2020 summer programs

There's something for everyone!

Grades pre-K to 12
welcome!

We are excited to announce our programming for Summer 2020!

At WFT we are committed to providing high quality, innovative, process-based theatre arts education experiences that foster student growth, not only in theatre arts skills, but also in essential life skills such as communication, collaboration, critical and creative thinking, and empathy. Rooted in child development, our continuum of theatre arts experiences is designed to embrace the diversity of our students and offers rich learning experiences for all ages and stages.

This summer welcomes back many of our most well-loved class favorites, while also celebrating the launch of a whole line-up of brand new class offerings. Exciting, right?! From Best of Broadway to Shakespeare on the Green, physical comedy to playwriting, Treasure Trunk Theatre to our TYA Tour...at WFT, there really is “Something for Everyone!” So, what are you waiting for? Come on out and play!

Jeri Hammond
Director of Education
about us

Our team of professional educators and theatre artists provide a caring and welcoming learning environment where students work together toward common goals and, in so doing, develop a sense of belonging and confidence, discover new things about the world of theatre, and about themselves.

Our mission is to break down barriers so that all children are able to fully participate in our programming. Please reach out to learn more about our inclusive education practices for students with disabilities and other learning needs, as well as our sliding scale tuition assistance program designed to make participation within reach for all families.
Puppet Academy
in partnership with Puppet Showplace Theatre

Dive into the wildly creative and interdisciplinary world of puppetry arts! This summer, kids of all ages will have a unique opportunity to learn the secrets of crafting extraordinary characters and bringing them to life on stage and screen. Guided by a dream team of professional puppeteers, each day we will cover a different building and performance technique, from marionettes to mouth puppets, from hand puppets to shadows. We’ll learn to see creative inspiration in found objects and materials, and to tell stories using movement and “visual vocabulary.” Mini performances and fun creative challenges will take place throughout the week, along with performances by veteran puppeteers. No prior puppetry or theater experience is necessary. Join us for a fun and imaginative start to summer vacation! This program does not have a final demonstration.

Under the Big Top: A High Flying Circus

Come one, Come all to the Greatest Show on Earth! We will bring our summer to a rousing finish with a week-long exploration of the theatrical world of the circus. Professional Boston area Circus artists will lead classes each day in circus skills such as clowning, juggling, tumbling, spinning plates, hula hoops, acrobatics, Chinese yo-yo and more! In addition, Wheelock Family Theatre teaching artists will lead classes in physical comedy, musical theatre and movement. All together, making for a three-ring circus of an experience!
grades k-1 programs

Our full-day programs for our youngest students introduce the building blocks of theater, visual arts, and creative play in a fun and supportive environment. Final demonstrations for this age group are the final Friday of the program at 11:30am.

Story Explorers

A week of creative play! Students will work together and use their imaginations, bodies, and voices while exploring the imaginative world of a beloved author. The morning will be spent engaging in creative drama and movement and the second half of the day will be our Afternoon Arts Adventure: hands-on visual arts projects connected to the theme of the week. Stories this summer are “Seuss on the Loose!”, “Where the Wild Things Are”, and “If You Give A Mouse A Cookie.”

Treasure Trunk Theatre  NEW PROGRAM

Get ready to take an imaginative trip! Inspired by mystery objects found in the treasure trunk, students will head off on a new adventure each day using movement, creative problem-solving, and imaginative play. An engaging theme charts the course for a fun-filled journey. The morning will be spent engaging in creative drama and movement and the second half of the day will be our Afternoon Arts Adventure: hands-on visual arts projects connected to the theme of the week. Themes this summer are “On the High Seas” and “Out of this World!”.

