

**SOUTHEND
CLIFFS PAVILION
SOUTHEND
PALACE THEATRE**

Southend Theatres' Youth Theatres Enquiry Pack

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Community & Education at Southend Theatres

Welcome to our Youth Theatres

Southend Theatre's has a vibrant Community & Education Department which can offer arts activities to the whole community, regardless of age or ability. As part of this programme, we have six exciting youth theatre groups for children and young people aged 4-19.

Our Youth theatre's run Monday – Thursday in Term Time, with each age group being allocated a different day and time to attend. Each term consists of ten sessions, breaking for half term(s).

All our youth groups are taught by theatre professionals and bring a pool of expertise from teaching performing arts in schools, to successfully managing their own theatre and performing arts company's.

Your child will learn and develop new theatre skills, as well as build confidence and meet like-minded people. On top of this, all our youth groups work towards devising and performing an original piece of theatre which is showcased at our end of Summer Term Production.

This Enquiry Pack contains all the essential information you need to know regarding your child becoming a member of our youth groups. We hope this pack should answer any questions you may have, but our Community & Education Team are always on hand should you require any further assistance. If you've read this pack and wish to join, contact [Emma](#) to secure your place.

Your Community and Education Team:



Rachel Triggs
Community & Education Manager
rachel@southendtheatres.org.uk



Emma Wagstaff
Community Arts Apprentice
emmawa@southendtheatres.org.uk

Or call us on **01702 390472** and ask for the Community and Education team.

A breakdown of each Youth Group:

Tiny Palace (4–7-Year-Olds)



Tiny Palace is our youngest group, this class is for 4–7-year-olds. It runs on a **Monday from 4–5:15pm** with our teacher Victoria and is a great environment for your little ones to build confidence, learn drama skills and make new friends. Please note your child must have started reception in school to join this class.

Little Palace (7–11-Year-Olds)



Little Palace is for 7–11-year-olds. This group runs on a **Tuesday from 4:30–6pm**. Your child should be in or between years 3 and 6 in school to join this group. Our teacher Alan runs this class and always makes sure that the children are learning new skills and developing their confidence with like-minded people.

Young Palace (11–16-Year-Olds)



Young Palace is our group for secondary school aged children, this class is for 11–16-year-olds. We have two groups for Young Palace. One runs **Mondays from 5:30–7:30pm** and the other on **Thursdays from 5:15–7:15pm**. We can make note of your preference of days, but it is not guaranteed you will be allocated to your first choice. This group is run by Alan as well, and aims to develop young people as confident actors, whilst providing them with a friendly environment and boost confidence in performing.

Palace Youth Company (16–19-Year-Olds)



Palace Youth Company is our performance group for 16–19-year-olds. It runs on a **Tuesday from 6:00–8:00pm**. This group is led by our teacher Hannah and is focused for young people who want to take their acting skills to the next level and gain experience of working in a theatre ensemble.

Total Palace (11-16- and 16–25-Year-Olds with SEND)



Total Palace are our groups for 11–16-year-olds and 16- to 25-year-olds who identify as neuro-diverse or have additional needs; including but not limited to autism spectrum disorder and Downs Syndrome. The groups are limited to 8 members to ensure young people are fully supported. Led by our teacher Michelle, Total Palace provides a comfortable environment to develop confidence and build up theatre and social skills. Both groups run on **Wednesday evening**, group 1 (11 to 16) from **5:30pm to 6:30pm** and group 2 (16 to 25) from **6:30pm to 7:30pm**.

Technical Youth Company (14–19-Year-Olds)



Our Technical Youth Company is for young people aged 14-19 years old who have a passion and/or curiosity for learning the ropes backstage. This group consists of **three technical masterclasses per term** each focusing on mastering a new technical skill.

Our Teaching Team

Hannah Brailsford

Palace Youth Company Leader

I'm a professional actor and performance storyteller with twenty-five years' experience as a drama facilitator and youth theatre leader. I have had the great pleasure of leading Tiny Palace, since September 2016, and Little Palace in the past and now teach the Palace Youth Company.



Alan Terry

Little and Young Palace Youth Leader

My name is Alan and I have been a drama teacher in school for over 17 years, having spent 20 years as a professional actor trending the boards in various shows all over the country. I live with my wife Claire, to relax I love the cinema and watching my team (Arsenal) play and sometimes win!





Michelle Barrington

Total Palace Youth Leader

Michelle is an Essex based theatre maker, director and performer and is the co-founder and Artistic Director of Blown Fuse Theatre (2016). Michelle has been a drama facilitator for 5 years; directing and teaching young people aged 4 to 24 years old as well as being non-executive director and delivering arts projects for Elevator Arts (2020). Michelle strives in making the arts accessible and inclusive for all.

