



YAE COMPANY 2025/2026

ThinkTank Theatre Young Artists' Ensemble Company Apprentice Program Info to Know!!!

Who we are: ThinkTank Theatre is Tampa Bay's professional theatre company dedicated to creating high-quality theatrical productions and programs for our target audience – Tampa Bay's Youth and families!

What is the YAE: Our Young Artists' Ensemble (YAE) is a group of high school students from around the Tampa Bay Area who work with ThinkTank in an apprenticeship capacity. We are specifically looking for talented young performance and production track individuals to serve as members of our YAE Company for the remainder of our 24/25 season and on into our 25/26 season! As a YAE member, you'll have the opportunity to rehearse, understudy, perform, direct, design, stage manage and so much more alongside those theatre professionals employed in ThinkTank's Main Stage Productions. There are many incredible experiences that come with being part of the YAE Company, but the most significant is gaining a network of theatre professionals available to mentor you as you venture from high school to beyond.

Guidelines and other Registration Info for Auditions/Interviews:

- In-person Auditions/Interviews will be held Saturday, February 22nd, 2025, between 11:30am and 3:30pm. The auditions will take place at Lab Dance Project located at 3215 C S MacDill Ave, Tampa, FL 33629
- If you are unavailable to attend the auditions on February 22nd, you may email and request a virtual audition/interview option. See the preparation guidelines on pg. 3 for more information.
- Those auditioning/interviewing must be a current 9th – 12th grader and at least 14 years of age by February 22nd, 2025.
- All those participating in the YAE Company Auditions/Interviews should secure an audition/interview time. Walk-up slots are not available.
- Those auditioning/interviewing will need to complete a YAE Company Info Form and a Parental Consent Form. These are included in this packet and will be emailed to you after an audition time has been requested.

Offers, Cost, and Performance/Production Opportunities:

- We will begin making offers the week of March 2nd. If offered a spot, the deadline to accept is Monday, March 10th.
- There is yearly program fee – \$300 – that can be paid in two parts: \$150 by March 31st and \$150 by April 30th. This yearly fee allows us to cover the cost of insurance, help with promotions and assist with budgeting for YAE members cast in our professional shows and other YAE production opportunities! There is no cost to audition. Scholarship Opportunities are available.
- New members are eligible to take part in our spring production of *Songs for a New World* in addition to the remainder of our 24/25 season. We currently have productions dates in place from May - August of 2025 and are in the process of planning our 25/26 season. YAE members get the opportunity to be part of each of these productions and projects! (Visit ThinkTankTYA.org for our upcoming performances.)

FAQ:

- When it says the YAE is an apprenticeship, what does that mean? It means we focus on the professional setting. When you come to rehearsals or perform with ThinkTank, you are working as one of our professionals. This is not a classroom type experience by any means. We expect that you will continue educational growth outside of these rehearsal/performance opportunities with classes you might be taking at your school, through other educational theatre programs, or through private study.

- Do I have to be involved in all of ThinkTank's productions? That's the beauty of being a company member. If you can be involved, we will make sure you are part of the production; if you can't be involved, no worries. You still get all the benefits of being a YAE member and we'll see you for the next one! Plus, there are lots of ways to be involved in the show from a producing standpoint, as well. We can always use help with house management, social media, working or subbing backstage for a show, etc.

- What will happen in rehearsals and when will they be? We rehearse like other professional companies here in Tampa. For our Main Stage Productions, the commitment is usually 5 to 6 weeks. For a typical production, weeks 1-3 are for rehearsal, week 4 focuses on Tech and Opening Weekend, and weeks 5 and 6 are for the run of the show. Generally, our rehearsal schedule week 1 - week 3 is Tuesday - Friday 6:30 - 10:15 pm (if possible, YAE are released early), and Saturdays from 12:00 - 5:00pm. Tech week usually includes lengthier rehearsals, but dates are given well in advance, and we prepare our YAE for the heavier workload involved in this week. We also have opportunities for Understudy Performances which require some extra rehearsal time during week 5 to prepare for those performances! Our Cabaret Series and Playwrights Festival have a slightly modified rehearsal schedule, and the time commitment is generally 1 to 3 weeks.

- I'm a senior. Can I still audition? Absolutely! There is a discount available for those who are seniors, graduating in 2025, who are interested in auditioning.

- I'm an 8th grader. Can I audition? Unfortunately, no. All YAE Company Members need to be current high school students. This ensures that all YAE Members will have time to be involved in our program, because our schedule takes into consideration other high school activities that you may be involved in.

- I don't have a lot of theatre experience. Can I still audition? Yes! We love young people who have an earnest interest in theatre and what it means to work professionally in this field!

- Can I earn Bright Futures hours through the YAE? Yes, you can! We have guidelines on how to qualify service hours for the time you spend with ThinkTank during a production.

- What if I'm interested in multiple areas? We love when our YAE want to experience multiple production platforms and yes there is opportunity to do so. For your audition/interview you'll have to select one area – performance or production. During your interview, we can certainly chat about serving in multiple areas and what experiences you might have in each.

Check out the preparation guidelines on the page below. We are always excited when we get to talk about the YAE program, and we can't wait to add new people into the company! Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions and we look forward to seeing you at auditions!

Georgia Mallory Guy
Producing Artistic Director

Sadie Lockhart
Artistic Associate

Ryan Sturm
YAE Coordinator

**Facebook – ThinkTank Theatre, Instagram – @ThinkTankTYA
www.ThinkTankTYA.org**

Production Track Interviews:

If you would like to apply to the YAE with more of a production based focused, these interviews will take place Saturday, February 22nd, at Lab Dance Project from 11:30am – 3:30pm. Lab Dance Project is located at 3215C S MacDill Ave, Tampa, FL 33629

Those requesting an audition slot should email Education@ThinkTankTYA.org

Subject line – Your Name, YAE Production Track Interview

Then in the email tell us:

Name – (Your Name)

Email – (Yours and/or Parent's email)

Phone Number – (Yours and/or Parent's number)

Presentation/Interview Slot – You can request a time between 11:30am and 1:30pm, 1:30pm - 3:30pm or say no preference. Presentations/Interviews are held in 15 min blocks.

Production Area – Directing, Stage Management, Design, any and all of these!

School – If you'd like to tell us, we'd like to know!

What to send us: For your interview, we will need you to email us:

- A resume and a cover letter that states your passion for direction, stage management or design and what skills you possess that make you successful in this/these areas.
- One letter of recommendation, preferably from a theatre director, theatre teacher or theatre personnel.

Please email these items prior to your audition. This way our audition team has access to your materials during your audition/interview. For resumes and letters of recommendation, PDFs work best.

What to bring/prepare for your presentation:

- Work samples such as a portfolio, website, PowerPoint, marked script or other items that showcase your work. Our interview location will have WIFI available for you to use. You are welcome to email any links to items you'd like to use during your presentation for our team to view along with you for your presentation.

Interview: No two interviews will be the same, so be yourself. We'll chat about your experience, your goals, and how we are able to work with our production YAE.

If you are unavailable to attend the auditions on February 22nd, you may email and request a virtual audition/interview option:

- Production Track Auditionees can submit their materials via email in whatever presentation format work best, i.e. Google Drive/Dropbox/Website/PowerPoint, and a Zoom Interview can be scheduled. Preparation guidelines would be the same as those attending in-person auditions.
- All Virtual Auditions/Interviews must be completed by Monday, February 24th. This includes materials received and interview completed.