

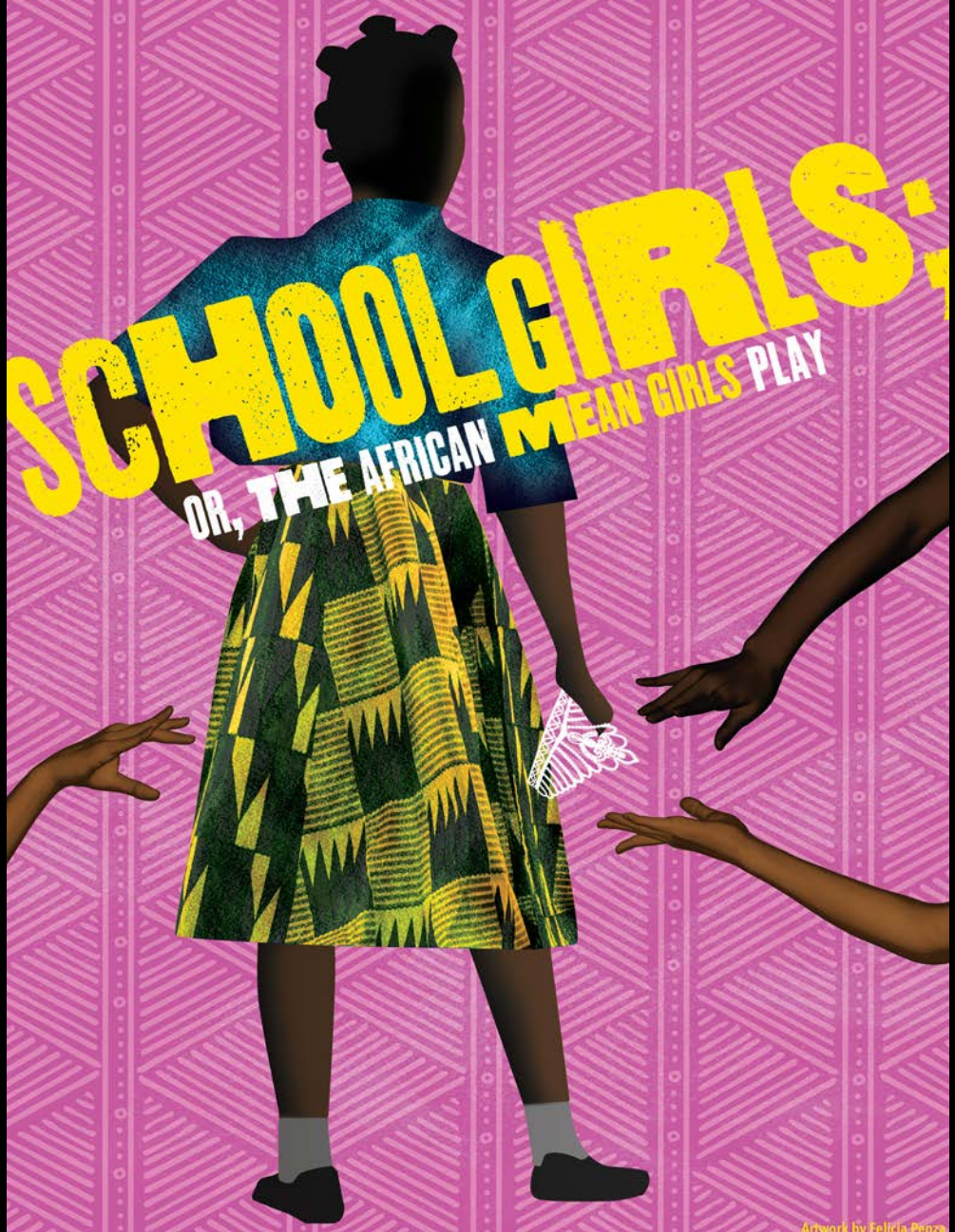
# SPOTLIGHT

YOUTH THEATRE



# SCHOOL GIRLS:

OR, THE AFRICAN MEAN GIRLS PLAY



Artwork by Felicia Penza

10620 N. 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue • Glendale, AZ 85304 • (602) 843-8318 • [sytaz.org](http://sytaz.org)

# SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE'S **LITTLE ACTORS ACADEMY**

LET YOUR LITTLE ONES SHINE ON STAGE & EXPLORE  
THE MAGICAL WORLD OF YOUTH THEATER!

## **Session 1 • June 3–7**



### **TROLLS JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN!**

Embark on a whimsical journey into the enchanting world of trolls through singing, acting, and creative play!

## **Session 2 • June 17–21**



### **BRICK BY BRICK: A THREE LITTLE PIGS ADVENTURE**

Storytelling, acting, and hands-on fun!

## **Session 3 • July 8–12**



### **SUPERHERO ADVENTURES**

Your little ones will discover their superpowers through dramatic play and musical fun!

## **Session 4 • July 22–26**



### **MIXED-UP FAIRYTALES**

Weaving together classic fairytales in a delightful and funny mixed-up journey!

Designed specifically for toddlers ages 3–7, SYT's Little Actors Academy combines the joy of music, movement, and imagination to create an unforgettable theatrical experience!

Little Actors Academy classes are one-week in length, Monday through Friday, 9AM - Noon.

Tuition for each one-week class is \$175. For more information or to register, please call the SYT Box Office or visit [sytaz.org](http://sytaz.org).



