

Happy New Year! Hopefully you are having a great school year, actually seeing real SNOW for the first time in a long while. Theatre & Kids is once again prepping the wonderful adventure of T&K *CAMP*, a summer treat as we interact each day, make friends, learn cool stuff, and produce a great show. **Broadway's R+H Cinderella** was phenomenal last year and the memories linger on! Check out the pics and more at theatreandkids.org. And this year? It's the Broadway smash, **Disney's BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** with all the magic and wonder of one of the finest modern musicals. It's an amazing story with unforgettable characters and music that everyone knows and loves. A perfect show for our apprentice team, right?

At Theatre & Kids, an **apprentice** is a treasured camp individual entering 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. Last year was a BIG year, right? So many on the team! Apprentices are full participants in the production, often in the leading roles due to talent and experience. You do receive a substantial reduction in your fee, and with that comes some simple mentoring 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. Especially if you are new to T&K.

APPRENTICE – That means someone "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. And for these reasons, your cost is only \$750 - \$150 less than the camper fee!

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 that particular class or theatre area. Think of that as you make selections – and make elective suggestions now!

DAILY DUTIES – With your discount comes some simple side assignments. Our 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 to 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, old friend or new, and we've seen some stunning things. It's a highpoint of camp.

SATURDAY NYC TRIP – For decades we have taken our apprentices to New York City for a day of theatre and touring. WOW! Early out on a tour bus, afternoon and evening shows, time to sightsee and shop, all under the leadership of our able staffers. It is always the middle Saturday of Camp, so keep July 20th clear!

So, here we go again! Let us know if you have questions or concerns. Check out our website, remember the fun of last year, and tell your friends about our camp and our production of **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**. We are going to need great older performers – so spread the word, talk it over with the folks, and sign up soon.

Welcome to you all – old-timers and newbies alike - to the adventure of Theatre & Kids!

Mr. Liegel, Camp Producer