

**YOUNG  
ACTORS  
SUMMER  
INSTITUTE  
YASI**

Course Description Listed by Type



trinity  
repertory  
company

# COURSE DESCRIPTION

## Listed by Type

*Below are brief descriptions of the classes being offered at YASI this summer. Courses and curriculum are subject to change. Please sign up for electives upon registration (students can switch in and out of classes up until the first day).*

### PERFORMANCE CLASSES (VOICE & ACTING)

#### **Musical Theater**

*Sections for all ages*

This class is focused on theatrical storytelling through voice and music. Using a three step process, students will analyze text like it is a group scene. They will work to personalize the song and play to the action of the scene. We will create a strong ensemble and the students will have the chance to be a part of two pieces in the final showcase. Bring your enthusiasm, focus, respect and comfortable clothing that won't inhibit movement. Music selections will be announced on the first day of the program.

#### **Make Your Own Movie**

*For students entering 8th – 12th grade  
(includes graduated seniors)*

Students in the Movies class will learn a bit about moving picture history, technology, and theory. The primary focus will be on production. The class will make one moving picture responding to film theory and a 10 minute production of their own design.

— ELECTIVE 1 (9:35-10:35am)

#### **Improv 101: Introduction to Improvisation**

*For students entering 8th – 12th grade  
(includes graduated seniors)*

Improvisation is the craft of building theater spontaneously through collaboration. While humor is not its goal, improvisational theater can be hilariously funny. This class will focus on the basics of improvisation, including accepting and building, establishing point of view, and creating a world to play in.

— ELECTIVE 1 (9:35-10:35am)

#### **NEW! New Play Club**

*For students entering 10th – 12th grade  
(includes graduated seniors)*

This class will draw from new works written mostly by women and/or people of color. Students will be assigned group scenes from these plays and, similar to "Scene Study," begin the performance process with table and character work, script analysis, rehearsal, and a final performance of the scene. The goal of this class is to expose students to new work focused on social issues that students encounter in their everyday lives.

— ELECTIVE 1 (9:35-10:35am)

#### **Classics Revisited**

*For students entering 5th – 7th grade*

Have you ever imagined Shakespeare under the sea? Thought of putting the classical tales of the stage in a completely new setting? It's the newest trend in theatre - the classics reimagined! In this class we will work together to recreate scenes from classic plays in a whole new light, completely turning them on their ear! Bring your wildest imagination and your willingness to try anything crazy!

— ELECTIVE 1 (9:35-10:35am)

#### **YASI Shakes: Putting on a Shakespeare Play!**

*For students entering 10th – 12th grade  
(includes graduated seniors)*

Students signed up for the YASI Shakes extension week (July 31 – August 5) will put on a full Shakespeare production! The YASI elective will lay the groundwork for the production: the class will work on casting, table work, developing a concept, and blocking during this elective period, so they'll be able to hit the ground running on July 31st.

*This season, we're shaking it up (pun INTENDED) and making it a musical. Not every role will require singing, but be prepared to sing at the auditions.*

— ELECTIVE 1 (9:35-10:35am)

## **Advanced Improvisation**

*For students entering 10th – 12th grade  
(includes graduated seniors)*

This class is for advanced improv students. Students will master the art of long-form improvisation, while honing their skills as scene-builders. Permission from instructor is required. Please contact Trinity's education staff at [education@trinityrep.com](mailto:education@trinityrep.com).

— ELECTIVE 2 (10:55 – 11:55am)

## **Shakespeare 201**

*For students entering 8th – 9th grade*

This class proves that there's no need to fear Shakespeare! We will begin by studying various monologues and deconstructing the language, and then move into scene work. Each student will be ready to perform at least one scene and one Shakespearian monologue by the end of the program.

— ELECTIVE 2 (10:55 – 11:55am)

## **JK LOL: Comedy**

*For students entering 8th – 9th grade*

This scene study-based class will study the mechanics of how comedy actually works. It's all in the timing, and we will help students delve into this fun and fascinating genre. Using text analysis, playing the truth, investing in comedy's high stakes, and commitment to the physical life of a scene, students will have the audience rolling in the aisles.