## **Spotlight Youth Theatre**

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# Spotlight Youth Theatre Proudly Presents

## School Girls; Or, the African Mean Girls Play

By **Jocelyn Bioh**

World Premiere at the MCC Theater, October 16, 2017 (**Robert LuPone, Bernard Telsey, & William Cantler**, Artistic Directors; **Blake West**, Executive Director)

Originally developed as part of The New Black Fest at The Lark, 2016

Additional development as part of the MCC Theater PlayLabs series, 2016

Director: **Chanel Bragg**

Dialect Coach: **Michael Thompson**

Stage Manager: **María Guadalupe Cruz**

Set Design: **Erin Davidson**

Scenic Artists: **Brianna Funk, Becky Funk, & Logan Swope**

Costume Design: **Briana Thompson**

Hair and Make-up Design: **Briana Thompson**

Properties Design: **Vicki & Kenny Grossman**

Light Design: **Dorry Bailes**

Sound Design: **Navah Monk**

Dance Captain: **Valerie Winch**

Fight Captain: **Ryan L. Jenkins**

Technical Coordinator: **Josh Hontz**

Sound Console Operator: **Izzi Haber**

Light & Sound Board Operator: **Adelaide Bankhead**

Show Poster Graphic Design: **Felicia Penza**

*School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play* is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. ([www.dramatists.com](http://www.dramatists.com))

*The Greatest Love Of All* by Linda Creed and Michael Masser

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## SYT Administrative Team

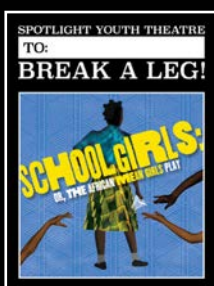
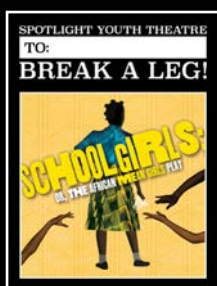
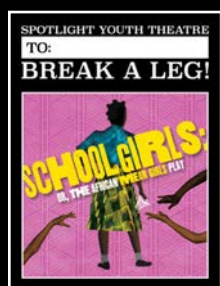
Artistic Director for Spotlight Youth Theatre .....	<b>Kenny Grossman</b>
Managing Director for Spotlight Youth Theatre.....	<b>Deb Czajkowski</b>
General Manager for Spotlight Youth Theatre.....	<b>Jack Taylor</b>
Graphic Designer, Headshot Photographer, & Webmaster.....	<b>Robert Waller</b>
Social Media Specialist .....	<b>Katie Czajkowski</b>
Break-a-Leg Table Coordinator .....	<b>Tammy Waller</b>
Production Photos .....	<b>Tiffany Elyse Artistry, LLC</b>
Fundraising Committee .....	<b>Sara Bader, Shelly Boucher, Karen Dolyniuk,</b> <b>Julie Donnicks, Elisa Herndon, Sabrina Hurley, Audra Little, Amanda Newton,</b> <b>Jen Parker, Lisa Poormon, Kelly Swope, Tammy Waller, &amp; Barbara Winch</b>

Special thanks to **Doug Novotny, Jack Taylor, the Spotlight Youth Theatre Board of Directors,**  
and the **friends & family members** who volunteered to make this show so successful.

# The Cast of *School Girls; or the African Mean Girls Play*

Paulina Sarpong.....	De'Layla Wilcox
Ericka Boafo .....	Valerie Winch
Ama .....	Isabella Penza
Nana .....	Makenzie Williams
Mercy .....	Kiana Jeskewitz
Gifty .....	Hanna-Catherine Smith
Headmistress Francis .....	Machaya Williams
Eloise Amponsah .....	Ryan L. Jenkins

## Buy Your Favorite Actor, Crew Member, or Director a Break-a-Leg!



For only \$5.00 you can send a  
personalized “break-a-leg”  
to your favorite actor or crew member!

The actors, crew members, and directors love it, and all proceeds are channeled directly back into the theatre to support amazing programs such as this one. Stop by the “Break-a-Leg” table in the theatre lobby to brighten someone’s day!

# Note From the Director

Akwaaba, (Welcome in Ghanaian)

Welcome to the local premiere of Jocelyn Bioh's *School Girls, or the African Mean Girls Play*. The year is 1986, and this exciting story takes place in West Africa at the Aburi Girls Boarding school.

This coming-of-age story follows the lives of six Ghanaian teenagers, on the precipice of adulthood, navigating universal issues such as body dysmorphia, bullying, self-hate, grief, and change. Paulina, the head of the "plastics" to borrow a term from Tina Fey's *Mean Girls*, struggles with the social enigma of a European Construct, that suggests the fairer your skin, the more acceptable/more beautiful you are to society. She attempts to remedy this with bleaching cream that yields an unexpected result. As a dark-skinned woman, I can attest that although this is a fictional story, the circumstances in this play ring true. Ericka, the new girl in town, is dealing with the incomprehensible grief of losing her mother and adjusting to a new life halfway across the world. She shares her own stories of being biracial, and not being "enough" for both communities she identifies with. Both young ladies representing the spectrum of the diaspora are experiencing their own journey with colorism. Luckily, they have the pageant to distract them from the woes of teenage life. Or perhaps, being in competition only wedges them further apart?