Victoria Jones

Tiny Palace Youth Leader

Victoria is our Tiny Palace Youth Leader. Victoria trained at East 15, has taught theatre in Thailand and South Korea. Victoria is a qualified teacher with a broad variety of experience in theatre and education. She leads the way brilliantly and loves working with Tiny Palace!



Luke Goddard

Technical Youth Theatre Leader

My name is Luke Goddard, I have been working for Southend theatres for 6 years. I once participated in the Summer Youth Project taking on a technical role, so I understand exactly what it is like to be a young person involved in our technical youth company. I've got great plans and new technical challenges for the Technical Youth Company to look forward to this year!

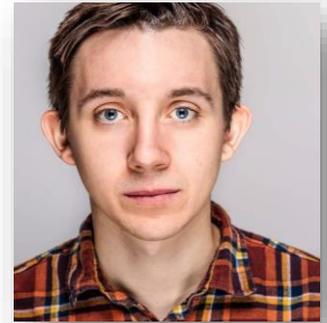
Our Teaching Assistants:

Claire Brooks

Claire has been involved in our Youth Theatres for several years and knows the groups inside out. From assisting in our Tiny Palace youth class to being on hand to help with our Palace Youth company. Claire also works front of house at Southend Theatres. She is a talented artist and a prop maker with several of her props featuring in our Youth Theatres show.

James Little

I graduated East 15 Acting School in 2016 and since been involved in all aspects of performing - I started with a devising theatre company called Backpack theatre which put on several shows in London. In 2018, I began helping with Youth Theatres and chaperoned their summer shows, I told stories at the Cliffs Pavilion and discovered the local Laughter Academy improv group. In 2019, I did my first international storytelling performance in Sweden and began improvising musicals and teaching at the Youth Theatres and other groups.



Helena Zizkovska

Helena has an extremely diverse background from working in travelling theatre in education groups in the Czech Republic, to extensive experience supporting children and young people in care. She has a passion for theatre and is excited to be assisting both of our Total Palace Groups.

Pricing per group:

Please note

Tiny palace - £50 per term

Little Palace - £55 per term

Young Palace - £65 per term

Palace Youth Company - £65 per term

Total Palace - £20 per term

Technical Youth Company - £30 per term

FAQ'S

Q: "What should I do if my child is going to be late?"

You should call and ask for the Community & Education Team on 01702 390472. Let us know as soon as possible so we can inform your child's tutor.

Q: "What should I do if my child is going to be absent from class?"

You should call and ask for [Rachel](#) or [Emma](#) on the Community & Education Team on 01702 390472. Let us know as soon as possible so we can inform your child's teacher. If you miss three classes without letting us know, we will offer your space to another person on our waiting list.

Q: "Somebody else is going to be picking my child up from class, what do I need to do?"

You must inform us any changes to your pickup, this is to ensure your child leaves our Theatre safely. Please email [Rachel](#) or [Emma](#) and inform us of the name of the person who is due to pick up your child and a contact number for them.

Q: "What will my child learn?"

Each group's class content is tailored appropriately to the age group. Our focus will change termly, topics will include skills-based sessions, devising and looking at "themes" as stimulus to create work. All our youth theatre groups work towards an end of year show at the Palace Theatre in July. We will send you more details on this closer to the time and of course invite you all to watch! Our Autumn term theme is "*Together Again*".

Q: "Do we have to re-apply each term?"

No, you do not. Once your child has become one of our Youth Theatre Groups, we encourage them to stay on with us in our Creative Learning Community and move up the Youth Theatres as they get older... up until they are young adults! Of course, this is completely optional, but no you do not have to re-apply. Once you're in, you're in!

Q: "What should my child bring with them?"

Just themselves and a drink to stay hydrated. If they are required to bring anything else with them, we will make you aware of this in advance.

Q: Do I need to wait for a new term to join?

We encourage you to join at the start of a term, however, we do allow new members to start during a term. However, payments are taken termly, so joining part way through

will mean you will still be paying for the full term. With our Youth Theatre summer show on the way, our groups will stop taking new members around February/March to allow maximum time to prepare for the show.

Q: “My child wants to be in the same group as their friend, is this possible?”

We will try to accommodate children with a single friend, if space in the group allows. However, one of the greatest benefits of joining a theatre class is the opportunity for your child to make lots of new friends too.

Q: “My child’s friend is interested in joining the Youth Theatres”

That’s great, you can refer them directly to our new joiners form by following this link: <https://forms.gle/waoP8nFUPhPfwb7z7>. The Community & Education Team will then be in touch. We are only able to accept new joiners up until February, this is due to all our youth groups then being hard at work towards their end of year show from this point.

