



YAE COMPANY 2024/2025

ThinkTank Theatre **Young Artists' Ensemble Company Apprenticeship 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 23/24 season and on into our 24/25 season! As a YAE member, you'll have the opportunity to rehearse, understudy, perform, direct, design, stage manager 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, March 23rd, 2024, between 12:00pm and 3:30pm. The auditions will take place at Lab Dance Project located at 3215C S MacDill Ave, Tampa, FL 33629
- If you are unavailable to attend the auditions on March 23rd, 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 March. 23rd, 2024.
- 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 Opportunities:

- We will begin making offers the week of March 25th. If offered a spot, the deadline to accept is Monday, April 8th.
- There is yearly program fee – \$300 – that can be paid in two parts: \$150 by April 26th and \$150 by May 10th. 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 upcoming production of *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* in addition to the remainder of our 23/24 season. We currently have production dates in place from May - August of 2024 and are in the process of planning our 24/25 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 the 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 on Saturdays and 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 2 to 3 weeks.

- I'm a senior, can I still audition: Absolutely! There is a discount available for those who are seniors, graduating in 2023, 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!

Great Thanks,

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, April 1st, at Lab Dance Project from 12:00 – 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)

Audition Slot – You can request a time between 12:00 and 3:30pm or say no preference. Auditions 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 bring/send us: For your interview, you will need to bring a resume with 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. You will also need one letter of recommendation, preferably from a theatre director, theatre teacher or theatre personnel. You can email these if you'd like to cut down on paper cost. We'll be able to pull them up digitally during your interview. You should also bring samples such as a portfolio, website, PowerPoint, marked script or other images that showcase your work.

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 March 23rd, 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 March 25th. This includes materials received and interview completed.

