



Dear Parents,

Welcome to School of Theatre 2019-2020! Whether you've been part of our Playhouse family for years or this is your first time, I look forward to seeing you soon and helping you learn more about our programs.

How does Matthews Playhouse raise money?

In addition to ticket sales, corporate sponsors, grants, and our annual donor mailing:

- A. The **Sponsor-a-Student** program provides the opportunity for children from Title I Schools to attend a live theatre performance. We have two Sponsor-a-Student groups coming to see *The Adventures of Madeline* in October! And the teachers will be taking home copies of [The Madeline Treasury](#) book thanks to a grant from the Kiwanis Club.
- B. The **Courtney Leigh Ballard Scholarship Fund** gives children the opportunity to participate in classes and summer camps at Matthews Playhouse. Twice a year, we award scholarships based on financial need.
- C. Since 2015, we have participated in **SHARE Charlotte's Giving Tuesday** campaign (we like to call it **BE THANKFUL**). Last year the theme was 8 Days of Ways to Give. We partnered with Premier Martial Arts and Club Pilates on TAKE A CLASS TUESDAY, rallied our board members to make a donation equal to the amount of points scored by the Panthers on TAILGATE FOR GOOD SUNDAY and encouraged everyone to select Matthews Playhouse as their charity on Amazon Smile for CYBER MONDAY. We also won a SHARE Charlotte Goodie Award for Most Musical Media Segment. So be on the lookout for fun ways to give in November!

What is Mainstage? Matthews Playhouse **Mainstage** features titles that are typically family focused, but can be geared towards adults or young people. These shows have open auditions and feature actors from around the Matthews region. **Mainstage** productions typically run 2-3 weekends with both evening and matinee performances. This season's productions are *The Adventures of Madeline*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Pinocchio* and *Guys and Dolls*.

And just for fun, here are a few theatre vocabulary words that you might not know:

CALL TIME - the time one is expected to be present and ready for a rehearsal or performance

OFF BOOK - another word for memorized

LOAD-IN - to place the set on stage

STRIKE - at the end of the run of a show, when the set and all other technical aspects are taken apart, clearing the stage for the next show

TECH WEEK - the week prior to the opening night of a stage performance in which all of the technical elements (such as costumes, lights, sound, set and makeup) are present during rehearsal for the first time

Best regards,

Debbie Messner

Board of Directors, Development & Marketing Chair

dmessner@carolina.rr.com



School of Theatre Class Information

MPH Contact Information

Matthews Playhouse Email: mplayhouse@gmail.com Matthews Playhouse Website: matthewsplayhouse.com
 Matthews Playhouse Phone: 704-846-8343

Your Child's Instructor(s): _____

Your Child's Class Information: _____

| MATTHEWS PLAYHOUSE 2019-2020 THEATRE CLASSES | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Time | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday |
| 4:30 - 5:30 | | **Musical Theatre 1 | | **Broadway Babes |
| 4:30 - 6:00 | | | | |
| 5:00 - 6:30 | Musical Theatre 4 Acting 4 | Acting 5 | Musical Theatre 4 | |
| 5:30 - 6:30 | | **Acting 1 and 2 | | **Musical Theatre 2 |
| 6:30 - 7:30 | | Musical Theatre 3 | | Acting 3 |
| 6:30 - 8:30 | Musical Theatre 7 Acting 7 | Acting 6 Musical Theatre 5 | Musical Theatre 5 | Musical Theatre 6 |
| <i>**These classes perform in their own junior spring show</i> | | | | |

Important Calendar Information - Please highlight the dates pertinent to your child's class!

- 9/9/19 - 9/12/19 Acting 1-7 and Musical Theatre 1-7 and BBabes classes begin
- 11/25/19 - 11/28/19 NO CLASSES – Thanksgiving Break
- 12/16/19 - 12/19/19 Last week of fall classes for Acting 1-7, Musical Theatre 1-7 and BBabes
- 12/23/19 - 12/27/19 NO CLASSES – Winter Break
- 12/30/19 - 1/3/20 NO CLASSES – Winter Break
- 1/6/20 - 1/9/20 Acting 1-7, Musical Theatre 1-7, and BBabes resume
- 2/10/20 - 2/13/20 Last week of classes for Acting 1-7, Musical Theatre 1-7 and BBabes
- 2/17/20 & 2/18/20 Spring Show Auditions for students in Acting 1-7, Musical Theatre 1-7 and BBabes
Please note you will need to sign up for an audition slot on the Sign-Up Genius website.
- 2/22/20 Rehearsals for the Spring 2020 School of Theatre shows begin

MPH Office Staff

June Bayless, Artistic Director
 Debbi Ballard, Box Office Manager & Education Coordinator
 Tarri Grover, Finance Manager & School Shows Manager
 Cassie Prodan, Production Manager
 Marie-Michele Darcy, Administrative Manager