— ELECTIVE 2 (10:55 – 11:55am)

## **Scene Study**

Scene study is at the core of the theatrical process, so it is fundamental for every student of acting, directing, playwriting, and design. For this reason, all YASI students will partake in Scene Study on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Each instructor will pair off and assign students scenes--from classic, modern, and contemporary plays--to work on over the course of the summer. Starting with table and character work, the scenes will be "workshopped" and the students will learn how to approach a character and analyze scripts. Different acting techniques will also be explored.

*Note: Scene study is no longer going to be included in the showcases on Friday & Saturday nights. Instead, every scene study class will have a daytime performance that is open to family and friends.*

*M/W/F SCENE STUDY(12:35-2pm)*

## **Finale**

*For students of all ages*

Formerly known as Music & Movement, this YASI course will meet every Tuesday and Thursday, and focus on theatrical storytelling through music, movement and dance. We will create a sense of ensemble and give students the chance to be a part of one big number for our final show. Bring your enthusiasm, your focus, respect and comfortable clothing that doesn't inhibit movement.

— Tu/Th SPECIAL ELECTIVE (12:35-2pm)

## **'Ello Govna (Dialects and Speech)**

*For students entering 10th – 12th grade  
(includes graduated seniors)*

This class is perfect for a student hoping to exercise their vocal chords. In

'Ello Govna, students will learn different regional and international dialects, speech patterns, and workshop monologues and scenes with an emphasis on vocal performance.

— ELECTIVE 2 (10:55 – 11:55am)

## **Shakespeare 101**

*For students entering 5th – 7th grade*

The class is a gentle introduction to the work and language of William Shakespeare. Students will learn about Shakespeare, the man, as well as his time period. They will also perform scenes from famous Shakespeare works.

— ELECTIVE 3 (2:15 – 3:15pm)

## **Advanced Shakespeare**

*For students entering 10th – 12th grade  
(includes graduated seniors)*

This is a scene study class dedicated to exploring the works of William Shakespeare. Students will learn how to make sense of Shakespeare's language and to bring to life the raucous humor, deep tragedy, and intense vitality inherent in the writing.

— ELECTIVE 3 (2:15 – 3:15pm)

## **Audition Techniques**

*For students entering 8th – 12th grade  
(includes graduated seniors)*

This class will explore different types of acting auditions, with a special emphasis on the two-monologue theatrical audition. Students will work on auditioning with both monologues and short scenes, and will learn helpful techniques on how best to present themselves, as well as common pitfalls to avoid. The class will culminate in a mock audition in which each student presents two monologues and receives feedback.

— ELECTIVE 4 (3:20 – 4:35pm)

## **Pitch Perfect**

*For students entering 8th – 12th grade  
(includes graduated seniors)*

The human voice is a powerful instrument. In this class, students will learn to harmonize while performing arrangements of beloved songs from all genres. This class will rehearse both a cappella and accompanied songs to produce beautiful music. The voices will be the focal point of this ensemble, but the group will also emphasize showmanship and storytelling through song. Stretch out those jazz hands!

— ELECTIVE 4 (3:20 – 4:35pm)

## **Glee Club**

*For students entering 5th-9th grade*

The human voice is a powerful instrument. In this class, students will learn to harmonize while performing arrangements of beloved songs from all genres. This class will rehearse both a cappella and accompanied songs to produce beautiful music. The voices will be the focal point of this ensemble, but the group will also emphasize showmanship and storytelling through song. Stretch out those jazz hands!

— ELECTIVE 3 (2:15 – 3:15pm)

## **Songwriting**

*For students entering 8th – 12th grade  
(includes graduated seniors)*

Calling all future Lin-Manuel Mirandas! Sometimes the only way to express yourself is through song. This class will address the basics of lyric writing, melody, harmony and song form. Find your own unique voice. Students should have knowledge of basic music theory to enroll.

— ELECTIVE 4 (3:20 – 4:35pm)

## **Improv Games**

*For students entering 5th – 7th grade*

This will be a series of short-form and long-form improvisation games. Exploring the basics of improv, the class will emphasize acceptance, instinct, and ensemble-building. No materials required—just lots of energy, focus, and trust. Students must be prepared to turn into a tree, move through a swimming pool of goo, and talk about the merits of bubble wrap at a moment's notice.

— ELECTIVE 4 (3:20 – 4:35pm)

## **Theater for Social Change**

*For students entering 8th – 12th grade  
(includes graduated seniors)*

How has art created change in the world? Can theater be an instrument of political action? How can WE make a difference with our craft? In this class we will explore innovative and non-traditional strategies and tactics for creating social change. By studying how theater has made a difference socially and politically, discussion, and ACTION, students will devise a piece of theater about something that is important to them.