Music Movers  NEW PROGRAM

Get ready to move and groove! Students will make their own music exploring rhythm and music dynamics such as loud/soft, high/low, fast/slow. Through creative movement inspired by favorite animals, students will explore different ways of moving in a celebration of self expression. In our Music Movers classes, dancing to the beat of your own drum is encouraged! The morning will be spent engaging in music making and movement and the second half of the day will be our Afternoon Arts Adventure: hands-on visual arts projects connected to the theme of the week. Themes this summer are “Barnyard Boogie” and “Jurassic Jive”.
grades 1–3 programs

With an exciting variety of 1 & 2 week full-day programs, students will use their Actor’s Tools to create characters who tell stories through acting, singing, dancing, and design! Demonstrations for all classes in this age group are on the final Friday of the program at 2:00pm.

Characters Take the Stage

A fun and physical introduction to the building blocks of drama. With a theme selected to spark and support the creative process, students will participate in movement exercises, story reenactments, theatre games, and more! Stories this summer are “Dr. Dolittle” and “How To Train Your Dragon”.

Sing & Dance a Story

Inspired by favorite musical adaptations, students will learn to “sing a story” by using appropriate vocal technique. They will “dance a story” by learning to use creative movement to bring a story to life. Not all actors need to dance, but learning how to use creative movement will help young actors feel more confident on stage and develop physically interesting characters. Themes this summer are “The Lion King” and “The Little Mermaid”.

Arts Alive! NEW PROGRAM

Students will let their unique artistry out to play as they enter the artist’s studio for a week of creative self-expression in this new class offering. A hands-on exploration of visual art or mastering the art of illusion will provide the spark for a series of drama experiences and much more! Students will share their newfound skills and masterpieces on the last day of class. Themes this summer are “Museum Masters”, “Mysterious Masks”, and “Marvelous Magic”.

FROG
793 Hope Street
Pond, MA 02215

TOAD
795 Hope Street
Pond, MA 02215
Play Production Jr. **TWO WEEK PROGRAM**

Sparked by the wacky and wonderfully silly fractured fairy tales in this collection, students will develop characters through improvisation, movement and vocal exercises to bring an original scripted story to life. In addition, they will learn about the behind the scenes work (design and create set pieces, costumes, and props) for a final presentation on the last day of class. This summer’s theme is “The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales”.

Mini Musical **TWO WEEK PROGRAM**

A fast-paced intensive program for young people with previous stage experience. In two weeks, students will work together to perform a 30-minute musical. While working on this musical, they will advance their acting, singing, and dancing skills while also learning more about production elements such as set, props, costumes, and sound and light design.

Session I: *Looking for Home*, a new pop musical!

From Award-winning songwriter Karen Kalafatas (of Karen K & the Jitterbugs) Animal-loving Bailey has moved to a new city just before the first day of school. In a colorful dream, she finds herself transformed into a bear cub, lost in magical woods, unable to get home. Thanks to help from fellow forest animals, Bailey withstands the bully raccoons, gossiping Flibbertigibbets (chatty birds), careless squirrels, and learns to make good – and kind – choices to light her path home.

Session II: *Disney’s Frozen Kids*

Join Anna, Elsa, Olaf, Sven, and all of your favorite characters as they embark on an epic, ice-filled journey of self-discovery, camaraderie, and the real meaning of true love. Features favorite *Frozen* songs such as “Love Is an Open Door,” “Do You Want to Build a Snowman?,” and “Let It Go,” as well as heart warming new songs from the Broadway production. (from MTIshows.com)
grades 4-8 programs

Our 1-week and 2-week full-day programs for students in grades 4 to 8 introduce specialty skills and continue to build on the fundamentals of drama through a variety of theatrical styles. Demonstrations for one-week & two-week programs in this age group are on the final Friday of the program at 3:00pm unless otherwise noted.

Make ‘Em Laugh: Comedy on Stage
What makes something funny? Learn about the structure of comedy and how comedic actors create characters, develop comic timing, and make big and bold choices—all designed to connect with an audience in a way that makes ‘em laugh!

