

Happy Valentine's Day! Hopefully, you had some days of rest over your holiday vacation and are dealing well with the continuing strangeness of this year. Will Covid never end? Well, maybe... But no matter what, we are excited that this summer Theatre & Kids will be bringing some degree of normalcy into our lives as we interact each day, make friends, learn cool stuff, and produce a great show. Pirates of Penzance was phenomenal last year – done with masks optional AND no one grew ill!

At Theatre and Kids, an apprentice is a treasured camp individual in 10th, 11th, or 12th grade. Some are “old timers” to our program others are brand new, but in no time we become a team and deep friendships are made. Apprentices are full participants in the production and are often the leading roles due to talent and experience. AND you do receive a substantial reduction in your fee, but with that comes some responsibilities as well. We're going to run through those briefly here and in more detail in our special **Apprentice Orientation Meeting this Spring**. But this will give you some “meanwhile details” to consider. i

APPRENTICE – That means, “learning the ropes.” You'll be gaining skills and having opportunities to grow. It's no surprise that many of our apprentices go on to become staffers in the years to come.

LEADERSHIP – As our oldest campers, younger kids look up to you. Often you are assistants in classes, featured players in the show, team leaders, and just someone they'd “like to be when they grow up.” (direct quote!) Your example in behavior and attitude literally helps to shape the camp for all involved.

ELECTIVE ASSISTANTS – While we invite all apprentices to take whatever classes they are interested in, many step forward to assist the teachers in their classes. Some actually sign up for classes designated for younger campers because they like working with the younger grades or want to assist the teacher in a particular class or theatre area. Think of that as you make selections – and make suggestions now!

DAILY DUTIES – With your discount comes some side assignments. Our dozen apprentices will take attendance as the day begins, function as team leaders for games, help to supervise snacks, recreation, and lunch, and will be assigned tidying duties for a camp area at day's end. With twelve – fourteen folks, the work is divided with doing different things on different days, so it really isn't difficult or a burden.

TALENT SHOWCASE – The last week of camp there is a talent showcase featuring only Apprentices and Staffers. Think ahead as to what talents you might want to share. Many wind up teaming with someone else, old friend or new, and we've seen some stunning performances. It's usually a highpoint of camp.

SATURDAY TRIP – For decades we have taken our apprentices to New York City for a day of theatre and touring. However, theatre is just coming back to NYC so we are going to keep flexible. Last year we took apprentices to a morning outdoor children's theatre production at DeSales University followed by a great day at Dorney Park and that worked out really well. So, depending on the limitations of Covid, we may do NYC or Philly Theatre or something else very cool. No matter what, we provide van transportation for all, staff and apprentices.

For any “newbies,” read over the calendar as well. Welcome to Theatre & Kids!

Mr. Liegel, Camp Director