— ELECTIVE 4 (3:20 – 4:35pm)

## **Page to Stage**

*For students entering 5th – 7th grade*

This YASI elective will focus on the art of adaptation. Students will bring in their favorite books and bring them to life. While there will be some writing, the class is performance based and will be very active. The class will culminate in short scenes from each adaptation, and some of those scenes will be selected for the final performance.

— ELECTIVE 4 (3:20 – 4:35pm)

## **Acting the Song: Duets**

*For students entering 10th – 12th grade  
(includes graduated seniors)*

Consider this a musical theater scene study class! This YASI elective focuses on acting the song through duets and small musical scenes. Students will explore the art of musical theater acting – how to act and sing simultaneously – from unpacking the lyrics, to mastering the music, to bringing the whole to life in a final, cohesive performance. This class requires an audition before YASI begins and permission from the instructor. Please contact Trinity's education staff at [education@trinityrep.com](mailto:education@trinityrep.com).

— ELECTIVE 4 (3:20 – 4:35pm)

# PERFORMANCE CLASSES (MOVEMENT & ACTING)

## **Hip Hop Dance**

*For students entering 5th – 7th grade*

Hip-Hop is a music and dance medium that is often misinterpreted and misunderstood. In this class students will be exposed to different styles and forms of hip-hop and the class will end in a culminating performance.

— ELECTIVE 4 (3:20 – 4:35pm)

*NOTE: Comfortable clothes (absolutely no jeans or restrictive clothing) and sneakers must be worn for this class (knee pads may also be required). If students are not wearing the proper clothing, they may not be able to participate in class.*

## **Clowning 101**

*For students entering 5th – 7th grade*

It's easy to think clowns are just funny wigs and silly gags, but the tradition of clowning goes much deeper. Inside every performer is a unique clown: an innocent person who sees the audience and wants to play. In this class we will find everyone's individual clown, building on your own natural inclinations of movement, voice, gestures, and feelings while playing theater

games and using improvisation. The hardest part is that after you find your clown, you may not want to be anyone else.

— ELECTIVE 1 (9:35-10:35am)

## **NEW! Magic to Do**

*For students entering 8th – 9th grade*

Magicians are dynamic performers who require great coordination and imagination. Drawing the audience's eye to one thing while completing a trick can be...well...tricky! In this class, students will learn the fundamentals of magic, including some trade secrets, and master a presentation that will leave audiences of all ages baffled. No white rabbits required.

— ELECTIVE 1 (9:35-10:35am)

## **Commedia Dell'Arte**

*For students entering 5th – 7th grade*

Commedia dell'arte is one of the most famous -- and most fun! -- types of theater in Western history. Dell'arte originated in Italy in the 16th century, and is a bit like old-school improv, where you use stock characters (the foolish old man, for example, or overly self-confident military officer) to tell

a short improvised comic story. Still studied throughout the world in college and graduate classes due to its focus on gesture, voice and movement, Commedia Dell'arte is a necessary class for any student looking to become a better comic actor.

— ELECTIVE 2 (10:55 – 11:55am)

### **Collaborative Creation**

*For students entering 5th – 7th grade*

Calling all brave and curious performers! We want to turn you into actor-creators: performers with stories of their own to tell. Utilizing improvisation, physical theater techniques, and ensemble-building games, we'll create original performance as a group without a leader or a playwright. The outcomes are as unique, creative, and inventive as the team of performers who take the challenge, and the skills acquired will easily lend themselves to more traditional theater processes in the future.

— ELECTIVE 2 (10:55 – 11:55am)

### **NEW! Viewpoints**

*For students entering 8th – 12th grade  
(includes graduated seniors)*

The Viewpoints Technique was created by choreographer Mary Overlie and adapted by former Trinity Rep artistic director Ann Bogart. Viewpoints is a movement-based technique which focuses on space, shape, time, movement, emotion and story. Students in this class will learn the technique which will ground them physically and make them aware of their relationships to the physical space and their fellow actors. This class will have a movement performance in the final showcase.

