



**ACT!**

**DANCE!**

**SING!**

**2022/23**

The Studio @ Mainstage Center for the Arts  
27 S. Black Horse Pk.

Blackwood, NJ

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[www.mainstage.org](http://www.mainstage.org)

# WHY MAINSTAGE CENTER FOR THE ARTS?

## REASONS TO TAKE CLASSES AT MAINSTAGE

### AFFORDABLE

- 45 - 60 minute classes - \$66. Monthly installments
- 90 minute classes - \$96. Monthly installments

*Slight discounts for multiple classes*

### SAFE

Your child's safety will always come first.

- Background checks are done on all teachers.
- CDC guidelines are implemented
- Hybrid Class Options are available - just let us know

### ENGAGING

Teachers are all experienced in building performance skills in a fun and engaging way.

### GOOD COMMUNICATION

- Enjoy Monthly newsletters
- Follow Our Facebook Page
- Join our "Remind" network

WE OFFER AFFORDABLE PRIVATE LESSONS IN

VOICE



GUITAR



# THE STUDIO AT MAINSTAGE CLASS SCHEDULE

*Schedule is subject to change through October based on enrollment.*

## AGES 3-4

### THURSDAY

Grown up & Me Theatre Littles 5:30-6:15 PM

## AGES 4-5

### THURSDAY

Theatre Tots 5:30-6:15 PM

## AGES 9-12

### MONDAYS

Broadway Apprentice • 5:45 - 6:45 PM (ages 9 - 11)

### TUESDAYS

Improvisation 6:15 - 7:15 PM

### WEDNESDAYS

Showstopper Acting 5:30 - 6:30 PM

Broadway Apprentice 6:30 - 7:30 PM (ages 9 - 11)

### THURSDAYS

Improvisation 6:00 - 7:00 PM

## AGES 6-8

### MONDAYS

Stage Kidz Acting 6:00-6:45 PM

### TUESDAYS

Stage Kidz Acting 5:30 - 6:15 PM

Musical Theatre Kidz 6:15 - 7:00 PM

### WEDNESDAYS

Musical Theatre Kidz 5:45 - 6:30 PM

## AGES 12+

### MONDAYS

Broadway Pros • 5:45 - 6:45 PM (ages 12 - 15)

Musical Theatre Company\* • 7:00 - 8:30 PM  
(ages 12 and up)

### THURSDAYS

Ace Your Audition 6:15 - 7:15 PM

Acting Company 7:15 - 8:45 PM

*\*Prerequisites required. Please see class description for prerequisite information.*

# Performing Arts Academy Class Descriptions

## **ACE YOUR AUDITION (Ages 13 and up)**

This class is designed for those young performers who want to learn how to command a room and catch a director's eye. Skills will include how to select, prepare and present the best audition material. Students will be encouraged to bring in the audition materials they need to prepare for school performances, or college and community theater auditions. Professional actors and educators will occasionally be invited in to give additional feedback. Being the best prepared at an audition is often the key to success.

## **ACTING COMPANY (Ages 13 and up)**

This is a performance and skill based class geared to those students who want to strengthen their acting skills and have the opportunity to perform in fully staged non-musical plays. Skills will include character development, improvisation, script analysis, and brave acting choices. Two plays will be produced on January 13th and June 9th.

## **BROADWAY APPRENTICE (Ages 9 & 11)**

Your young performing apprentice will explore the second level of skills needed to become a confident musical theatre performer. Skills will include but are not limited to: exploration of harmonies, solo vocal preparation, more complex dance combinations, and the introduction to a variety of dance and musical theatre styles.

## **BROADWAY PROS (Ages 12 - 15)**

The intensity of study grows as students at this level travel through the ages of Broadway Musicals learning dance combinations from different eras of musicals while also focusing on acting through song. This is great preparation for musicals at schools, community theaters and the Mainstage Center for the Arts Musical Theatre Company.

## **GROWN UP & ME THEATRE LITTLES (Ages 3 - 4)**

This is a younger version of our Theatre Tots class designed for the parents who feel more comfortable being in the class with their child. Each month there will be a new theme developed through a series of performance and craft exercises. Children and parent together will enjoy this creative and delightful experience.