This brilliant dramedy examines a time within our world History where our young people on continents everywhere are faced with their own brand of systemic racism, political unrest, and division within the community. (All the while trying to survive zits, boys, dances, and typical teenage life). Sound familiar? Unfortunately, time has revealed that a lot of the challenges with colorism, systemic racism, self-hate, and bullying, are STILL in fact, an ongoing problem of today. It was a calculated move on the part of the playwright to echo the struggles with the teens to show how these hurtful mindsets have existed long before as the adult characters within the story also recanted their own history with these issues.

Unfortunately, the world still struggles with anti-blackness and our young girls post covid and post the racial reckoning of 2020 also experience the same themes and effects 60 years later within our actual timeline.

Within our rehearsal process, it has been a joy to connect with our young women. We did this through a series of temperature check ins, and both Maria Cruz, (my incredible stage manager), and I worked to create a welcome and brave space for our young ladies to step unapologetically into these archetypes. Our conversations have been insightful, healing, and explorative of both self and the themes in this play. In our cast, the Sisterhood is strong, and I am happy the future of the world rests in these empathetic, talented, and capable hands.

My fondest moment was the first rehearsal after the table read, our teens displayed a vulnerability and a support for one another that set the tone for a beautiful process.

I am grateful to have navigated this experience with not only the best creative (all women) fiercest team in the land! (Thank you!!!! Maria, Briana, Felicia, Erin, Nevaeh, Vicki, Dori, Izzi, Adelaide, Brianna, and Becky) but also a dedicated group of volunteers and parents who lent their support in a myriad of ways!!!! Finally, to our feminist allies Jack, Josh, Logan, Michael Thompson, and our biggest supporter of all KENNY G!!!! Thank you also for your contributions to this show!

Lastly, I just want to share that our youth are intelligent, independent, and talented young people, that you get the honor to call your amazing children. As you witness their crafted characters, perchance you may see a glimpse of your former selves reflected like a mirror on the stage. Perhaps you will leave understanding their perspective a little deeper. My hope is that our show sparks a dialogue within your homes, where adults and children alike can come together and get real about topical subjects that plague our teens today.

Sincere Thanks to Spotlight Youth Theatre and the Board for standing on principle that all stories deserve to be told. And, Thank YOU (the audience) for spending your evening with us in west Africa.

Sharing a sprinkle of black girl magic and sending "broken legs" to all my young Queens. Enjoy the show!

Best,

**Chanel Bragg, Director**

# Who's Who in *School Girls; or the African Mean Girls Play*



## **Ryan L. Jenkins** (Eloise Amponsah)

Ryan L. Jenkins is excited to join this cast in her first SYT production! She was last seen as the featured solo performer in Dael Orlandersmith's *Until the Flood* with Stray Cat Theatre, and is currently in her first educational tour with Childsplay Theatre performing *Eddie and Vinnie*. Other recent productions include Tybalt / Page / Apothecary in Flagstaff Shakespeare Festival's *Romeo and Juliet*, Viola in its production of *Twelfth Night*, and Kameeka in *The Hula Hoopin' Queen* with Childsplay. She has also worked with Black Theatre Troupe, Tier5 Theatre Company, Southwest Shakespeare Company, Virtual Theatre of Arizona, iTheatre Collaborative, and Nearly Naked Theatre. Ryan is originally from Chicago, Illinois, and earned her Acting BFA from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2014.



## **Kiana Jeskewitz** (Mercy)

Kiana is currently a sophomore at ACAA and is very excited to be playing Mercy! She has most recently been seen in *The Prom* as a member of the ensemble and in *Anastasia* as Odette / Policeman #1. She'd like to thank the directors for all that they do, her mom for always letting her borrow the car, and the cast for being such hilarious and wonderful people.



## **Isabella Penza** (Ama)

Isabella was born and raised in Arizona and has always been a performer. She is thrilled to be returning to Spotlight Youth Theatre's mainstage with this production of *School Girls; Or, the African Mean Girls Play*, her first play. Isabella has had roles in *Freckleface Strawberry*, *13*, and the upcoming *Frozen Junior*. She has also been involved in theatre camp productions of *Legally Blonde, Jr.*, *Wicked*, *Seussical*, *Shrek*, and *Finding Neverland*. She would like to thank everyone who has inspired her, such as her theater camp counselors, her family members, and friends. Isabella plans to work hard to pursue her future theater career to become something great and be an inspiration to others.



## **Hanna-Catherine Smith** (Gifty)

Hanna-Catherine is a talented gymnast and loving sister who decided to finally get into acting after it being her dream career since she was little. From the beginning of this play, she has been sincerely excited to be a part of this production, and has grown to become a more confident and hilarious person after the many rehearsals and discussions. As a whole, she is very thankful to Spotlight Youth Theater, who helped her break out from her shell as well as offer an incredible opportunity for her to be a part of *School Girls; or the African Mean Girls Play*. THANK YOU SPOTLIGHT!

# Who's Who in *School Girls; or the African Mean Girls Play*



## **De'Layla Wilcox** (Paulina Sarpong)

De'Layla is extremely excited to be part of *School Girls* at SYT. She began acting at age five, and after a hiatus is happy to be back on stage! De'Layla currently attends ACAA. She has participated in various acting camps and training and has been in many productions along with many hours of local theater volunteer work. De'Layla would like to thank her grandmother for supporting her in everything she does.