*NOTE: Comfortable clothes (absolutely no jeans or restrictive clothing) must be worn for this class. If students are not wearing the proper clothing, they may not be able to participate.*

— ELECTIVE 2 (10:55 – 11:55am)

### **Stage Combat**

*For students entering 8th – 12th grade  
(includes graduated seniors)*

This class addresses the basics of stage combat. With an emphasis on safety and realism, the students will learn techniques for movement including punching, kicks, falls, and reaction. The moves will be incorporated into scenes which involve confrontations.

— ELECTIVE 4 (3:20 – 4:35pm)

*NOTE: Comfortable clothes (absolutely no jeans or restrictive clothing) and sneakers must be worn for this class (knee pads may also be required). If students are not wearing the proper clothing, they may not be able to participate in class.*

### **The Art of the Clown**

*For students entering 8th – 12th grade  
(includes graduated seniors)*

In this class we will find everyone's individual clown, building on your own natural inclinations of movement, voice, gestures, and feelings while playing theater games and using improvisation. Once the clowns are established, this advanced class will take them to the next level. Through explorative

exercises, students will go deeper into their clown, exploring the place of vulnerability where the funniest and most touching clowns' persona often reside. Concentrating on the absurd, students will develop their own clown material in duos and trios.

— ELECTIVE 3 (2:15 – 3:15pm)

*NOTE: Comfortable clothes (absolutely no jeans or restrictive clothing) must be worn for this class. If students are not wearing the proper clothing, they may not be able to participate.*

### **Hip Hop Dance**

*For students entering 8th-12th grade  
(includes graduated seniors)*

Hip-Hop is a music and dance medium that is often misinterpreted and misunderstood. In this class students will be exposed to different styles and forms of hip-hop and the class will end in a culminating performance.

— ELECTIVE 3 (2:15 – 3:15pm)

*NOTE: Comfortable clothes (absolutely no jeans or restrictive clothing) and sneakers must be worn for this class (knee pads may also be required). If students are not wearing the proper clothing, they may not be able to participate in class.*

### **Movement and the Actor**

*For students entering 5th – 7th grade*

In this movement and acting class, we will focus on how to use the body to express point of view. We will employ the devices of lyricism and rhythm and compose an end performance including the material we create in the class in addition to movement exercises we use.

— ELECTIVE 2 (10:55 – 11:55am)

*NOTE: Comfortable clothes (absolutely no jeans or restrictive clothing) must be worn for this class. If students are not wearing the proper clothing, they may not be able to participate.*

### **Movement and the Actor**

*For students entering 8th – 12th grade  
(includes graduated seniors)*

How do our characters perform? How do we express feelings and ideas through our bodies as ourselves verses as other characters? In this class, we will work on freeing and exploring our physical instruments through more challenging choreography and more intensive partnering and "scene work". We will also explore rhythm, in depth, and learn how to improvise.

— ELECTIVE 1 (9:35-10:35am)

*NOTE: Comfortable clothes (absolutely no jeans or restrictive clothing) must be worn for this class. If students are not wearing the proper clothing, they may not be able to participate*

## WRITING CLASSES

### Playwriting

*For students entering 8th – 12th grade  
(includes graduated seniors)*

Students will participate in a workshop-style setting, using in-class and take-home exercises to spark the creative impulse and loosen the imagination while learning the fundamentals of dramatic writing. In addition, we will learn how to work collaboratively as a group, how to give constructive feedback, and use more physical acting and directing exercises to help “get inside” the plays. It will be a fun and safe place to learn not just the nuts and bolts of structure, but to find and develop a personal style, open up the imagination, and find the excitement and fun in playwriting that will have young writers returning to their notebooks (or laptops) for years to come.

– ELECTIVE 2 (10:55 – 11:55am)

### Playwriting

*For students entering 5th – 7th grade*

Students will learn the basics of playwriting by writing their own short play. They will decide on a story and a theme, create their own characters, and write scenes and monologues to build on their ideas. The play will be presented in its entirety during performance week.  
– ELECTIVE 3 (2:15 – 3:15pm)

### Songwriting

*For students entering 8th – 12th grade  
(includes graduated seniors)*

Calling all future Lin-Manuel Mirandas! Sometimes the only way to express yourself is through song. This class will address the basics of lyric writing, melody, harmony and song form. Find your own unique voice. Students should have knowledge of basic music theory to enroll.  
– ELECTIVE 4 (3:20 – 4:35pm)

## FINE ART & DESIGN CLASSES

### Setting the Scene: Design for the Stage

*For students of all ages*

This class will focus on design in theatre and is great for aspiring artists and directors. Students will create their own set models based on concepts that they have created for well-known plays. They'll also discuss design elements such as props, lighting and sound. Learn how to make a play happen!