Musical Theatre: Movie Musicals & Best of Broadway
An action-packed, one-week journey through scenes, song and dance numbers from popular musicals of stage and screen! With an emphasis on developing strong ensemble skills, this class engages all three of the student’s musical theatre skills: acting, singing, and dancing!
- Movie Musical themes are Newsies (Grades 4-6) & Moulin Rouge (Grades 6-8)
- Best of Broadway themes are Mary Poppins (Grades 4-6) & West Side Story (Grades 6-8)

Making a Scene: Devising, Writing, Acting
Students will put their acting skills to work as they rehearse short scenes with fellow classmates. Understanding the meaning and given circumstances of a scene, as well as their character’s objective, will be emphasized. Taking direction and receiving feedback will be an important part of the work, as well.
Thank you for being a kind and very fun place where I was understood for who I was.

WFT STUDENT

Playwriting

Creating Five Minute Plays. A concise introduction to the playwriting process. Students will explore the most effective way to tell stories through exploration of the basic elements of drama (action, character, conflict, dialogue). Students will build on initial ideas through improvisation, develop short scripts, then produce and perform their original works.

Stage Combat: Famous Fictional Fights

Spotlights techniques for safely and realistically creating dangerous battles and heroic struggles. Emphasizes the combination of physical and mental discipline needed for memorable clashes onstage!

Activate Your Voice:

