



## *Youth Auditions announced for 2019 Season*

Tuesday, January 8, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Drayton Entertainment is pleased to announce auditions for its upcoming Youth Musical Theatre Programs and Children’s Chorus opportunities in four regions across the province. The award-winning not-for-profit theatre company has been steadily growing its training offerings for young performers over the past several years including launching the now popular **Youth Musical Theatre Program**, which will return for a fourth year.

“We are consistently astounded by the talent and passion we’ve seen from aspiring young artists across the province. As a professional company, we feel a responsibility to develop the artists of tomorrow,” says **Alex Mustakas**, Artistic Director of Drayton Entertainment. “Our Youth Musical Theatre Program sessions and Children’s Chorus opportunities help to prepare young talent for future success and give them an inside glimpse into industry expectations.”

Auditions will be held in three cities during the month of February: **Saturday, February 2** in Grand Bend, **Sunday, February 3** in Cambridge and **Saturday, February 9** in Penetanguishene. These auditions will be used to determine participants for various opportunities including the Youth Musical Theatre Programs and Children’s Choruses for *Annie* and *Jack and the Beanstalk: The Panto*. Young performers must sign up in advance.

### **Youth Musical Theatre Program**

The Youth Musical Theatre Program (YMTP) is designed to cultivate community and collaboration, ignite imagination, boost confidence and develop a deeper appreciation for live performance. Guided by passionate theatre professionals, participants study aspects of singing, dancing, acting and technical theatre while meeting new friends with similar interests.

2019 offerings include week-long training sessions in Cambridge (August 26 to 30 for ages 8 to 12 and ages 13-18) and Penetanguishene (July 22 to 26 for ages 9 to 17). There is a special program in Grand Bend that offers participants ages 9 to 15 the opportunity to hone their skills with industry professionals during the training week and then put those skills to the test performing in two rotating teams in *Jack and the Beanstalk: The Panto*, alongside professional performers in the

lead roles. Youth performers cast in the Grand Bend program must be available for the training week from July 29 to August 3 and performances from August 5 to August 31.

Two years ago, Drayton Entertainment expanded the Youth Musical Theatre Program to offer a more comprehensive option; the **Pre-Professional Production Program** gives teen performers hands-on insight into how a musical is cast, rehearsed and performed while they work with a professional creative team to create a concert version of a musical culminating in a performance. The 2019 Pre-Professional Production is *Legally Blonde Jr.*, a musical based on the popular movie starring Reese Witherspoon. This two-week session will take place in St. Jacobs from August 12 to 23 for ages 13 to 18. Associate Artistic Director **David Connolly** will direct and choreograph the production. Connolly's impressive résumé includes work on major musicals across the country and numerous Drayton Entertainment productions like *Hairspray*, *Mamma Mia!*, and the popular panto productions.

More information about the *Youth Musical Theatre Program*, including tuition costs and audition requirements, is available at [www.youthmusicaltheatreprogram.com](http://www.youthmusicaltheatreprogram.com).

### **Children's Chorus Opportunities**

The Children's Chorus Program offers young performers the opportunity to audition for child ensemble roles in the company's family panto productions and select musicals alongside professional performers in the lead roles.

In the Penetanguishene area, young performers ages 9 to 15 may audition for children's chorus roles in *Jack and the Beanstalk: The Panto*, which will be on stage at **King's Wharf Theatre** from June 5 to June 22. Youth cast in the production will be divided into teams and will perform in the show on a rotating schedule. Auditions will be held on Saturday, February 9.

In the Waterloo Region and Wellington County area, young performers ages 8 to 15 may audition for children's chorus roles in *Annie*, which will be on stage at **Drayton Festival Theatre** from June 5 to June 30 and the **Hamilton Family Theatre Cambridge** from October 2 to October 27. Youth cast in the production will be divided into teams and will perform in the show on a rotating schedule. Auditions will be held on Sunday, February 3.

More information about Children's Chorus opportunities, including show dates and audition requirements, is available at [www.draytonentertainment.com/youth-auditions](http://www.draytonentertainment.com/youth-auditions).

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