting methodologies through text, physical and vocal expression, and improvisation. Emphasis in acting classes will be on the process (technique, experimentation, analysis, play) rather than the product (performance). Each class will culminate in an informal final showing allowing family/friends of students a sneak peek into where the classes are in their process and study. The skills exercised in these acting classes are cumulative (the more classes taken the stronger the skills will be) and can be directly applied when the student is participating in more specifically performance-oriented situations, such as being cast in plays or musicals.

All personality types bring strengths to the acting classroom and have a place to explore and grow within these classes.

**LEVEL 1** • Grades K - 2
**story/character structure,**
**creative play,** **body awareness/control**

Introduces the student to acting basics including exploration, imagination, awareness, and expression. Emphasis on building social-emotional skills both individually and within a group.

**LEVEL 2** • Grades 3 - 5
**imagination as a skill,** **character analysis,** **build actors ‘toolbox’**

Story, Plot, and Character techniques/terminology will be explicitly taught as well as working to build their actor ‘toolbox’ (body/voice/imagination). In addition to interpreting work (traditional acting approach), students will also be introduced into generating their own material (story and character creation).

**LEVEL 3** • Grades 6 - 8
**movement training,** **rehearsal/vocal training,** **analysis performance**

Formal techniques of story/plot structure as well as character are emphasized. More advanced levels and understanding of voice/body training are introduced, including proper warm-up techniques and tools needed for the student to reflect upon their own work. Reading some dramatic literature and script analysis/discussions will be introduced.

**LEVEL 4** • Grades 9 - 12
**individual responsibility,** **performance, collaboration,** **analysis/research**

Curriculum is geared toward creating a confident and educated actor in all classroom, rehearsal, and performance situations. Strong focus on monologue work, warm-ups, and delving into some specific acting methodologies. Analysis/research/reading are an expectation as much as sharing performances of work.
ACTING–LEVEL 1, SECTION 1
AGES: K-2nd grade
DAY: Monday
TIME: 4:30-5:30pm
DATES: April 24-May 29
TUITION: $95
INSTRUCTOR: Cheryl Skafte

ACTING–LEVEL 2
AGES: 3rd-5th grade
DAY: Wednesday
TIME: 4:00-5:30pm
DATES: April 26-May 31
TUITION: $140
INSTRUCTOR: Rylee Kuberra

ACTING–LEVEL 3
AGES: 6th-8th grade
DAY: Saturday
TIME: 10:00-11:30am
DATES: April 29-June 3
TUITION: $140
INSTRUCTOR: Jonathan Manchester

ACTING–LEVEL 4
AGES: 9th-12th grade
DAY: Monday
TIME: 5:00-6:30pm
DATES: April 24-May 29
TUITION: $140
INSTRUCTOR: Rylee Kuberra
SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS

MUSIC THEATRE GENERAL

The music theatre curriculum at Duluth Playhouse centers around the idea that although acting, singing, and dance need to be studied as independent disciplines in order to be a well-rounded music theatre performer, it is just as necessary to study the techniques that meld them together into one form.

In these classes, students will be building ways to explore narrative and character within text, music/rhythm/sound, and movement/physicality/dance. Although technique specific to acting, singing, and dance will be taught, the emphasis will be on how to connect all three disciplines within the context of the larger story being told.

Because of the nature of song and dance being incorporated into the story, the music theatre curriculum organically trains students along the spectrum from more realistic to more abstract. This process of interpreting an emotion/idea through stylistically changing frameworks exercises a student’s ability to think outside the box, creatively problem solve, and think critically about the efficacy of their choices.

LEVEL 2 • Grades 3-5: acting, singing and dancing groundwork Lays the groundwork of centering the story and character whenever we are acting, singing, or dancing (or all 3!). Basic concepts of the ‘triple threat’ disciplines (acting, singing, dancing) will be introduced.

LEVEL 3 • Grades 6-8: musical theatre styles /periods, physical theatre, solo and ensemble work Techniques within acting, singing, and dancing continue to be emphasized, always within the framework of telling the story. Different styles of musical theatre will be introduced along with a beginning knowledge of physical theatre and solo vs. ensemble work.