Through exercises and preliminary scene work actors will connect voice to posture, gesture, and full-body movement to create clear characters on stage and apply this work to monologues and scenes. Students will also be introduced to a variety of dialects. Whether you are new to the stage or a seasoned pro, continued voice work is the foundation to any actor’s process.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summer 2020</th>
<th>June 22–26</th>
<th>June 29–July 2</th>
<th>July 6–10</th>
<th>July 13–17</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grades K–1</strong></td>
<td>Story Explorers: Seuss On the Loose (9am to 3:30pm) Tuition: $450</td>
<td>Treasure Trunk Theatre: On the High Seas (9am to 3:30pm) Tuition: $450</td>
<td>Story Explorers: Where the Wild Things Are (9am to 3:30pm) Tuition: $450</td>
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<td><strong>Grades 1–3</strong></td>
<td>Arts Alive!: Museum Masters (9am to 3:30pm) Tuition: $450</td>
<td>Characters Take the Stage: Dr. Dolittle (9am to 3:30pm) Tuition: $450</td>
<td>Sing &amp; Dance-a-Story: The Lion King (9am to 3:30pm) Tuition: $450</td>
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<td><strong>Grades 4–6</strong></td>
<td>Activate Your Voice (9am to 3:30pm) Tuition: $450 grades 4-8</td>
<td>Stage Combat: Famous Fictional Fights (9am to 3:30pm) Tuition: $450</td>
<td>The Best of Broadway: Mary Poppins (9am to 3:30pm) Tuition: $450</td>
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<td><strong>Grades K–8</strong></td>
<td>Puppet Academy (9am to 3:30pm) Tuition: $450</td>
<td>Play Production Jr.: The Stinky Cheeseman &amp; Other Fairly Stupid Tales (9am to 3:30pm) Tuition: $850</td>
<td>Play Production: A Series of Unfortunate Events (9am to 3:30pm) Tuition: $850</td>
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<td><strong>Grades 6–8</strong></td>
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<td>Musical Theatre Production: Seussical Jr. (9am to 3:30pm) Tuition</td>
<td>Make 'em Laugh: Comedy on Stage (9am to 3:30pm) Tuition: $450</td>
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<td><strong>Grades 6–12</strong></td>
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<td>Final performance on Thursday, July 23 at 7PM</td>
<td>Movie Musicals: Moulin Rouge (9am to 3:30pm) Tuition: $450</td>
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<td><strong>Grades 8–12</strong></td>
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<td>Theatre Design Intensive I (9am Previous experience suggested but i</td>
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- **Musical Theatre Cabaret: Today's Tony Winners** (12pm to 6:30pm) Tuition: $850 *Final performance on Friday, July 10 at 7PM*
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<tr>
<th>July 20–24</th>
<th>July 27–31</th>
<th>August 3–7</th>
<th>August 10–14</th>
<th>August 17–21</th>
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| **Music Movers:** Barnyard Boogie  
(9am to 3:30pm) Tuition: $450 | **Treasure Trunk Theatre:** Out of this World  
(9am to 3:30pm) Tuition: $450 | **Story Explorers:** If You Give a Mouse a Cookie  
(9am to 3:30pm) Tuition: $450 | **Music Movers:** Jurassic Jive  
(9am to 3:30pm) Tuition: $450 |
| **Arts Alive!:** Mysterious Masks  
(9am to 3:30pm) Tuition: $450 | **Sing & Dance-a-Story:** The Little Mermaid  
(9am to 3:30pm) Tuition: $450 | **Characters Take the Stage:** How to Train Your Dragon  
(9am to 3:30pm) Tuition: $450 | **Arts Alive!:** Marvelous Magic  
(9am to 3:30pm) Tuition: $450 |
| **Mini Musical:** Looking for Home, a new pop musical!  
(9am to 3:30pm) Tuition: $850 | **Mini Musical:** Disney’s Frozen KIDS  
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(9am to 3:30pm) Tuition: $450 |
| **Make ’em Laugh:** Comedy on Stage  
(9am to 3:30pm) Tuition: $450 | **Movie Musicals:** Newsies  
(9am to 3:30pm) Tuition: $450 | **Playwriting**  
(9am to 3:30pm) Tuition: $450 | **Making a Scene:** Devising, Writing, Acting  
(9am to 3:30pm) Tuition: $450 |
| **Play Production:** The Lighting Thief  
(9am to 3:30pm) Tuition: $850 | **Musical Theatre Production:** Shrek Jr.  
(9am to 3:30pm) Tuition: $1200  
*Final Performance on Thursday, Aug 13 at 7pm* | **Making a Scene:** Devising, Writing, Acting  
(9am to 3:30pm) Tuition: $450 | **Playwriting**  
(9am to 3:30pm) Tuition: $450 |
| **Stage Combat:** Famous Fictional Fights  
(9am to 3:30pm) Tuition $850  
*but not required* | **The Best of Broadway:** West Side Story  
(9am to 3:30pm) Tuition: $450 | **Making a Scene:** Devising, Writing, Acting  
(9am to 3:30pm) Tuition: $450 | **Theatre Design Intensive II**  
(9am to 3:30pm) Tuition: $850  
*Previous experience suggested but not required* |
| **Shakespeare on the Green:** A Midsummer Night’s Dream  
(12 to 6:30pm) Tuition: $850 *Final performance on 7/30 at 7pm* | | | **Advanced Performance Intensive**  
(12pm to 6:45pm) Tuition: $850 for students in Grades 8 to 12 by audition only  
*Final Performance on Friday, August 14 at 7pm* |

**Under the Big Top:**  
A High Flying Circus  
(9am to 3:30pm) Tuition: $450
grades 4-8 programs

Play Production

TWO WEEK PROGRAM

A chance to experience the whole production experience from beginning to end! Students will design, produce, and perform a short, one-act version inspired by popular book series. In this two week program, students will spend part of each day developing and rehearsing the one act while also building individual and ensemble acting skills. In the afternoons, students will receive instruction from visiting theatre design artists, and try their hand at technical theatre elements such as prop-making, set and costume design. This summer’s themes are “A Series of Unfortunate Events” and “The Lighting Thief”.

The Summer sessions were so good, my children had an incredible time. We’re all still reliving the countless memories and look forward to participating in future classes!

WFT PARENT
Musical Theatre Production

Focuses on coordinating the instruments of voice and body to create dynamic musical characters. In this 3 week program, students will participate in classes on acting, dancing, singing and puppetry each morning, while spending each afternoon applying those to the rehearsal of the musical. This program is open to anyone interested in deepening their musical theatre experience. The program will culminate in a Thursday evening performance the final week.

