

Chesil Youth Theatre 2020/2021

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Chesil Youth Theatre will be run, where possible, with changes to our usual format. This may affect dates, times, venues and content of our sessions but we aim to continue CYT where government guidance permits, bringing lively and fun activities for young people aged 8 to 16. For up-to-date information on our current plans, please email youth@chesiltheatre.org.uk.

The main aims of Chesil Youth Theatre 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.

Sessions take place either at our own Chesil Theatre, Chesil Street, Winchester or the nearby John's Church, St John's Street, Winchester. CYT comprises two groups: Seniors (School Years 8-12) and Juniors (School Years 4-7). Normally we run separate sessions for the two groups but in the light of current COVID-19 restrictions, siblings of different ages may be encouraged to attend the same session.

Looking back on our previous season, both our groups have done an amazing job in working together to bring their annual production to the stage in February 2020. We presented two stories from one of the country's most popular writers, Roald Dahl, adapted by David Wood. The juniors performed the famous tale of *James and the Giant Peach* with some wonderful comic characterisations including the two nasty aunts, various fantastical garden insects and of course the young adventurer James himself. The seniors' play delved more into the macabre side of Dahl's work with *The Witches*. This called for a more serious and mature approach to a darkly amusing tale which nonetheless championed the kind-hearted and rejoiced in an underlying warm sentiment. The professional reviewer from Scene One+ commented online:

“It is a year almost to the day I wrote that these youngsters are diamonds in the rough who will, no doubt, continue to progress into accomplished performers as they continue to be carefully nurtured



and develop their blossoming skills. What is evidently clear twelve months later, is just how well the directorial team has encouraged their protégés into confident and capable performers.”





After the production, some members of both groups started rehearsals for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* whilst others embarked on an improvised project. Sadly, these sessions were curtailed due to government advice on Covid-19 but we hope to mount *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, albeit a year late, as an open air production in Summer 2021 and of course we welcome the many talents of our CYT to take part in this major show as originally envisaged. Despite government restrictions, some

members of CYT have been contributing to our in-house Chesil Theatre cabaret sessions which have been a regular feature during lockdown.

We're always happy to welcome new members. No experience is necessary although enthusiasm and commitment is vital.

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

Jo Ashwell
Child Protection Officer
Joashwell11@gmail.com



January 2021

Notes for parents/guardians:

- Guidance notes follow for both parents/guardians and children.
- The Chesil Theatre Child Protection Policy can also be read on this website <https://www.chesiltheatre.org.uk/safeguarding.html>

Chesil Youth Theatre Guidelines

During the current COVID-19 pandemic a specific risk assessment is in operation for Chesil Youth Theatre.

This affects CYT leaders/helpers, CYT members and their parents/guardians.

A copy is available on this website.

For Youth Theatre members

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

We aim to start promptly and the meeting place will be open 10 minutes in advance. 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/session. 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 Jo Ashwell, joashwell11@gmail.com, 07718 132346.
- All CYT supervisors are DBS cleared and ensure that children are not left alone with anyone who is not DBS cleared.
- Parents/guardians are normally welcome to stay and watch throughout CYT sessions but not whilst COVID-19 restrictions are in force.
- 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 the doorway or inside the building by a parent or guardian, unless other arrangements have been made with the CYT director/leader.

Data Protection

The 2020/21 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 usually 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, January 2021