LEVEL 4 • Grades 9-12: thoughtful exploration of ensemble vs individuals, ownership of the character/materials Curriculum is geared toward creating a confident and educated music theatre actor in all classroom, rehearsal, and performance situations. In-depth work is done in solo, small group, and ensemble scenarios and students will be taught how to dig into the research and analysis of the material they are working on.
MUSIC THEATRE–LEVEL 2
AGES: 3rd-5th grade
DAY: Saturday
TIME: 11:40am-1:10pm
DATES: April 29-June 3
TUITION: $140
INSTRUCTOR: Courtney Laine Self

MUSIC THEATRE–LEVEL 3
AGES: 6th-8th grade
DAY: Thursday
TIME: 4:00-5:30pm
DATES: April 27-June 1
TUITION: $140
INSTRUCTOR: Alyson Enderle

MUSIC THEATRE–LEVEL 4
AGES: 9th-12th grade
DAY: Saturday
TIME: 10:00-11:30am
DATES: April 29-June 3
TUITION: $140
INSTRUCTOR: Courtney Laine Self
INTENSIVES • JOIN US AND LET’S MAKE THEATRE TOGETHER!

Our intensives are an exciting combination of education/technique and creating a production. Contrasting our productions during the school year, these intensives harness a greater focus on the holistic view of how we make theatre. Participants will register for the intensive appropriate for their grade similarly to how they do for classes and workshops. The full intensive experience will involve auditions, rehearsals, tech rehearsals, and performances as well as instruction in various areas in the theatre (including acting, singing, dance, design, analysis, technical work, etc). The focus here is on the teamwork it takes to make theatre and finding ways to contribute strengths while bolstering less-experienced areas. Featuring a ‘less is more’ approach to theatricality, the end production result will remind us all what is at the heart of storytelling: the community, craft, and collaboration.

Please note: Many of the roles can be cast with actors of any gender. Specifically in Newsies, the group of newsies will not necessarily be traditionally gender cast.

**DISNEY’S NEWSIES JR.**
AGES: Finishing 2nd grade-finishing 7th grade

**REHEARSAL DATES:**
MAY 8 – JUNE 25, 2023

**REHEARSALS:**
MAY 8 - JUNE 13
6:00pm-9:00pm

**TECH WEEK:**
JUNE 14 - JUNE 22
5:30pm-9:30pm

**PERFORMANCES:**
JUNE 23 -25

A 60-minute version of the hit Broadway musical, based on the 1992 film. Inspired by the rousing true story of newsboys in turn-of-the-century New York City, DISNEY’S NEWSIES JR features a Tony Award-winning score by Alan Menken and Jack Feldman. When powerful newspaper publishers raise prices at the newsboys’ expense, the charismatic Jack Kelly rallies newsies from across the city to strike against the unfair conditions. Together, the newsies learn that they are stronger united and create a movement to fight for what’s right.

**THE ADDAMS FAMILY**
AGE: Entering 8th grade - 2023 high school graduate

**REHEARSAL DATES:**
JUNE 26 – AUG 2, 2023

**REHEARSALS:**
JUNE 26 -AUG 2
9:00am-3:00pm

**TECH WEEK:**
AUG 3  - AUG 8
9:00am-3:00pm

**PERFORMANCES:**
AUGUST 9 – 13, 2023

There will be no rehearsals July 3-7.

A comical feast that embraces the wackiness in every family. The kooky, upside-down world of THE ADDAMS FAMILY features an original story and everyone’s favorite notorious characters. Wednesday Addams, the ultimate princess of darkness, has grown up and fallen in love with a sweet, smart young man from a respectable family— a man her parents have never met and would never approve of. Wednesday confides in her father and begs him not to tell her mother. Now, Gomez Addams must do something he’s never done before— keep a secret from his beloved wife, Morticia. On the fateful night they host a dinner for Wednesday’s “normal” boyfriend and his parents, everything will change for the family.

DULUTH PLAYHOUSE
WORKSHOPS NEW THIS SPRING! ADULT & YOUTH • ONE DAY • BUILD YOUR SKILLS

THESE ONE-DAY WORKSHOPS FOCUS ON A VARIETY OF TECHNIQUES
AND OFFERED TO A RANGE OF AGES–ADULTS INCLUDED! PARTICIPATE IN AS MANY AS YOU LIKE!

These offerings will always be open to a full range of experience levels—from total beginner to experienced—and will be structured to provide instruction that meets each participant where they are. You can think of these workshops as a way to gain an introduction into new skills in order to gauge future interest. Or—if you already have a working knowledge of the discipline—these workshops are a way to keep exercising those ‘muscles’ and stay connected with the Playhouse family.

VIEWPOINTS
DATE: Saturday May 6
TIME: 2:00-5:00pm
AGES: 19+
INSTRUCTOR: Courtney Laine Self
TUITION: $50

This workshop is an introduction to Viewpoints—the technique of theatre composition created by Mary Overlie and adapted by Anne Bogart and Tina Landau. Viewpoints is a way into making theatre that contrasts the traditional text-based method. Viewpoints is useful for performers as a way to expand how to act upon impulses and get more in touch with body, gesture, and movement. It’s also helpful to directors/choreographers/fight choreographers/etc as a way into generating and creating material. This workshop is appropriate for anyone who is interested in and open to playing and creating. How much mobility you employ in your body is up to you and your body’s abilities.

