

# *Fine* **SITKA** *Arts Camp*

Young Performers Theater presents:  
*A Midsummer Night's Dream*



## **A Midsummer Night's Dream**

By William Shakespeare  
Adapted by Zeke Blackwell

And

## **A Modern Midsummer Night's Dream**

Adapted by Zeke Blackwell from William Shakespeare

## YPT: THE MISSION

Thank you for your interest in theater!

The Young Performers Theater (YPT) at the Sitka Fine Arts Camp is proudly entering its fifth season. We're excited to continue our dedication to introducing theater arts to the young people of this community.

The YPT is committed to providing an environment where young people's voices are heard; where they are given agency and can develop the empathy and responsibility needed to become future leaders of strong communities. We train young people to be observant listeners, insightful creators, thoughtful critics, passionate thinkers, and committed leaders.

And perhaps most importantly of all: we play.



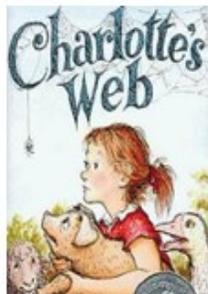
## WHAT IS YPT?

YPT is a kid-focused performing arts training program. We believe performance in front of a live audience is one of the most directly valuable ways of becoming a stronger performer. So, our program focuses primarily on producing full-length plays and Broadway musicals in the historic Odess Theater in Allen Hall.

### THE 2017-2018 YPT SEASON

This season we'll be producing 3 shows:

**Charlotte's Web**  
By Joseph Robinette  
October 19-21



The timeless story of "some pig" and his true friend, Charlotte.

**Once Upon a Mattress**  
By Mary Rodgers  
March 8-10



A hilarious slapstick retelling of the classic Princess and the Pea!

**A Night of One Acts**  
May 3-5

Short plays soon to be announced!

## What is a Night of One Acts?

We are producing multiple shorter plays all in the same evening. This will give more students greater opportunity to take on challenging and interesting roles. We have an ~ 40 minute play for elementary age students, and a 50-60 minute play for middle school and high school students. Everyone who auditions will be given a part.

### *About A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Come rollick with us in this fast-paced, high-energy, trimmed-down, romantically-farcical, side-splitting, gender-swapping, donkey-headed, magic-potioned, many-hyphenated adaptation of one of the most beloved plays of all time. Preserving Shakespeare's original poetry, but cut down to less than an hour, this version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* promises to bewitch young and old alike.

### *About A Modern Midsummer Night's Dream*

It's summer school, and a group of students has to put on a play. But the language is so hard! And their teachers just keep falling in love with each other. And there are these strange fairies roaming the hallways and the playground causing trouble! Everything you love about William Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night Dream*, with modern language, and a setting that elementary school students will love!

### About the Director

Zeke Blackwell has been involved in over 80 productions as a director, actor, writer, designer, and technician, and has had the joy of making theater in Sitka, Fort Worth, New Haven, New York, and Costa Rica, where he directed the world premiere of the Spanish-language production of *Once on this Island!* With over a decade of improv comedy experience, he's performed/taught improv in LA, San Francisco, NYC, Chicago, Austin, Boston, and Washington, D.C, and most recently at the Boston Comedy Arts Festival. His original play, *Still Life*, was produced in the 2013 New York International Fringe Festival. He graduated from Yale University in 2013 with a B.A. in Cognitive Science. He served two years on the board of directors for Far Corners Community Musical Theatre, a non-profit dedicated to providing arts opportunities for underserved youth in isolated regions of the world. Zeke is returning for his fourth season at SFAC as the YPT Director.



## **Roles (most roles can be played by either gender):**

### A Modern Midsummer Night's Dream

#### (Age 7 through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade)

##### The Teachers

**Dr. Theseus** - Principle of Athens Elementary

**Dr. Hippolyta** - Superintendent

**Ms. Hermia** - A teacher in love with Lysander

**Ms. Helena** - A teacher in love with Demetrius

**Mr. Lysander** - A janitor in love with Hermia

**Mr. Demetrius** - A coach in love with Hermia

**Quince** - A smart kid, natural leader

**Snug** - A slower student, very kind

**Bottom** - The class clown

**Flute** - The shy kid

**Snout** - The artistic kid

**Starveling** - A kid with strong allergies

**Oberon** - King of the fairies

**Titania** - Queen of the fairies

**Puck** - mischievous servant to Oberon

**Peaseblossom, Cobweb, Moth, Mustardseed,  
and other fairies**

### A Midsummer Night's Dream (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Graders)

#### The Court

**Theseus** - Duke of Athens

**Hippolyta** - Queen of the Amazons, betrothed to Theseus

**Hermia** - Daughter to Egeus, in love with Lysander

**Helena** - in love with Demetrius

**Egeus** - Father to Hermia

**Lysander** - in love with Hermia

**Demetrius** - in love with Hermia

**Philostrate** - Master of the revels to Theseus

#### The Rude Mechanicals

**Quince** - A Carpenter

**Snug** - A Joiner

**Bottom** - A weaver

**Flute** - A bellows-mender

**Snout** - A Tinker

**Starveling** - A tailor

#### The Fairies

**Oberon** - King of the fairies

**Titania** - Queen of the fairies

**Puck** - mischievous servant to Oberon

**Peaseblossom, Cobweb, Moth, Mustardseed,  
and other fairies**

## Audition Information:

**Age:** Students grades 2-5 are eligible to audition for *A Modern Midsummer Night's Dream*. Students grades 6-12 are eligible to audition for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Casting is by audition, *no experience is necessary*.