Session I: Seussical Jr

Transporting audiences from the Jungle of Nool to the Circus McGurk’s, the Cat in the Hat narrates the story of Horton the Elephant, who discovers a speck of dust containing tiny people called the Whos. Horton must protect the Whos from a world of naysayers and dangers, and he must also guard an abandoned egg that’s been left in his care by the irresponsible Mayzie La Bird. Although Horton faces ridicule, danger and a trial, the intrepid Gertrude McFuzz never loses faith in him. Ultimately, the powers of friendship, loyalty, family and community are challenged and emerge triumphant! (from MTIshows.com)

Session II: Shrek Jr.

Once upon a time, in a far away swamp, there lived an ogre named Shrek. One day, Shrek finds his swamp invaded by banished fairytale misfits who have been cast off by Lord Farquaad, a tiny terror with big ambitions. When Shrek sets off with a wisecracking donkey to confront Farquaad, he’s handed a task — if he rescues feisty princess Fiona, his swamp will be righted. Shrek tries to win Fiona’s love and vanquish Lord Farquaad, but a fairytale wouldn’t be complete without a few twists and turns along the way. (from MTIshows.com)
grades 8–12 programs

Our 2-week performance based programs for students in grades 8 to 12 are designed to challenge experienced students to take the next step in their training as young performers.

Musical Theatre Cabaret
Directed by a Cabaret performer and director, students will create their very own musical cabaret show. As they learn about the cabaret art form, the ensemble will develop a theme, select songs, and write original spoken pieces to present in a Musical Theatre Cabaret at the end of the week. A great way for musical theatre performers to expand their repertoire. We will challenge students with vocal production, singing technique, and acting exercises that will help them grow individually and as an ensemble. Presented in an intimate cabaret setting, family and friends will be invited to “Come to the Cabaret”!

Theatre for Young Audiences Tour:
Residency at Boston Children’s Museum!
Gives experienced teen performers the opportunity to rehearse, tour and perform a show for young audiences. For the first week, students rehearse a 30-minute adaptation of a popular title in children’s literature. Students then take the show on a one-week tour to the Boston Children’s Museum. Previous stage experience, a willingness to take artistic risks, and permission of the director required. Send WFTED@bu.edu a resume and statement of interest.
Not only has WFT taught me about acting, singing, and dancing it has also taught me to take risks and improve my confidence.

WFT STUDENT

Advanced Performance Intensive: Teen Intensive: Raising the Bar Exploring the Actor’s Process

AUDITION REQUIRED

This program is designed for teens entering high school with prior training and performance experience committed to deepening their acting skills and knowledge of the craft. Through challenging exercises in vocal, movement, and character work and exploration of scenes from outstanding plays, students will experience the actor’s process in depth. Culminates in an Acting Showcase on the WFT main stage. AUDITION REQUIRED. Send WFTED@bu.edu a resume and statement of interest and to schedule an audition.
grades 6-12 programs

These two-week programs provide opportunities for our oldest students to pursue (or discover) a passion for classical theatre and theatre design.

Theatre Design Intensive
A dynamic immersion in the theatre crafts that are vital to professional stage productions for students in grades 6-12. This two-week course balances theory with practical experience through the study of scenic, prop, costume, lighting, and sound design. Students will work with WFT’s professional technical staff to design and build technical elements for our performance based programming. (Two two-week sessions)

I had a wonderful time this summer in the Theatre Design Intensive, and I am very happy I was able to attend. It was truly a great experience for me.
No matter what she pursues in life from this point, this experience of learning what’s involved in carrying one’s imagination into reality will remain with her. It’s hard to express how grateful we are for that.

WFT PARENT

Shakespeare on the Green: “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”

NEW TWO WEEK PROGRAM

In the tradition of Shakespeare in the Park, students in this two-week program will perform an abridged version of “A Midsummer Nights Dream” on the WFT@BU green.