## **IMPROVISATION (Ages 9 -12)**

Tons of fun is the best way to describe a class in improvisation. Young actors will be introduced to the "rules" of improvisation and sharpen their ability to think on the spot through exercises and games. While they are having a blast, they will discover new and exciting ways to tell a story, create a character and build a strong ensemble.

### **MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY (Ages 12 and up)**

This is a Musical Theatre performance based class where students will be working on a full-scale musical which will be performed at the Dennis Flyer Theatre! This year's Musical Theatre Company will perform the Broadway Musical "THIRTEEN" pending royalties and class size. (Please see prerequisite information below.)

*\* Students in the class that are not yet in high school must also be enrolled in Broadway Pros, Harmony Show Choir, Showstopper Acting or Private Voice Lessons at Mainstage Center for the Arts.*

### **MUSICAL THEATRE KIDZ (Ages 6 - 8)**

Your child will enjoy this introduction to the world of Broadway Musicals. Students will learn to sing and dance as an ensemble through a series of fun dance and music exercises.

### **SHOWSTOPPER ACTING (Ages 9 - 12)**

Understanding the importance of timing, listening and reacting, being in the moment, creating an environment, and so many other skills will be introduced as our young actors take it up a notch. These skills will be developed as students work on more complex scenes and monologues.

### **STAGE KIDZ ACTING (Ages 6-8)**

The fun never stops as our young actors stretch their imaginations while developing their acting skills through targeted and skill building theatre games. Skills will include learning stage directions, reading and memorizing shorts scenes, creating characters with the use of voice and physicality and so much more.

### **THEATRE TOTS (Ages 4-5)**

This is a unique and fun curriculum for our pre-k and kindergarten performers. This class is an introductory class where children will enjoy acting, dancing and singing through a series of theatre games, storytelling, music and movement geared to their delightful imaginations and youthful energy with a new theme each month.

# MEET THE TEACHERS!

## **COURTNEY BIRD — Ace Your Audition, Acting Company**

Courtney just graduated from University of the Arts with a BFA in Musical Theater and a minor in Songwriting. Her love for theater began to sprout when she was 5 years old, and only grew stronger when she got to high school. She is the only female in the history of Cherry Hill East High School to win the Best Actress of the Year award 2 years in a row. Courtney is certified in 3 stage combat weapons: single sword, long sword, and rapier & dagger. As well as performing in UArts Mainstage shows such as Pippin & Crimson Lit, she also has experience with Mainstage Center for the Arts, performing in The Addams Family & The Lightning Thief, and the Plays and Players Theatre when she was in Since They Left in the Philadelphia Fringe Festival. In the Fall, Courtney will be performing in the Philadelphia Premiere of a musical called “In Pieces” by Joey Contreras.

Throughout her theater years, Courtney has become confident in her ability to teach, and has taken ownership over her own creative artistry. She is so excited to be teaching Ace Your Audition & Acting Company. Acting has always been her passion and all she wants to do is share that with others, and help them be the most authentic and confident performers and storytellers they can be.

## **ASHLEY BITTERMAN — Private Guitar**

Ashley learned to play guitar when she was twelve years old. This skill became valuable to her as she played in bands, competed in songwriting competitions, and performed at local venues. Most importantly, guitar empowered her to express herself during challenging times. Guitar was a hobby, but it also gave her community, purpose, and lifelong friends. Now she is an educator and her passion is teaching others guitar! At Mainstage, she offers one on one guitar lessons, where she tailors the learning to the individual interests of her students. She also leads Guitar Club, where students are challenged with new guitar skills, while collaborating and jamming with other young musicians.”

## **CATHERINE CALZARETTO — Musical Theatre Kidz**

Catherine is a graduate of Rowan University with two Bachelor of Arts degrees. Currently she is a Social Studies and Language Arts teacher in Mount Laurel, NJ. In the past, she has directed and choreographed shows such as Bye Bye Birdie-Youth Edition, Dear Edwina, Jr., and High School Musical Jr. Catherine Calzaretto recently directed Frozen Jr. at Grand Theatre this summer. She also shined as a summer camp director and choreographer for the Future Stars summer camp in Linwood, NJ. In her spare time, Catherine enjoys hiking, reading, traveling, and spending time with her 20 year old cat.

