

LEEDS GRAND YOUTH THEATRE (LGYT) 2024-25 INFORMATION PACK



Credit Kerry Maule

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1. ARE YOU AGED *8-18 YRS?

Would you like to be involved in a thriving city-centre youth theatre company?

Would you like to tread the boards at our professional and historic venues as part of **Leeds Grand Youth Theatre (LGYT)** and work alongside professional artists, developing your skills and meeting like-minded young people?

Why not apply today and join us at LGYT?

***Please note that we have a waiting list to join LGYT, which is currently closed to over 11s.**



2. WHAT HAPPENS AT LGYT?

Under the guidance of LGYT Artistic Director, Lizi Patch, our core freelance artists and our Learning & Engagement team, you will meet for weekly sessions at the Leeds Grand Theatre Studio, run by industry professionals to help you become a well-rounded artist and confident performer.

You'll have the opportunity to perform in our professional venues (see [Previous Shows](#) for more details) and get some hands-on experience of how a professional venue works.

Our focus is on creatively challenging and supporting every single young person who comes through our doors (regardless of experience) and developing performance skills (acting, dance/movement, physical theatre, and vocal/singing training), plus vital life skills (including confidence, communication, focus, empathy, commitment, initiative and creative problem-solving). We are also committed to the wellbeing of every participant and sessions are run in a safe, nurturing, and supportive environment.



3. LGYT VALUES

Written by current LGYT members:

**We are the performers of the present and future.
We represent working together to create lifelong memories.**

**We value fun, diversity, teamwork and support.
We offer a safe, friendly, dynamic environment.**

**We value each other's individuality, creativity and enthusiasm.
We offer an opportunity for every voice, big or small.**

**We are hardworking, dedicated, and always improving.
We are a family.**

We bring you confidence, happiness, experience, and amazing shows you'll never forget.

4. SESSIONS AND GROUPS

Members are divided into different age groups and meet on Saturdays during term time. When there is a half term or school holiday, groups will generally (but not always) rehearse on the first Saturday of the holiday (and break for the second Saturday). Please see Term Dates for full details.

GROUP 1: 10.30am-12pm: Years 4, 5, 6 (8 - 11 years)
GROUP 2: 1pm – 2.45pm: Years 7, 8, 9 (11 - 14 years)
GROUP 3: 3.30pm – 5.30pm: Years 10, 11, 12, 13 (15 - 18 years)

WHAT WILL EACH GROUP DO?

ALL GROUPS

We programme the year so that we have time to nurture each individual and challenge each young artist creatively. We cast the shows on a rotational basis and the ensemble is highly valued. Sessions focus on building confidence, trust, self-awareness and creative skills. Regular vocal and physical warm-ups, plus acting, singing, dance and physical theatre skills run by freelance professionals will prepare you for the public performances.

GROUP 1- 3: Show for Summer 2025

Summer Show at City Varieties Music Hall: In a normal year we spend the Autumn Term and the first half of the Spring Term developing skills and team building. We then cast and rehearse a full-scale musical - sometimes with all 3 groups, sometimes with group 2 & 3, with group 1 producing their own show, depending on the musical. All summer shows are performed at City Varieties Music Hall.



5. TERM DATES

The autumn term commences Saturday 21st September 2024. All dates subject to change with notice.

Autumn 2024 – Sep-Dec

- 1 Saturday 21 September
- 2 Saturday 28 September
- 3 Saturday 5 October
- 4 Saturday 12 October
- 5 Saturday 19 October

Break for October half-term

- 6 Saturday 9 November
- 7 Saturday 16 November
- 8 Saturday 23 November
- 9 Saturday 30 November
- 10 Saturday 7 December

Spring 2025 – Jan-Mar

- 1 Saturday 11 January
- 2 Saturday 18 January
- 3 Saturday 25 January
- 4 Saturday 1 February
- 5 Saturday 8 February
- 6 Saturday 15 February