Over the course of the two weeks, this class will decode the sometimes perplexing language of Shakespeare to help students find meaning, humor, and more behind the words. Students will delve into some of the Bard’s most famous scenes and characters, making connections with their own experiences. Families are invited to bring a blanket or lawn chair and join us on the green for this classic tale of mischief, mishap and magic. The program culminates in a Thursday evening performance the final week.
How many students are in each class?
Class sizes range from 8-25 students depending on the age group, content, and number of teachers and assistants in the class. Please know class size maximums are strictly enforced to ensure the best possible learning environment for your student. Register early to secure your spot. All classes are subject to cancellation if minimum enrollment is not met.

Who are the faculty?
All of our faculty are professional educators and artists. Our teaching artists work all over Greater Boston with institutions such as Boston University, Lesley University, Emerson College, New Repertory Theatre, Actors’ Shakespeare Project, Wellesley Rep and our very own mainstage acting company, among others. We regularly run background checks on all faculty.

What should I bring to class?
Students in all classes should wear clothes and shoes they are comfortable jumping, crawling, and rolling in. Additionally, some classes include messy art projects. Students should bring a lunch, water bottle, and two small snacks (one for mid-morning and one for mid-afternoon). Students do not have access to a refrigerator or a way to warm food. Please note: to ensure the safety of all of our students, we have a strict no-nut policy for both peanuts and tree-nuts (including hazelnut products such as Nutella) and products that “may contain” peanuts and tree-nuts. Younger students will take quiet time after lunch and are encouraged to bring a favorite toy, book and a blanket.

What if my student wants to be in a younger or older class?
We understand that some students thrive in an environment including students either younger or older than their peer group. Please reach out to the WFT Education staff if you would like to discuss your child’s placement.

Is there a play at the end of class?
The majority of our programs end in demonstrations and not a performance. These sharings usually take place in your student’s classroom and are an opportunity to showcase the skill building that has occurred over the course of the program. Those programs that end in a more formal final performance are noted in the summer grid.

Is there tuition assistance available?
Yes! WFT has never turned away a student from our classes for the inability to pay tuition. Please contact a member of the WFT Education staff to learn more about our sliding scale for scholarships.
Can I drop off my student early?
Beforecare is available starting at 8am and costs $10/day or $50/week. You can sign-up for this online or by calling a member of the WFT Education staff.

Can I pick-up my student late?
Aftercare is available for all full-day programs ending at 3:30pm. Aftercare ends at 5pm and costs $15/day or $75/week. Please note this is structured free-time supervised by WFT staff. The theatre will provide art activities, games, and play age-appropriate movies or television series. Students are also encouraged to bring a favorite book, toy, or game to play. You can sign-up for this online or by calling a member of the WFT Education staff.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP
Drop off and pick up occur along Pilgrim Road behind the Theatre. A comprehensive guide to our pickup and dropoff procedures is available on our website. If your child needs to leave early from class, you must pick them up from the classroom door regardless of grade. Please refer to additional instructions in welcome emails sent prior to the start of each program.

How do you ensure child safety?
There is nothing more important to us than the well-being of the young people we serve. In support of that priority, over the last 33 years we have created a comprehensive set of practices designed to keep children safe. Those practices have worked for our young actors and for all of our organization’s participants; they continue to be a centerpiece of our culture and our day-to-day activities. This is an area where we will never say “enough” but will instead strive to be better today than we were yesterday and even better tomorrow. Among the key elements of our protections:

- Mandatory background checks, including criminal history and the national sex offender database, for every paid position prior to starting work and on an ongoing basis;
- A “rule of 3” so that no staff should ever be alone with a student in a private space;
- Socializing with children outside of scheduled rehearsals, performances, classes, or WFT-sanctioned professional activities is strictly limited;
- We are a mandatory reporting organization, which means any staff member must report any suspicion or knowledge of abuse or neglect.