## **Machaya Dejanee Williams** (Headmistress Francis)

Machaya is really excited to be a part of this play! This is her first time being a part of the Spotlight Youth Theatre! She attended New Horizon Performing Arts school where she was a part of "The Kids Next Door" for four years! She has acted in several plays and done a few commercials. She truly loves working with Chanel, Maria, and the Dialect Coach. She is looking forward to attending MCC in the fall where she will do her electives and then attend a 4-year University for Fashion Design!



## **Makenzie Somaya Williams** (Nana)

Makenzie is truly blessed to be a part of this show! This is her first time being a part of Spotlight Youth Theatre! She currently attends Highland Performing Arts School. She is going to middle school in the fall. She has acted in the *Nickelodeon SpongeBob SquarePants Play Youth Edition* and *Anastasia*. She is ready to broaden her horizons and take acting to the next level because she is truly passionate about it. She is truly overjoyed to have met her cast members and she loves that she is making new friends. Her plan is to continue with Chanel and Maria for as long as she can.



## **Valerie Winch** (Ericka Boafu)

Valerie is honored to be performing in *School Girls or the African Mean Girls Play* under the guidance of the iconic Chanel Bragg and Maria Cruz. This experience has been truly amazing, and she wants to thank everyone involved in this production for making SYT a second home for her. Valerie was last seen at SYT in *Playfest* and as Kendra in *13 The Musical* at Starlight Community Theater. She is also in ABT's performance troupe, HyRev. Valerie would additionally like to thank her mother, Stephen, Renee, Maria, and Chanel for supporting, coaching, and loving her.



*You*  
**AIRIE INVITED to**  
**A VIEERY important**  
**IDATIE**

SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE'S 2024 GALA:  
**DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE**

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2024 • 6-9 P.M.

AN OLD TOWN WEDDING  
& EVENT CENTER

8276 W MONROE ST • PEORIA, AZ

JOIN US FOR DINNER,  
DRINKS, & MISCHIEF

RESERVE YOUR TICKETS  
TODAY BY VISITING  
[SYTAZ.ORG](http://SYTAZ.ORG)



# Who's Who in *School Girls; or the African Mean Girls Play*

## **Chanel Bragg** (Director)

Chanel Bragg, an ardent advocate for diversity in the Arizona Fine Arts Community, co-founded The Soul of Broadway Performance Troupe in 2009, showcasing regional African American talent. In 2015, she established The United Colours of Arizona Theatre, a hub for actors of color to network and to cultivate their craft. Here, members can find general postings for jobs, audition workshops, dance symposiums, vocal direction, and so much more. Chanel, a Freelance Director and teaching artist, directs for various theaters and is notably proud of her work with Spotlight Youth Theatre and Free Arts for Abused Children of AZ, utilizing the power of the arts to help children heal. Chanel has performed on stages across the country. Her favorite roles include Effie (*Dream Girls*), Dorothy (*The Wiz*), Joanne (*Rent*), and Ruth (*A Raisin in the Sun*).

## **Regional Directing Credits:**

*Clydes* (Boise Contemporary Theatre) *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill*, *No Evidence of Disease*, *Enferma*, *Clickbait* and the *24 Hour Project*, (The Phoenix Theatre Co.) *The Glass Menagerie* (Arizona Theatre Company), *The Hula Hooping Queen* (ChildsPlay Theatre Co.) *Stick Fly* (St. Louis Repertory Theatre), *Reggie Hoops* (Profile Theatre), *Los Feliz* (UC Santa Barbara.)

## **Notable Directing Credits:**

*The Piano Lesson*, *Lizzie*, *Hair*, *The Wolves*, *Los Cinco Anos* (*The Last Five Years*), and *The Alexander Project* (*Hamilton Revue*) co-produced with Live Nation.

Chanel is proudly on the board here at Spotlight, and she served as the Associate Artistic Director for Arizona Theatre Company for three seasons, Founder of United Colours of AZ Theatre, and highlighted in both the *PHOENIX Magazine's* "Great 48" and *American Theatre Magazine's* "10 Rising Black Women to Watch in the American Theatre."

## **María Guadalupe Cruz** (Stage Manager)

María (She/Her, Ella) is excited to Stage Manage *School Girls; or the African Mean Girls Play!* Maria has been stage managing at theaters across the valley for the past six years. She has her Master's in Legal Studies from ASU and a BA in Organizational Leadership - Project Management. Spotlight is a special place that does important work that really supports and expands their community. She wants to thank Kenny, Chanel, the production team, cast and crew for allowing her to work with them on this show. Por último, ella quiere agradecerle a su mamá, papá y hermanas por el apoyo que recibe. "Disfruten la obra!"

## **Dorry Bailes** (Lighting Designer)

Dorry Bailes is so grateful to be given the opportunity to light design for *School Girls, or the African Mean Girls Play*. Dorry has loved theatre her whole life and has just recently discovered her passion for tech. She has recently light designed for *Playfest* at Spotlight and *The Spongebob Musical* at Thunderbird High School. Dorry would like to thank Josh Hontz for being an awesome mentor and would like to thank Olivia Martinez for giving her this opportunity.

## **Erin Davidson** (Set Designer)

Erin comes from Boise, Idaho with a background in scenic work but mostly, she runs a high school theatre program at Rocky Mountain High School. She teaches all levels of acting, stagecraft, and musical theatre in her daily schedule. Her favorite days start with tap shoes, and end with saw dust. She attributes all her abilities to her immediate family. Her and her husband have three beautiful daughters who are supportive of the work she does. Erin is incredibly thankful to be able to do theatre because her husband, Ben, is so incredibly generous with his time at home with their girls.

