



2020 Season Youth Auditions Announced

Youth Musical Theatre Program and Children's Chorus

Thursday, January 9, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Drayton Entertainment is pleased to announce auditions for its 2020 Season Youth Musical Theatre Program and Children's Chorus at the **Huron Country Playhouse** in Grand Bend. 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**.

"We are consistently astounded by the talent and passion we've seen from aspiring young performers 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."

Auditions will be used to determine participants for the Youth Musical Theatre Programs in Grand Bend, and the Children's Chorus for *Sleeping Beauty: The Panto* at the **Huron Country Playhouse II**. Young performers must sign up in advance. Auditions will be held on **Sunday, February 9** at Huron Country Playhouse in Grand Bend.

Youth Musical Theatre Program

Now in its fifth year, the Drayton Entertainment Youth Musical Theatre Program (YMTP) is an auditioned training program designed to cultivate community, encourage leadership, ignite imagination, and boost confidence, while providing aspiring young performers with the opportunity to learn from professional theatre artists and develop a deeper appreciation for live performance. Students train with passionate industry professionals in singing, dancing, acting, audition technique and technical theatre.

There will be a week-long training session in Grand Bend from July 13 to July 17 for youth ages 8 to 12. Plus, the popular **Pre-Professional Production Program**, which has traditionally been held in Waterloo Region, will move to Grand Bend. The Pre-Professional Production Program

gives teen performers hands-on insight into how a musical is cast, rehearsed, and performed. In 2020, aspiring young performers ages 13 to 18 will present a 60-minute junior version of the Disney blockbuster *Frozen* at the Huron Country Playhouse II. This two-week session will take place from July 27 to August 7, with ten performances of *Frozen JR.* from August 11 to August 15 at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. daily.

Adapted from the blockbuster animated film, *Frozen JR.* follows the stormy story of true love and acceptance between princess sisters Elsa and Anna. Burdened with an uncontrollable magical power, Elsa flees her home of Arendelle when she inadvertently causes the kingdom to become frozen, and nearly kills her sister. Fearless Anna joins forces with mountaineer Kristoff and his reindeer sidekick to find Elsa, break her icy spell, and save their kingdom from eternal winter.

Associate Artistic Director **David Connolly** will direct and choreograph the production. Connolly's impressive résumé includes work on major musicals like the pre-Broadway production of *First Wives Club* in Chicago and numerous Drayton Entertainment productions including Disney's *Newsies*, *Mamma Mia!*, and the popular family pantos *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Cinderella*, *Aladdin* and *Snow White*.

More information about the **Youth Musical Theatre Program**, including tuition costs and audition requirements, is available at www.youthmusicaltheatreprogram.com.

Sleeping Beauty: The Panto Children's Chorus

The Children's Chorus Program offers young performers the opportunity to audition for the youth ensemble in the company's panto production alongside professional performers in the lead roles.

Young performers ages 9 to 15 are invited to audition for the children's chorus ensemble in *Sleeping Beauty: The Panto*, which will be on stage at **Huron Country Playhouse II** from **July 2 to July 18**. 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 9. Advance registration is required.

Associate Artistic Director **David Connolly** will direct and choreograph the production. Connolly's impressive résumé includes work on major musicals like the pre-Broadway production of *First Wives Club* in Chicago and numerous Drayton Entertainment productions including *Hairspray*, *Mamma Mia!*, and the previous family pantos *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Cinderella*, *Aladdin* and *Snow White*.

More information about Children's Chorus opportunities, including show dates and audition requirements, is available at www.draytonentertainment.com/Online/article/youth-auditions.

Other Youth Musical Theatre Program and Children's Chorus Opportunities

Auditions for Youth Musical Theatre Programs and Children's Chorus opportunities in other regions will also take place in early February.

Other 2020 offerings include week-long training sessions as follows:

1. July 6 to July 10 for ages 8 to 12 in Cambridge
2. July 6 to July 10 for ages 13 to 18 in Cambridge
3. July 20 to July 24 for ages 10 to 18 in Penetanguishene

Auditions for the Waterloo Region Youth Musical Theatre Programs will take place at the Hamilton Family Theatre Cambridge on **Sunday, February 2**. Auditions for the Georgian Bay Youth Musical Theatre Program, and the Children's Chorus of *Sleeping Beauty: The Panto* at the King's Wharf Theatre, will take place at James Keating Public School in Penetanguishene on **Saturday, February 8**.

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