**Audition Requirements:** Auditions will take place on Monday & Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> as follows:

### Elementary School Students

Monday, March 5th 4:00-4:30

Monday, March 5th 4:30-5:00

Tuesday, March 6th 5:00-5:30

### Middle & High School Students

Monday, March 5th 5:00-5:30

Tuesday, March 6th 4:00-4:30

Tuesday, March 6th 4:30-5:00

Auditions will be done in groups, not individually. Please sign up for one half hour slot online through the youth theater page at

[www.fineartscamp.org/programs/young-performers-theater/](http://www.fineartscamp.org/programs/young-performers-theater/)

Nothing needs to be memorized or prepared for auditions, but I have posted scenes online that I may have you read from during auditions. Feel free to familiarize yourself with them.

**Callbacks:** A list of any students who have received a callback will be emailed out and posted on the youth theater page of the Fine Arts Camp website by 8:30pm on March 26th . Callbacks will occur as needed on Wednesday, March 27th from 4 to 5:30.

Please note that all students who audition will be offered a role in the production, regardless of whether they receive a callback.

**Cast List:** The cast list will be emailed out by the end of Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. The first read-through will be 4-5pm Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup> for elementary students and 5-6:30pm Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup> for middle/high school students. The parent meeting will be Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5-5:45pm.

## Commitments:

**Rehearsal Schedule:** The rehearsal schedule for the show is built around the conflicts that students submit at their audition. A complete rehearsal schedule for the duration of the show will be released at the first parent meeting. The schedule is subject to change with as much advance notice as possible. Participants are expected to be at every rehearsal that they are scheduled for.

The rehearsal period runs 5 weeks, between April 1<sup>st</sup> and May 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Absence/Tardiness Policy:** Theater is inherently a collaborative, group-made art, and the individual is essential to the whole. A participant who is absent from or late to a rehearsal disrespects his or her peers and wastes everyone's time. Please anticipate potential absences or tardiness and communicate with us as soon as you are aware of them.

Three unexcused absences may result in forfeiture of a role and/or dismissal from the program.  
Three unexcused tardies will count as one unexcused absence.

**Tech Week:** Participants are required to be at **all** Tech Week rehearsals they are scheduled for. Tech Week rehearsals will be the week of April 29<sup>th</sup>.

Because this production will feature independent casts for the first and second halves, the elementary age actors will have tech week rehearsals 5:00-7:00pm, while middle and high school age actors will have tech week rehearsals 6:30-8:30

**Cue to Cue:** In addition to tech week, we're asking participants to reserve the Saturday before tech week (April 27<sup>th</sup>) to have an extended rehearsal to better prepare for production week.

**Performances:** Participants are required to be at all performances they are scheduled to perform at, unless the director gives special, explicit permission to do otherwise.

**Strike:** Immediately following the final performance, participants and their parents will be expected to help with striking the set, costumes, etc. and with cleaning up the performance space. Following strike there will be a post-production celebration for everyone involved in the production!

## Rehearsal Information:

The rehearsal process will take place between Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup> and Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### Rehearsals generally occur during the following times:

Mondays 4-8pm

Tuesdays 4-8pm

Wednesdays 4-8pm

Thursdays 4-8pm

Saturday 12pm-5pm

**PLEASE NOTE:** Students will **not** be required to be at every rehearsal (nor will rehearsals ever fill the entire above schedule). A detailed rehearsal schedule, which takes into account the conflicts listed by students at their audition, will be given out at the first rehearsal. The above rehearsal time slots themselves may be subject to change, based on participants' conflicts.

Tech Week rehearsals are **mandatory** and run Monday-Thursday 5:00pm-8:30pm the week of April 29<sup>th</sup>. A **mandatory** extended rehearsal will be scheduled for Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, TBA.

## Performance Information:

### Performance Dates:

Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> TBD – School Performances

Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7pm

Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2pm & 7pm

Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2pm

### Participation Fee:

There is a \$175 participation fee (\$185.50 after tax) for those who commit to the production. The fee will include a show t-shirt. For families with three or more participants a 10% discount per participant will be applied.

We at the Sitka Fine Arts Camp are committed to making opportunities in the arts available to students regardless of financial circumstances. Expense should not be a barrier to the arts.

Consequently, need-based financial aid is available. For applications, visit the Youth Theater page at [www.fineartscamp.org](http://www.fineartscamp.org) or stop by the SFAC Main Office in the Rasmuson Building on the SJ Campus.

If parents are interested in donating to the financial aid fund for the Young Performers Theater program, they can call the Fine Arts Camp Office at 907-747-3085.

## Parent Responsibilities:

**Parent Meeting:** A parent must attend the parent meeting on Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5:00-5:45 pm. At this meeting, the director, and production staff will distribute important information and answer any questions. Parents will also have the chance to sign up for volunteer opportunities.

**Rehearsals:** We will start and end rehearsals on time. Please have your child at rehearsal 5 minutes early. At every rehearsal, they should bring a water bottle, pencil, and their script, and students should wear comfortable clothing and shoes that they can move in.

**Volunteer Hours:** All families are expected to put in at least 10 hours of volunteer service to help prepare for the show. Volunteer opportunities include set building, painting, prop creation, costume assistance, and more. We also need lots of help during tech week and performances with backstage and dressing room supervision.

Please record your hours to help us keep track. Your involvement is crucial to our success.

**Communication:** All communication will be done via email. Please check your email regularly.

**Costumes:** We ask each family to supply the costume(s) for their child. The show's costume designer will provide detailed instructions for each family on their child's costumes. Specific shoes, make-up and undergarments may also be required. Families can either make the costumes, buy a costume, or hire someone else. For any questions, please talk to the costume designers. As our YPT costume store grows, we will be able to provide more support to families.

If your family has financial limitations, please speak to the director and costume designer about obtaining assistance.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN**  
*A Night of One Acts!*