### **Kenny & Vicki Grossman** (Properties Designers)

Kenny and Vicki have been with Spotlight Youth Theatre from the very beginning and are excited to be a part of this amazing production. They are looking forward to all the productions in this incredible season. Kenny still loves eggs. To Jamie and Carly, “We love you and miss you.” Thank you to the cast, crew, directors, designers, families, volunteers, and board members.

### **Nevaeh Monk** (Sound Designer)

Nevaeh is 16 years old and is an early graduate at Arizona Conservatory for Arts and Academics (ACCA). She has previously sound designed for the following shows: *Hands on a Hardbody*, *The Prom*, and *Rudolph the Rednosed Reindeer*; all here at Spotlight Youth Theatre. Nevaeh is extremely honored to have gotten to work on this show and to work with such an amazing cast and crew! She would specifically like to give thanks to Josh Hontz, Kenny Grossman, Maria Cruz, and Chanel Bragg for creating an amazing working environment, and the continued support and encouragement. And lastly, she hopes you enjoy *School Girls; Or the African Mean Girls Play!*

### **Briana Thompson** (Costume / Hair & Makeup Designer)

Briana Thompson is a Graduate of Grand Canyon University with a Major in Digital Film Production and a Minor in Theater Arts. She has been costuming since she learned to sew at the age of eight and has been doing it professionally for over six years now. She currently runs Denée Designed, a costume and clothing design company she started with her best friend Ruben Renteria. Fashion and costuming, at all levels and for all peoples, is a huge passion of hers. She is very excited to be lending her skills to Spotlight Youth Theater, as she supports the wonderful work they do with the youth of our community!

### **Michael Thompson** (Dialect Coach)

Michael Thompson is thrilled to make a Spotlight Debut on the other side of the table. Michael has performed across the valley and country. Most recently seen as Marshall in Nickelodeon’s *Paw Patrol Live: Heroes Unite!* Michael can be spotted in Portsmouth, NH, at Seacoast Repertory Theatre as Willy Wonka in *Roald Dahl’s Willy Wonka*. Thank you to Chanel, Maria, and the entire cast for their hard work and trust in me. Thank you all for supporting local art. Sit back, enjoy, and remember to “look confident. Be confident.”

## How Are We Doing?

# WE VALUE YOUR FEEDBACK

Please take a moment to complete our online survey. Your responses are greatly appreciated.

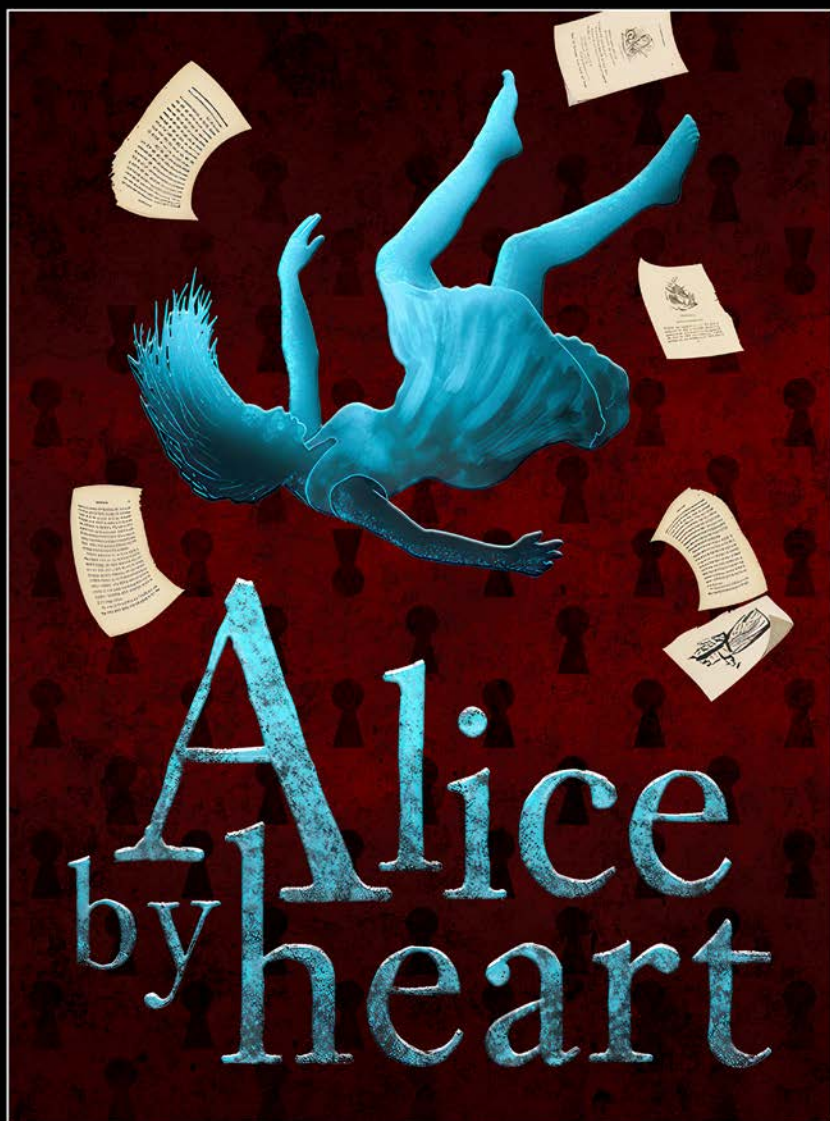
Please scan the code or type the link into any internet browser.

