

Chesil Youth Theatre September 2020 – May 2021

Thank you for your interest in the Chesil Youth Theatre 2020/21 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

This season both our groups have done an amazing job in working together to bring their annual production to the stage in February. 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. Rest assured though, that although CYT cannot meet at the moment, there are already exciting plans being made for when we restart, hopefully in the Autumn Term. Further Chesil Theatre productions are postponed at the moment 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. Several ideas are also in the melting pot as to CYT's own show.



We're always happy to welcome new members. No experience is necessary although enthusiasm and commitment is vital. We will bring more details of the forthcoming term as soon as we are able. Until then, we wish all our CYT members and their families well and look forward to greeting them again soon.

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 2020

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.

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 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 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 2020