



Chesil Youth Theatre September 2019 – May 2020

Thank you for your interest in the Chesil Youth Theatre 2019/2020 where we provide theatre workshops and performances for young people aged 8 to 16.

Our main aims are to:

- Build self-confidence
- Develop presentation and communication skills
- Encourage self-expression, imagination and spontaneity
- Learn to negotiate and compromise, whilst working as a team
- Study stagecraft, text work, improvisation and backstage operations
- Gain a life-long interest in theatre

Above all, Chesil Youth Theatre creates enjoyment as well as exciting challenges through drama.

Chesil Youth Theatre membership is split into two groups, each with a maximum: 20 members for the Seniors and 16 for the Juniors. Our season usually comprises two twelve-week terms during the Autumn and Spring school terms, plus some Summer sessions for the Juniors and sometimes for the Seniors if free from exams. Sessions take place either at our own Chesil Theatre, Chesil Street, Winchester or the nearby St John's Church, St John's Street, Winchester.

- Seniors (School Years 8-12) meet on Mondays, from 6.15 to 7.30pm
- Juniors (School Years 4-7) meet on Wednesdays, from 6.15 to 7.30pm

For Seniors, the new term starts on Monday 9th September 2019 and runs until 18th May 2020. Juniors commence on 11th September 2019 with a final session on 20th May 2020.

Each year our Chesil Youth Theatre perform in the main season's programme – *Spotlight on Youth*. Our 2018/19 show in February included four pieces on the theme of 'Delusions'. The juniors performed *Are You New Here?* by SJ Edwards which followed the arrival on earth of three aliens. The seniors' programme comprised a modern version by Paul King of Gogol's classic play *The Government Inspector*. This was teamed with an improvised work on contemporary school life and a satirical dance drama *Listen Pretend Dance*.

In previous years our CYT members have risen to the challenge of a variety of genres from hilarious comedy to drama-documentary plus works by Terry Pratchett and award-winning writers David Adlam and Judith Johnson as well as pieces devised for them by local writers. There are exciting plans being made for our February 2020 production which will include lively and interesting individual roles as well as the opportunity for ensemble acting.

Our CYT members are always encouraged to participate in suitable shows in our main programme. Our 2019/20 season includes an outdoor production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare in July 2020. This is being directed by Sarah Hawkins who is well known to existing CYT members as one of their leaders. Full details of auditions times/dates will be available later

and we hope to see our CYT members showing their usual dedication and professionalism in performance as they have done in the past.

The next *Spotlight on Youth* performances take place on Thursday 13th and Friday 14th February 2020. The contribution of every member of the Company is important and we ask all members to note the date well in advance as there is bound to be a need for extra rehearsal time in addition to regular sessions.

All members of the Chesil Youth Theatre must become Youth Members of Chesil Theatre (Winchester Dramatic Society). The annual subscription is £85 (which equates to around £3 a session) or £70 for a subsequent sibling. For an additional £6 Youth Members are able to join the Ticket Club, giving reduced price tickets for Chesil Theatre shows.

We are happy to validate time spent with CYT for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and give advice on drama studies as well as references for jobs or colleges. CYT also has its own range of clothing. Contact: Marina Humphrey for details marinahumphrey007@gmail.com.

CYT guidance notes for both children and parents/guardians follow. Do take time to read them. If you would like to know more or have further queries, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Tom Humphreys
Director, Chesil Youth Theatre
youth@chesiltheatre.org.uk

May 2019

Chesil Youth Theatre Guidelines

For Youth Theatre members

Attend every session punctually; let us know if you will be absent

We aim to start promptly at 6.15pm. The meeting place will be open from 6.05pm so come early if you want to chat with your friends. When cast in a play, check the dates with your parents, make sure you can attend all the rehearsals and of course the production dates. You are an important part of a team which succeeds as a whole – no one can be missing!

Wear appropriate clothing

This means loose clothing that you don't mind getting dirty. T-shirts, joggers and trainers are ideal. For your own safety, please avoid loose jewellery (bangles and dangly earrings), high heels or platform shoes.

Show respect

The CYT leaders and assistants are all volunteer Chesil Theatre members who give up their time to make a huge commitment to our Youth Members. Likewise, you want to get the most from the sessions. This means mutual respect - for each other and for the leaders. We have a code of behaviour which will be explained to all Youth Members but generally we ask that you:

- Have fun yourself and help others to have fun
- Have a positive attitude, be active, and creative
- Show respect for each other and everybody's work
- Do not use any language or behaviour that will upset others.
- Obey all safety instructions and treat the places where we meet with consideration, tidiness and care

For parents and guardians

Photographs, videos, recordings

Chesil Theatre is very aware of the sensitivity of dealing with images, videos and recordings of young people and will use its best endeavour to ensure none are taken that could be used inappropriately. Before using any identifiable images of young people, consent is requested from the parent/guardian on the membership form. Where consent has not been given, CYT will endeavour to ensure that those affected will be treated sensitively and unobtrusively. Adult consent does not overrule the right of a child to withdraw from a photo/recording session.

During performance

Mobile phones are not allowed in the dressing room. Adults as well as children should leave mobile phones with the designated chaperone for collection at the end of a show. Parents/guardians should be given an emergency number for contact at the theatre.

Behaviour

We expect all CYT members to refrain from any language or behaviour that is violent, racist, sexist or in any other way oppressive, offensive or illegal

Safety

Chesil Youth theatre acknowledges a duty of care for its members. Accordingly:

- All CYT supervisors, leaders and helpers are made familiar with the Theatre's health and safety practices
- CYT has in force a set of child protection guidelines that accord with the policies of Hampshire County Council. The Chesil Theatre Child Safe-Guarding Officer is Rachel O'Neill racheloneiluk@aol.com 07821 879094.

- All CYT supervisors are DBS cleared and ensure that children are not left alone with anyone who is not DBS cleared.
- Parents/guardians are welcome to stay and watch throughout CYT sessions
- Parents/guardians should inform CYT supervisors of any health issue that may affect ability to take part in certain activities
- CYT juniors must be collected from inside the building by a parent or guardian, unless other arrangements have been made with the CYT director/leader.

Data Protection

The 2019/20 Chesil Youth Theatre membership application form has been revised in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation. It now includes a separate page so that parents and guardians have clear opt-in or opt-out choices with regard to the ways in which Chesil Theatre handles personal data.

More about Chesil Theatre

We hope parents and guardians will become involved with the wider activities of Chesil Theatre too. Your help during CYT productions would certainly be appreciated, whether providing props/costumes or chaperoning during productions. We mount six major shows a year during a season. From time to time, there are opportunities for Chesil Youth Theatre members to audition for productions in the main programme and we will let you know when these arise and the commitment involved. There are a wide range of roles to be filled at Chesil Theatre. These are not just on stage but also backstage, front of house, behind the bar, design, marketing and technical areas. If you are interested in joining us please contact our Membership Secretary:
membership@chesiltheatre.org.uk.

Chesil Theatre, May 2019