<https://bit.ly/SYTSurvey>



## SCAN ME

Coming Soon to  
Spotlight Youth Theatre



**MAY 17–JUNE 2, 2024**

Fridays & Saturdays at 7PM, Sundays at 2PM  
additional 2PM matinees on May 25 & June 1

10620 N. 43rd Ave. • Glendale, AZ • (602) 843-8318 • [sytaaz.org](http://sytaaz.org)



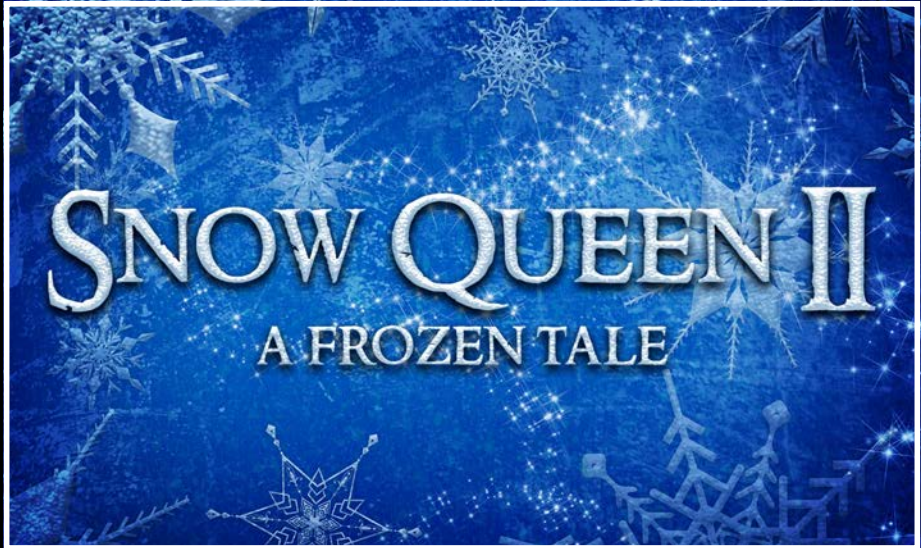


EAT, SLEEP, THEATRE CAMP, REPEAT!

# SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE • 2024 SUMMER THEATRE CAMP

During each session of Spotlight Youth Theatre's 2024 Summer Theatre Camp, actors will learn the shows and then perform for families and friends!

## SESSION 1: June 3–14, 2024



**Back by popular demand!** The past is not what it seems...Or is it? Conjure up freezing snow and ice as well as beautiful songs and dancing in an enchanted land, and help restore the peace.



Tuition is \$500 per two-week session; \$450 if registered on or before April 30, 2024.  
M–F 9AM–3PM • Ages 8–18 • Sibling and multiple-session discount available  
Registration fee includes a camp t-shirt • Before-and-after care available

**To register, please visit [sytaz.org/summer2024](https://sytaz.org/summer2024)**

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LET YOUR LITTLE ONES SHINE ON STAGE & EXPLORE  
THE MAGICAL WORLD OF YOUTH THEATER!

## **Session 1 • June 3–7**



### **TROLLS JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN!**

Embark on a whimsical journey with our “Trolls Just Want To Have Fun” summer camp—where your little ones, ages 3–7, dive into the enchanting world of trolls through singing, acting, and creative play!

Unleash their inner trolls and let the applause begin!

Designed specifically for toddlers ages 3–7, SYT’s Little Actors Academy combines the joy of music, movement, and imagination to create an unforgettable theatrical experience!

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## **SESSION 2: June 17–28, 2024**



In this live action Barbie musical, stereotypical Barbie and Ken must travel from their matriarchal theatre society in the East Valley to perform at a Youth Theatre in the West Valley. Along the way they learn fantastic musical numbers and make new friends.



**Tuition is \$500 per two-week session; \$450 if registered on or before April 30, 2024.**

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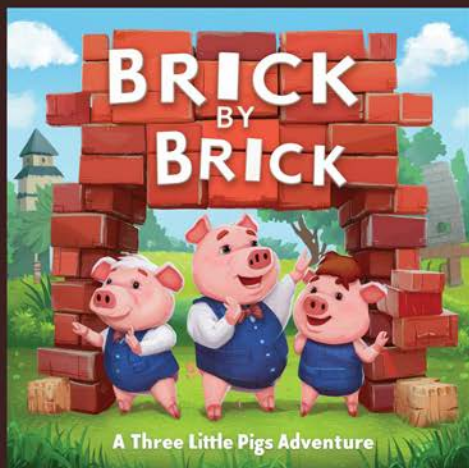
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## **Session 2 • June 17–21**



### **BRICK BY BRICK: A THREE LITTLE PIGS ADVENTURE**

Tailored for young adventurers, this imaginative program for ages 3–7 combines storytelling, acting, and hands-on fun.

Join us for a week of creativity as your little ones sing, act, and spark their imagination!

Designed specifically for toddlers ages 3–7, SYT's Little Actors Academy combines the joy of music, movement, and imagination to create an unforgettable theatrical experience!