Break for Spring half-term

- 7 Saturday 1 March

8 Saturday 8 March

9 Saturday 15 March

10 Saturday 22 March

11 Saturday 29 March

Summer 2025 – Mar-July

1 Saturday 26 April

2 Saturday 3 May

3 Saturday 10 May

4 Saturday 17 May

5 Saturday 24 May

Break for Summer half-term

6 Saturday 7 June

7 Saturday 14 June

8 Saturday 21 June

9 Saturday 28 June

10 Saturday 5 July

11 Saturday 12 July

Summer show

Rehearsals at CVMH

start on 12 July

Production week at CVMH 21st – 27th July

Show dates and numbers TBC

6. VENUES AND SHOWS

We rehearse and perform in some of the most beautiful venues in the city with the support of a professional creative and technical team and a live pit orchestra (for the musical).

Leeds Grand Theatre Studio: In the heart of Leeds Grand Theatre, we hold our weekly training sessions and rehearsals in the basement studio.

City Varieties Music Hall (CVMH): Built in 1865, this stunning Grade II listed building is one of only four surviving Music Halls from the Victorian period and the only one to have continually provided a programme of theatre and variety throughout the years. CVMH has been home to our annual sell-out full-scale musical since 2012 plus several new plays from notable playwrights and devised works written and performed by the youth theatre members.

Past musicals include *Oliver*, *Loserville*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Stars* (written by LGYT alumnus Gabriel Owens), *Where Are We Now* (devised), *Imaginary*, *The Addams Family* and *Little Shop of Horrors*.

Past plays include *Alice in the News* (Charles Way) *Daffodil Scissors* (Philip Ridley), *Summer Snowball* (devised), *Kaspar The Wild* (Tim Crouch), *Frankly Prince Charming You're Just Not My Type* (devised), *Princess in the Basement* (devised), *Safe Hands* (devised), *Second Person Narrative* (Jemma Kennedy) *Darcy in Happylandia* (written by LGYT students Olivia Mee and Abby Marshall), *Sensa/Sensa 2* (devised).



7. FEES

LGYT costs **£480 per year** for three terms including production dates and all additional rehearsals. This can be paid up-front or in three termly instalments of £160. For Autumn Term 2024, **£160 will be due by Saturday 28th September** – once your child has had a chance to attend a session to see if it suits their needs and has confirmed they wish to stay.

To participate in the classes, payment must be received by the second session of each new term.

- **Autumn 2024:** by Saturday 28 September 2024
- **Spring 2025:** by Saturday 18 January 2025
- **Summer 2025:** by Saturday 3 May 2025

Payments can be received via credit/debit card or over the phone through our Box Office. Please email boxoffice@leedsheritagetheatres.com with details of your name, phone number and the best time to call you (Mon-Fri 10am-6pm) and a member of our team will phone you back. You can also call into our Box Office to pay in person.

Any requests for alternative payment plans will be considered if discussed with the Learning team in advance. Please note we also offer a limited number of free places/financial support to families who might struggle to cover the cost. If you would like to find out more about this, please contact the Learning Team for a free place application form: learning@leedsheritagetheatres.com.

Data Protection Act 1998: The information that you provide on our free places form will be used only for the purpose of processing free places. Leeds Heritage Theatres (LHT) is under a duty to protect the funds they handle and may use this information you have provided on this form to prevent and detect fraud. This information will not be passed to any third parties. Once your free place application has been assessed, supporting documentation will be returned to you or destroyed.



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8. SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding Statement

Leeds Heritage Theatres has a duty of care to provide a safe working environment and appropriate supervision of visitors, including those who by reason of age or disability need enhanced care and supervision. The Company will ensure that children, young people and vulnerable adults have appropriate safety and protection whilst using its venues and services. The Company will put in place the appropriate training and support so that staff and volunteers can make informed and confident responses to issues which may arise and that they know how to report any concerns. The Company will ensure that any issues which arise will be dealt with in accordance with the Safeguarding Policy.