IMPROV
DATE: Saturday May 13
TIME: 2:00-5:00pm
AGES: 8th-12th grade
INSTRUCTOR: Jonathan Manchester
TUITION: $50

This workshop will reinforce many similar ideas within an acting class, such as character examination, story structure, voice/body techniques, but will focus more intently upon exercises that build the student’s impulses, reflexivity, and iterating new ideas through unscripted performance.

MUSIC THEATRE DANCE AUDITION BOOTCAMP
DATE: Saturday May 20
TIME: 2:00-5:00pm
AGES: 8th-12th grade
INSTRUCTOR: Courtney Laine Self
TUITION: $50

Best suited for the student with a love for music theatre who wants dance training geared toward the music theatre style and the dance call (audition). This workshop will teach lessons tuned specifically toward style, memorization, terminology, and etiquette which will effectively build a confident mover in multiple scenarios. Students will also participate in a mock dance audition during the workshop.

DEVISING THEATRE
DATE: Saturday May 27
TIME: 2:00-5:00pm
AGES: 5th-8th grade
INSTRUCTOR: Rylee Kuberra
TUITION: $50

Devised Theatre is a way of creating theatre that involves the collective collaboration of a group of people. This group might be actors, dancers, musicians, directors, designers, choreographers, writers, or any other type of artist who might be useful in contributing to a piece. In fact, artists who do more than one thing thrive in a devising scenario. This workshop will introduce participants to how devising works, offer some methods of creating, and work together to make their own mini theatre piece! This workshop is perfect for any young theatre lover looking to find new ways to utilize their talents.

DULUTH PLAYHOUSE
SCHEDULE: APRIL 24 - JUNE 4

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MADE POSSIBLE BY

- Duluth Playhouse
- National Endowment for the Arts
- Minnesota State Arts Board
- Clean Water Land & Legacy Amendment
- Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation
- Pachel Foundation
- McKnight Foundation

The Playhouse and its programming is also supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. To find out more about how National Endowment for the Arts grants impact individuals and communities, visit www.arts.gov.

The Playhouse also acknowledges the valuable support of the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation, the McKnight Foundation, the Pachel Foundation, and the Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation.
Hello Duluth Playhouse Education family! We are having a great time with our Winter classes and I’m really looking forward to this upcoming Spring session!

I want to specifically draw your attention to some of our adult offerings. We will be running both Show Study and Play Club again this Spring. We are having a blast with these two courses this Winter and I look forward to growing these curriculums. Show Study is an in-depth look into the full theatrical process, this Spring following Duluth Playhouse Mainstage show The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime. It’s a lecture/discussion-based class that is perfect for the curious and community-seeking adult mind. And Play Club is another wonderful opportunity to create community, all while learning how to read, analyze, and discuss some of the best plays out there. And this Spring, adults can take Audition Techniques, perfect for building confidence and skill in actors of all experience levels for auditions here at the Playhouse or any of the fantastic theatrical institutions in the area.

For our young people, we will be offering our foundational Acting and Music Theatre classes. But also, take a look at our Intensives for this Summer. Newsies Jr. is up first for the younger age group, followed by The Addams Family for the older teens. These intensives emphasize both process and product—meaning students will not only be creating a production, but also still taking the time to build craft and technique in special master classes taught throughout. The intensives take a holistic approach to theatre, and will explore not only performance (all students will be a part of the cast), but also other areas in theatre like costumes, lights, scenic, tech/crew, and box office. The full team and process is the emphasis with these intensives: everyone has to chip in to make some beautiful art! Sign up now: once spots are filled, we’re sold out!

Another exciting offering for Spring is our Workshops offered every Saturday afternoon in May. Each workshop is for a different age group, from 3rd through adults. These are the perfect thing to keep your training going, learn a new skill, connect with other local artists/student, or dip your toe into something new! I’m particularly excited about Rylee Kuberra’s Devising Workshop for 5th-8th graders and my Viewpoints Workshop for adults. Such great ways to build new skills and exercise your creativity!

And don’t forget…Summer class/camp offerings will be announced very soon!

– Courtney

I like QR codes, I don’t have to remember where I need to go to get information. Scan above for latest updates on workshops and classes.
Please visit our website for scholarship information.

www.duluthplayhouse.org/education

Register for two or more classes per family unit
this spring session you qualify for a free
Duluth Playhouse branded beanie!