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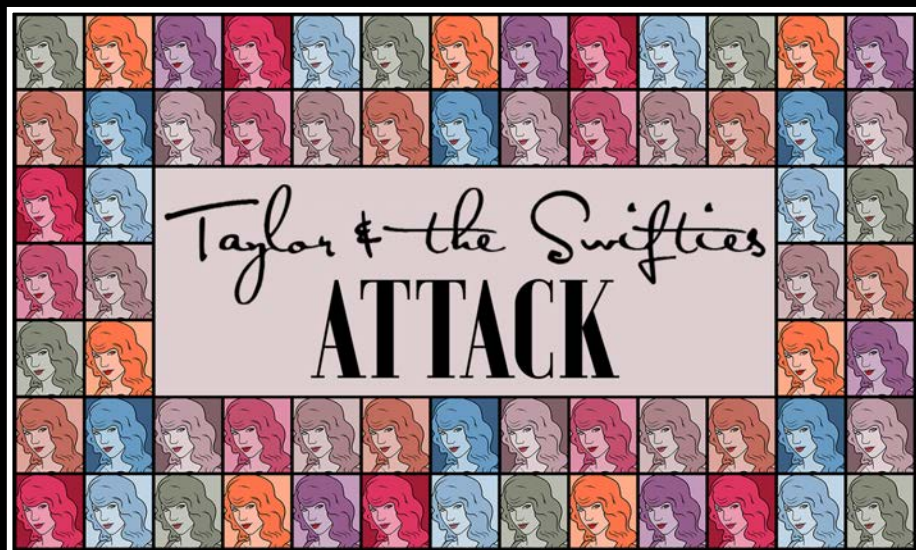


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# SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE • 2024 SUMMER THEATRE CAMP

During each session of Spotlight Youth Theatre's 2024 Summer Theatre Camp, actors will learn the shows and then perform for families and friends!

## SESSION 3: July 8–19, 2024



Is she at the game? Is she at the show? When an "Anti Hero" threatens to take over this camp we might be in for a "cruel summer." T-Swizzle knows that "bad blood" on a youth theatre stage causes a "blank space." But Tay decides to "shake it off" and with the help of the Swifties, sings and dances and challenges the "Anti Hero" and saves the day in "style."



Tuition is \$500 per two-week session; \$450 if registered on or before April 30, 2024.

M–F 9AM–3PM • Ages 8–18 • Sibling and multiple-session discount available

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## **Session 3 • July 8–12**



### **SUPERHERO ADVENTURES**

This action-packed camp for ages 3–7 combines acting, hero training, and creative play in a theatrical setting.

Join forces with fellow young crusaders as your little ones discover their superpowers through dramatic play, create their superhero identities, and have musical fun.

Unleash the superhero within!

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## **SESSION 4: July 22–August 2, 2024**



# **GUARDIANS OF THE THEATRE GALAXY**

Knowhere Youth Theatre and their beloved band of misfit actors are back after the pandemic and are on a mission to help protect the theatre galaxy. Join us on this musical comedy adventure and help celebrate youth theatre as we know it.



**Tuition is \$500 per two-week session; \$450 if registered on or before April 30, 2024.**

**M–F 9AM–3PM • Ages 8–18 • Sibling and multiple-session discount available**

**Registration fee includes a camp t-shirt • Before-and-after care available**

**To register, please visit [sytaz.org/summer2024](https://sytaz.org/summer2024)**

# **SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE**

**10620 N. 43<sup>RD</sup> AVE • GLENDALE, AZ 85304 • (602) 843-8318 • SYTAZ.ORG**

# SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE'S **LITTLE ACTORS ACADEMY**

LET YOUR LITTLE ONES SHINE ON STAGE & EXPLORE  
THE MAGICAL WORLD OF YOUTH THEATER!

## **Session 4 • JULY 22–26**



### **MIXED-UP FAIRYTALES**

Dive into the enchanting world of our  
“Mixed Up Fairytales” summer camp.

This whimsical program weaves together  
classic fairytales in a delightful and  
funny mixed-up journey.

Join the adventure as your little ones  
explore creative storytelling, acting,  
and imagination while bringing beloved  
characters to life on the stage.

Designed specifically for toddlers ages 3–7, SYT’s Little Actors Academy combines the joy of music, movement, and imagination to create an unforgettable theatrical experience!

Little Actors Academy classes are one-week in length, Monday through Friday, 9AM - Noon.

Tuition for each one-week class is \$175. For more information or to register, please call the SYT Box Office or visit [sytaz.org](http://sytaz.org).



### **Spotlight Youth Theatre**

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SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE PRESENTS

# SPOTLIGHT ON PLAYWRITING



**ATTENTION ALL PLAYWRIGHTS AND  
ASPIRING PLAYWRIGHTS AGES 12-20!**

Spotlight is now offering a limited series of playwriting classes that will help you grow and understand the craft of writing plays and musicals.

## PLAYWRITING BASICS

**April 13, 10-11:30 AM**

This is a hand-on beginner's class in playwriting. Students will learn the basic elements of character development, storytelling, structure, and dialogue. No playwriting experience required.

## PLAYWRITING II

**April 20, 10-11:30 AM**

This is an advanced playwriting class for anyone wanting to gain playwriting experience. Topics include: genres, plots and storylines, character development, and act and scene breakdowns.