Class Rules and Expectations

1. Report to your classroom when you arrive and please remember to be respectful of the other classes and activities that are happening in the Community Center.
2. Please do not bring food or drink (other than water) to the classroom. Students are only allowed to consume food in the snack room, which is located on the first floor with the vending machines.
3. Classes begin and end on time. Please avoid arriving more than five minutes early and plan to pick up your child at the scheduled end time of class. There is no car pool line lane so you should plan to meet your child in the lobby and walk with them out to your parked car.
4. Classes run for 20 weeks and there are no make-ups for any missed classes. Please email the Playhouse at mplayhouse@gmail.com if you are going to be absent.
5. Parents are not allowed to sit in on classes due to space restrictions. There will be a parent sharing before Christmas and again in February for family and friends to see what their child is learning.
6. Students should wear comfortable clothing that allows for easy movement around the classroom. Dresses and skirts should be avoided. All students must wear close-toed shoes. There should be no bare feet and no flip-flops.
7. Students are not permitted to use cell phones in class.

Appropriate classroom behavior is an expectation of all theatre students. All students should be respectful of the space, their teacher, and their fellow classmates. There will be no tolerance of harassment or bullying by anyone. Students must follow the directions and expectations given to them by their instructor OR their parent will be contacted. If problem behavior continues, they will be removed from the program.

Benefits of Theatre Arts Education

How does being involved in Theatre help my child's education?

Drama can help in the continual development of a student's vocabulary skills, reading comprehension, and with the ability to understand and become effective oral communicators.

What critical life-skills will my child learn when performing and being involved in Theatre?

- A goal-oriented approach to work
- Motivation and commitment
- Willingness to work cooperatively
- Self-discipline
- Initiative
- Creative problem solving abilities
- Time-budgeting skills
- Respect for deadlines
- Ability to work under pressure

School of Theatre Production Information

Rehearsals will be held four days a week (Mondays/Tuesdays/Thursdays/Saturdays)
UNTIL THE FINAL WEEK — During FINAL WEEK, rehearsals will take place everyday!
Actors will only be allowed TWO conflicts during the rehearsal schedule
Production Fee of \$100 due at Cast Meeting

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| 2/17/20 & 2/18/20 | Spring Show Auditions for students in Acting 1-7, Musical Theatre 1-7 and BBabes <i>Please note you will need to sign up for an audition slot on the Sign-Up Genius website.</i> |
| 3/21/20 | Junior Performance for ACTING 1 & 2, MUSICAL THEATRE 1 & 2, AND BBabes (title TBA) |
| 3/27/20 & 3/28/20 | HONK JR. performances |
| 3/28/19 & 3/29/20 | ANIMAL FARM performances |
| 4/3/20 & 4/4/20 | OKLAHOMA G2K! performances |
| 4/4/20 & 4/5/20 | BABE THE SHEEP-PIG performances |

MPH Committees and Board Members (**We have children in School of Theatre classes!)

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| **Alissa Hammersmith, | Education Committee Chair |
| **Lara Correll, | Volunteer, Committee Chair |
| **Debbie Messner, | Developing & Marketing – School of Theatre Chair |
| **Mike Smith, | Production Committee Chair |
| **Betsy Munsell, | Outreach Committee Chair |
| **Stephanie Schmitt, | At Large Board Member |
| **Susan Reif, | At Large Board Member |
| **Gretchen B-White, | At Large Board Member |
| Nigel Harrison, | Board President/Technology Committee Chair |
| Debby Gines, | Board Treasurer/Finance Committee Chair |
| Jim Grover, | Board Nominating & Governance Chair |
| Becky Tracy, | Board Secretary/Developing & Marketing – Mainstage Chair |
| Amy Pearre-Dunn, | At Large Board Member |
| Michelle Armas, | At Large Board Member |



WAYS TO HELP AT MPH

VOLUNTEERING

There are many volunteer opportunities available at Matthews Playhouse, including:

- Ushering for Productions
- Scene Shop Help
- Assisting with Special Events, etc.

We are also actively recruiting for Committee Assistance

- Development and Marketing
- Education
- Outreach
- Technology, etc.



HELP US HELP OTHERS

Courtney Ballard Scholarship Fund

Makes theatre arts education a possibility for every child. By providing financial assistance to qualifying families/children. No child has ever been turned away from a class or camp for the inability to pay.

Sponsor-a-Student

This program provides daytime field trips to performances of our productions free of charge to qualifying Title I schools in Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Union County and surrounding communities.

Non-Profit Partner Program

This program helps to broaden/extend the awareness of non-profit organizations within/among the surrounding community.



DONATE

Please consider becoming an MPH Donor!

You can designate your donation for any of the following:

- Unrestricted (use where the needs are greatest)
- Courtney Ballard Scholarship Fund (for camps/classes)
- Sponsor-a-Student (to assist students in Title I schools)