– ELECTIVE 2 (10:40 – 11:40am)

### Technically Trinity

*For students entering 8th – 12th  
(includes graduated seniors)*

For students more interested in focusing the spotlight than being in it, we have Technically Trinity! This class will be taught by members of Trinity Rep's production department. Students will visit various areas backstage and learn the ins and outs of lights, sound, sets and more.

– Tu/Th SPECIAL ELECTIVE (12:35-2pm)

### New! Mask Maker

*For all ages*

Masks are used in a variety of theatrical performances and often help to enhance storytelling. In this class, students will study facial expressions and learn the basics of mask molding and design, ultimately molding their own masks for display in the lobby.

– ELECTIVE 3 (2:15 – 3:15pm)

### Special Effects Makeup

*For students entering grades 8-12  
(includes graduated seniors)*

Ever wondered how the magic happens? Learn to create different kinds of stage blood, apply ghostly makeup, distress clothes and more. This class explores the craft of stage illusions and how to trick the audience into believing in zombies, stage fights and fairies.

– ELECTIVE 4 (3:20 – 4:35pm)

## NON-PERFORMANCE/MISCELLANEOUS CLASSES

### Namaste: Yoga for Young Actors

*For all ages*

This class will focus on the practice of yoga and the importance of healthy living. Taught in the vinyasa and prana energy flow styles, we will begin with basic yoga postures and sun salutations, and work towards challenging backbends and balancing poses. This class is designed to help the young actor learn how to incorporate the breath into his or her work onstage, as well as to build strength and confidence on and off the mat – and most importantly, to have fun! We will use music, readings, and props in our daily

practice, and take time during each class to discuss and experience ways to live a happier, healthier and more positive life.

– ELECTIVE 1 (9:35-10:35am)

*NOTE: In the interest of time, all students MUST come already dressed in comfortable, appropriate (no short shorts) non-restrictive clothing. Yoga mats will be provided, but students may bring their own. It is important to stay hydrated during class, so each student is asked to bring a refillable water bottle with them.*



## **NEW! Trinity Square Ensemble**

*For students of all ages*

As a nod to our original company name, Trinity Square Repertory Theater, this new class is a great option for students interested in exploring classic works. Led by multiple directors, students will create a unique production with many actors playing each role. This shortened version of a classic from Ancient Greece, Moliere, or Shakespeare will be a fun and fast-paced interpretation. Focusing on the process over product, the students will hone their acting skills by diving into the text of a classic play and relying on their bodies and voices to tell the story without the aid of costumes, sets or lights. This class will perform their piece in front of the entire program during performance week.

— Tu/Th SPECIAL ELECTIVE (12:35-2pm)

## **Nap Time ZZZzzz**

*For students of all ages*

YASI is a whirlwind of theater, prizes and glitter, and this class offers students a chance to relax for a little bit in the middle of the day! Led by Trinity Rep education staff with occasional special guest Tyler Dobrowsky, students will sit back, check in and unwind.

— Tu/Th SPECIAL ELECTIVE (12:35-2pm)

## **Directing**

*For students entering 8th – 12th grade*

*(includes graduated seniors)*

This class will explore the dynamics of telling a story in space. Students will work each week as either actors or directors, learning about narrative, storytelling, text analysis, and visual composition. Starting with tableaux, and moving toward staging short scenes from contemporary plays, each student will have an opportunity to direct, and will then receive critique and feedback on his or her work. This class will develop students' ability to craft a story as clearly and dynamically as possible, and will encourage them to explore the role of director as both leader and collaborator.

— ELECTIVE 3 (2:15 – 3:15pm)

## **Viral Video Stars**

*For students entering 8th – 12th grade*

*(includes graduated seniors)*

Students who are interested in exploring scripts from different countries will love this playreading class. Each day will bring a new script and students will be assigned parts to read, from the Ancient Greeks to the contemporary voices of our day. Students will also learn about the craft of piecing together a staged reading with minimal rehearsal time. Note: this is a non-performance class and will not be a part of the final showcases.

— ELECTIVE 2 (10:55 – 11:55am)