## 10-MINUTE PLAYWRITING

**April 27, 10-11:30 AM**

In this class students will explore the art and craft of writing ten-minute plays, including finding the right story, developing characters in essential strokes, condensing plot and action, and landing a "moment."

**Tuition: \$25 per class. Taking any of the classes allows you free entry into Spotlight Youth Theatre's 2024-2025 Playfest student playwriting contest.**

**Space is limited. Visit [sytaaz.org](http://sytaaz.org) to register today!**



SYT's "Spotlight On Playwriting" workshops are made possible through partial funding by the City of Phoenix Flash Grants Program.

**SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE**

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SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE PROUDLY PRESENTS

# BEETLEJUICE

The Musical. The Musical. The Musical.

## DANCE MASTERCLASS

WITH CARLY GROSSMAN



Join Spotlight Alum and New York based actress Carly Grossman for a two-hour dance masterclass with the original Broadway choreography from *Beetlejuice the Musical*.

Carly is currently getting ready to join the cast of *Beetlejuice the Musical* on Norwegian Cruise Lines.

Don't miss this chance to work, learn, and have a blast!

AGES: 12 & up  
adults welcome!

ADMISSION: \$25

SPOTLIGHT  
YOUTH  
THEATRE  
ARIZONA

Sunday,  
April 21, 2024  
4:30-6:30 PM

For more information, please call the SYT Box Office or visit our website.  
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# Thank You

*to Spotlight's Generous and Dedicated Donors!*

Ticket sales and production fees cover only a fraction of Spotlight Youth Theatre's overall operating costs. The Board of Directors of Spotlight Youth Theatre is grateful for the generosity of our dedicated donors, whose support ensures our ongoing ability to provide youth and their families a safe, welcoming environment where the individual is supported, teamwork is embraced, and creativity is encouraged through high quality performing arts and educational programs that enrich and strengthen our community.

## **Diamond-Level Support (\$1000 or more)**

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For information on how you can contribute to the ongoing success of Spotlight Youth Theatre, please contact  
Deb Czajkowski, SYT Managing Director,  
at [deb@sytaz.org](mailto:deb@sytaz.org) or (602) 843-8318

# Spotlight Youth Theatre's Board of Directors

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**Amanda Newton**—Member  
**Heather Walker**—Member  
**Steve Zell**—Member

Spotlight Youth Theatre's mission is to provide youth and their families a safe, welcoming environment where the individual is supported, teamwork is embraced, and creativity is encouraged through high quality performing arts and educational programs that enrich and strengthen our community.

Spotlight Youth Theatre's vision:

1. A program grounded in the belief that every child deserves a chance to shine, a place that is safe and free from negativity, and an environment where fun and hard work combine into amazing experiences, both on and off stage.
2. A theater program that is as diverse as the community we serve and where all members of the family can join in the endeavor to produce high quality theater productions that amaze and entertain.
3. A place where a child can be their authentic self, exploring the creative arts without fear, and be embraced and encouraged to grow and flourish.



Spotlight Youth Theatre's 2023–2024 season is supported in part by the Arizona Commission on the Arts, which receives support from the State of Arizona and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Partial funding for Spotlight Youth Theatre's 2023–2024 season provided by the Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture through appropriations from the Phoenix City Council.



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Partial funding provided by The Kellenberger + Tollefson Foundation for LGBTQ Philanthropy at the Arizona Community Foundation.

Partial funding for Spotlight Youth Theatre's 2023–2024 season provided by the City of Phoenix Flash Grants Program.



**City of Phoenix**

**Spotlight Youth Theatre is a 501(c)(3) non-profit Community Youth Theatre**

Spotlight Youth Theatre would very much like to thank our community partners and benefactors. Please support the kind and generous people who support SYT by patronizing our sponsors. To learn more about sponsoring or donating to Spotlight Youth Theatre and making a difference in the lives of today's youth, please call (602) 843–8318.



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EAT, SLEEP, THEATRE CAMP, REPEAT!

# SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE • 2024 SUMMER THEATRE CAMP

**JUNE 3–14**



The past is not what it seems...Or is it? Conjure up freezing snow and ice as well as beautiful songs and dancing in an enchanted land and help restore the peace.

**JUNE 17–28**



In this live action Barbie musical, stereotypical Barbie and Ken must travel from their matriarchal theatre society in the East Valley to perform at a Youth Theatre in the West Valley. Along the way they learn fantastic musical numbers and make new friends.

**JULY 8–19**



Is she at the game? Is she at the show? When an "Anti Hero" threatens to take over this camp we might be in for a "cruel summer". T-Swizzle knows that "bad blood" on a youth theatre stage causes a "blank space". But Tay decides to "shake it off" and with the help of the Swifties, sings and dances and challenges the "Anti Hero" and saves the day in "style".

**JULY 22–AUGUST 2**



Nowhere Youth Theatre and their beloved band of misfit actors are back after the pandemic and are on a mission to help protect the theatre galaxy. Join us on this musical comedy adventure and help celebrate youth theatre as we know it.

**During each session of Spotlight Youth Theatre's 2024 Summer Theatre Camp, actors will learn the shows and then perform for families and friends!**



**Tuition is \$500 per two-week session; \$450 if registered on or before April 30, 2024.**

**M–F 9AM–3PM • Ages 8–18 • Sibling and multiple-session discount available**

**Registration fee includes a camp t-shirt • Before-and-after care available**

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