Q: “Where in the Cliffs Pavilion are the classes held”

All of our youth theatre classes, except the Technical Youth company, are held in the Director’s Room at the Cliffs Pavilion. To find the Director’s Room head past our café and go through the double doors named “door 2” at the end of the café. Go through the next set of double doors and the Director’s Room is directly on your left-hand side.

Occasionally it becomes necessary for our Youth Theatre classes to change location within our venues. Any changes to the location of the youth theatres will be communicated to you in advance by email. We will also post a message to our Youth Theatres Facebook page.



Outside the Director's Room



Inside the Director's Room

Q: “You mentioned a Youth Theatres Facebook group, how do I join?”

Click [here](#) to join our private Facebook group. The Community and Education team will post updates and need to know information on this page as well as emailing you. This is a closed group; we will need to accept your request in advance of you joining to ensure safety and privacy.

Q: “My child needs to take in medication during their youth theatre class”

Southend Theatres cannot be held responsible for storing nor administering any medication. Please ensure your child brings any needed medication with them and it is clearly labelled. Please ensure you have given us full medical information prior to joining or returning to our class. If you would like to discuss this further, please get in contact.

Q: “Can my child bring toys and/or food with them to the sessions?”

Due to allergies, we would prefer if you didn't break in food during our youth theatre sessions. Sensory toys are allowed.

Q: Does my child need to audition to gain a place?”

No, you just need to have enthusiasm for performing and be ready to have lots of fun. However, to join our Palace Youth Company we ask members to participate in a theatre workshop to gain entry.

Q: “I have a different question”

We hope you have found our welcome pack informative. However, if you still have another question please **email** the Community & Education Team, either [Rachel](#) or [Emma](#) are happy to answer any further questions you may have.

Our Policies

Covid-19, Code of Conduct, Safeguarding

Our policies are put into place to keep everybody safe whilst they are at Southend Theatres. Please click each individual policy to view.

Covid-19:

<https://southendtheatres.org.uk/Online/reopening-safely-southend>

Youth Theatre Specific Covid-19 Safety Measures:

- ✓ Our Youth Theatre staff will wear a mask or a visor in all sessions.
- ✓ Youth Theatre Staff will remain socially distanced.
- ✓ All staff have received a specific Covid induction.

- ✓ All our teaching staff will need to be fully vaccinated with proof and must provide a negative LFT before teaching every session.
- ✓ Youth theatre members are not required to wear face masks/ visors but can do so if they would like.
- ✓ We recommend that all our youth theatre members take lateral flow tests before attending each week.

Safeguarding:

Safeguarding is of paramount importance to us at Southend Theatres. All our youth theatres staff and community and education team hold a valid DBS check and undertake the relevant safeguarding training. If you would like to discuss any issue relating to Safeguarding, please contact [Rachel](#).

Please click [here](#) to read our full safeguarding policy.

Useful Safeguarding Contacts:

If you are concerned that a child is being abused or neglected, or that they may be at risk of harm, you should contact:

Contact	Times Available	Contact
MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) – Southend	Mon to Thurs: 9am to 5.30pm Friday: 9am to 4.30pm	01702 215007 / mash@southend.gov.uk
Emergency Duty Team	Out of hours, 365 days a year	0345 606 1212
NSPCC Child Protection Helpline		0808 800 5000
Police		999
Childline		0800 1111 (Free)

Exciting opportunities and activities at Southend Theatres

Making the most of being a youth theatre member...

As a member of our Youth Theatres you will be excited to learn of other relevant activities and events your child can get involved with at Southend Theatres:

Summer Youth Project



BUGSY MALONE SUMMER YOUTH PROJECT 2019

The Summer Youth Project is a fantastical musical experience for children aged 8–19-year-olds which takes place in the six weeks holidays at the Palace Theatre. Join us and a team of theatre industry professionals as we bring 80 young people together and put on a high quality well known musical production in just under two weeks! The result of the project culminates in six spectacular performances at the Palace Theatre.

- Details for our 2021 project will be released here: <https://southendtheatres.org.uk/Online/syp-auditions>
- Join our Summer Youth Project Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/palacetheatresyp>
- Check out our glowing 2019 press review: <http://www.southendtheatrescene.com/bugsymalone.html>

Half Term and Holiday Activities



Southend Theatres programmes a wide range of half term activities for children and young people of all ages.

Previous workshops have included...

- Storybook based drama
- Music days for small children
- Theatre industry masterclasses. These include our extremely popular theatrical makeup masterclass, or our most recent half term costume design workshop...and many more!

