NATIONAL YOUTH THEATRE ACTING AUDITIONS 2012

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the National Youth Theatre?

A. The National Youth Theatre (NYT) is the leading platform for showcasing young acting talent and was the first youth theatre in the world. For the past 55 years we have nurtured some of the finest British talent including Orlando Bloom, Hugh Bonneville, Daniel Craig, Daniel Day-Lewis, Chiwetel Ejiofor OBE, Jeremy Irvine, Sir Derek Jacobi, Dame Helen Mirren DBE, Matt Smith, Catherine Tate, Antonia Thomas, Ed Westwick and many more. Our young members perform on leading West End Stages and remarkable international stages around the world.

Q. How do I join the National Youth Theatre?

A. Applications to audition are now open. You can apply online by visiting www.ideastap.com/nytapply. If you cannot apply online you can download an application form from our website www.nyt.org.uk with a cheque/bank details and post this to Auditions, National Youth Theatre, 52 Bermondsey Street, The Woolyard, London, SE1 3UD. If you require an application form posted to you please write to us on the above address or call 020 7281 3863.

Q. What am I auditioning for?

A. If successful at your audition you will be invited to take part in a two week intensive acting course during August 2012. Upon completion of this course you will be a National Youth Theatre member. Members can audition for our impressive shows each year to perform in leading venues as well as having access to external opportunities approved by the Casting Director's Guild. Members during our 2011 season performed in China, The Old Vic Tunnels in London, the iconic Park Hill Estate in Sheffield, and The Lighthouse in Glasgow.

Q. Who can apply?

A. Acting applicants must be aged between 14-21 years old (on 1st August 2012) to be eligible to apply for NYT. Once you have completed your course and you are a member of NYT, you will be a member until you are 21 or finish full time education in your first degree at University or Drama School. Please note, if you are over 21 and about to have a gap year before going back into full time education, you are not eligible to be a member of NYT. Anyone who falls into these age categories can apply, regardless of where they live in the UK, gender, race, religion, ethnicity, sexuality or disability.

Q. I am at school/college; will this conflict in any way with my education?

A. Whilst there are local, national and international opportunities for our members throughout the year, the majority of our work is scheduled to take place during school/college breaks such as the summer and during term breaks at an arts venue in your region.

Q. How much does it cost to audition?

A. Acting auditions are £30, which covers the cost of two experienced theatre professionals guiding applicants through a 3 hour workshop and an afternoon individual audition.

Q. What happens at the audition?

A. Our auditions last for an entire day, 10am-6pm, and you must make sure you are free for all of it. You will spend the morning in a group workshop, which will give you a sense of how we work and give us an indication of your ability to work in a group. Then in the afternoon you will be called for your individual audition. For this we ask that you prepare a two minute speech from any published play of your choosing which should be learnt by heart. From these two sessions our auditioners will make their assessment by giving you a score based on the quality of your performance and the enthusiasm you demonstrate.

national® youth theatre

Q. What happens after my audition?

A. Your results will be emailed or posted to you 6-8 weeks after your audition.

Q. What happens if I'm unsuccessful?

A. Please do not despair. Lots of our members have applied several times before they were accepted. We will endeavour to supply you with information or contacts to signpost you to drama activities and programmes in the region you have auditioned.

Q. What happens if I'm successful?

A. You will be sent an invitation to attend our Acting Course, which is two weeks in duration and will take place in the summer. Exact dates are still to be confirmed.

Q. What happens on the courses?

A. You will be assigned a group, which will be led by an experienced theatre professional, alongside an Assistant Director. You will be taken through various acting techniques and will take part in a final performance. Acting course members from 2011 performed at Watch This Space, National Theatre.

Q. Who will be running the courses?

A. The courses are led by a Director and Assistant Director; they will direct and facilitate your course. There are also Course Managers who are on-site who deal with all pastoral matters. If you choose to stay in provided accommodation, a Courses Manager is always in residence along with your Assistant Director. They look after the welfare of young people and are the first point of contact if there are any problems. If members need to leave the halls of residence they must go out in groups of no less than three and must notify the Assistant Director. All members will be given a contact number for their Assistant Director and Course Manager.

Q. Where do the courses run?

A. NYT are currently securing locations in the UK for 2012. Summer Courses will be verified in the acceptance letter for those invited on to a course.

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