Online Safeguarding Statement

We recognise that the online world provides everyone with many opportunities; however, it can also present risks and challenges. We have a duty to ensure that all children, young people and adults engaging with online activity through our organisation are protected from potential harm online. All children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse. Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare and in helping young people to be responsible in their approach to online safety.

9. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

LGYT promotes excellence and creativity and provides an accessible and safe environment for all people regardless of gender, ethnic origin, disability, religious belief or sexual orientation. When joining Leeds Grand Youth Theatre, all young people create and agree to a code of conduct that ensures everybody gets the best out of the experience.

We also ask members to complete a monitoring form, so we can report back to funders and measure whether our projects are inclusive, accessible and representative of our city. All information provided is stored securely and only accessible to the Learning team. You reserve the right not to answer all questions.

We have a number of dedicated places at youth theatre for young people from the global majority and those with a disability, who are currently underrepresented at our organisation. Please get in touch via learning@leedsheritagetheatres.com to find out more, including about available free places.



10. PRAISE FOR LGYT

“LGYT is a warm, welcoming, and above all professional company to be involved with. I was part of the youth theatre before I headed off into the big wide world! I had the opportunity to perform at the wonderful City Varieties and the freelance artists I worked with were professional, encouraging and super creative.”

LIV JACKSON: FORMER LGYT MEMBER

“I am very grateful for LGYT. It gave me the confidence to audition for the National Youth Theatre REP company which ended up being the spark to my acting career. LGYT was a place that brought laughter to my week and friends who I consider to be very precious to me. I just remember how much joy there was in rehearsals and laughter. You gave me so much encouragement to pursue what I really wanted to do and that's led me to work with incredible professionals.”

MEGAN PARKINSON: FORMER LGYT MEMBER
(Recent jobs include *Game of Thrones* and *Holby City*)

“Coming to youth theatre weekly was not only a respite from the chaos of daily life but hugely important to maximise one's potential. The final production was always a joy to be a part of, however the times where confidence is built, where news skills are learnt, where new friends are made was at rehearsals.”

JULIANA EIGBE: FORMER LGYT MEMBER

11. CODE OF CONDUCT

LGYT members are expected to:

- Listen carefully to direction and task setting.
- Maintain focus and concentration.
- Respect and take other people's ideas seriously.
- Always treat others with respect, regardless of their gender, ethnic origin, disability, age, religion or belief, sexual orientation, or for any other unfair reason.
- All conversations at LGYT should be appropriate. Do not use language that may embarrass or demoralize others.
- Co-operate with their group by adapting and compromising.
- Take risks in a supportive atmosphere by trying new ideas or techniques.
- Maintain physical control and use the space confidently.
- Learn from other actors' mistakes and successes.
- Give constructive and balanced criticism by pointing out both positive and negative aspects of the performance.
- Have FUN.

Practicalities

- Be prompt. The session will start on time! Don't get left behind.
- Always come dressed appropriately in workshop clothes that enable you to move freely.
- Mobile phones to be switched off or on silent (and non-vibrating).
- Once in the building ensure you always tell a member of the Learning team where you are.
- Let us know in advance if you know that you'll be late for a session or need to leave early.
- If you need to bring a snack or a drink, we will have a short break in the middle of the session. Don't go hungry! (There is a water machine available).

Disciplinary Procedures

- If your behaviour is disruptive to the class, you will be given three verbal warnings.
- If your behaviour remains disruptive, contact will be made directly with your parent/carer to issue a final warning.
- If your behaviour continues to be disruptive despite the warnings and follow up with your parent/carer, you will be asked to leave the class.

If your behaviour or language is deemed inappropriate, contact will be made with your parent/carer immediately.

If at any time you or your parent/carer wish to discuss anything, please contact Imogen at learning@leedsheritagetheatres.com or ring 07738 267757 to speak to a member of the team.

12. TO APPLY

Please complete the online application form on our website: <https://leedsheritagetheatres.com/take-part/young-people/youth-theatre/application-form/>

Please note that we have a waiting list to join LGYT in September 2024, which is currently closed to over 11s.

We look forward to hearing from you.

The Learning Team



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