## **LINDSAY DEAL — Musical Theatre Company**

A graduate of Arcadia University, Lindsay holds her BFA in Acting. She is no stranger to Mainstage, having been a camper at Summer Stage for 6 years, and serving as a Director for Apprentice and Children’s Theatre for four years. She has been in many Mainstage productions over the years including Legally Blonde (Elle Woods), and Little Shop of Horrors (Audrey). Lindsay is a working artist in the Philadelphia area and is excited to be back at Mainstage, giving back to a place that has given so much to her.

## **AIMEE FERENZ — Broadway Pros, Musical Theatre Company**

Aimee Ferenz is an elementary music teacher at South Harrison Elementary School. There she runs the choir, band, and drama clubs. Outside of South Harrison, Aimee has music directed at a series of different theater companies including the Off Broad Street Players (James and the Giant Peach Jr, Frozen Jr, 9 to 5) the Landis Theater (American Idiot, Heathers the Musical) and at Summer Stage this past summer (Freaky Friday, Moana Jr.). Aimee also loves to perform both musical theater and operatic works throughout New Jersey and could most recently be seen playing characters named Heather in both American Idiot and Heathers the Musical. She is so incredibly excited to be teaching at Mainstage and cannot wait to work with these sensational performers!

### **TAYE HOPKINS — Improvisation**

Taye Hopkins is an up and coming actor in the South Jersey area as well as a Rowan University Theater student. Having acting credits in both community and professional theater, Taye absolutely loves to test the creativity of himself and those around him, in hopes to get the best out of everyone on and off stage. He started his love for performance early in life as a musician and slowly grew into a well rounded artist, and dreams of helping others do the same for the rest of his career.

### **HANNAH O'BRIEN – Theatre Tots, Mommy and Me Theatre Littles**

Hannah is an incoming Senior at Rowan University. She is majoring in Theatre Arts with concentrations in Music Theatre and Theatre Education. She is excited to be teaching the Theatre Tots class as she has a lot of personal experience in working with young children and has loved all of her experiences. Hannah participated in school plays and musicals throughout middle and high school. In addition, she took Early Childhood Education courses and always helped with her school's daycare program called Little Bulldogs. She is passionate about Theatre and Arts Education, especially in young students and is excited to get their creative juices flowing.

### **MEGAN RUGGLES — Broadway Apprentice**

Megan is happy to be back teaching our Mainstage students! Megan holds a Theatre Performance degree with a concentration in Music from West Chester University where she received the prestigious J.P. Adler Prize for Excellence in Theatre awarded by her professors. Since graduating, Megan has had a longstanding passion for teaching children and has loved being a part of the Mainstage family for the past three years. Previously, she worked as the music director of the Ritz Theatre's Junior Camp for 8 years as well as working for the Voorhees Theatre Company, Triple Threat Performing Arts Center and teaching private voice through Next Stage Dance & Acting Academy. In addition to teaching, Megan has been performing professionally as an actress in the tri-state area for the past 17 years. She has worked with companies such as the Walnut, 11th Hour, Media, Ritz, Broadway Theatre of Pitman, among others. Check her website for current projects and past works! [www.meganruggles.com](http://www.meganruggles.com). Megan currently resides in Washington Township with her husband and 4 children.

### **CAILYN WOLF — Private Voice**

Cailyn is thrilled to be given this opportunity to foster the young minds and artists of the future at Mainstage! Cailyn has a BA in Theatre Arts with a concentration in Musical Theatre and a minor in Dance Studies from Fairleigh Dickinson University. Some of her favorite past shows include Shrek at MPAC, Aida, Company, and Into the Woods. Her love for teaching comes from a long line of past educators who have inspired her and instilled in her a passion for theatre education. Cailyn has a long background in many styles of dance such as tap and jazz and has been professionally and classically trained in voice since she was 5 years old. She was also a member of the Harmony Show Choir with Mainstage! Cailyn is extremely excited to join the Mainstage team and to share her love for theatre and the arts!

### **ANNE MARIE WEAVER — Education Manager, Stage Kidz Acting**

Welcome to the theatre! To the stage! To the fun! Where confidence and magic grow, and laughter rings fortissimo, and classes with Anne Marie are always fun. Anne Marie, an acting teacher for 21 years with Mainstage Center for the Arts, loves sharing her passion for the stage with children of all ages. Theatre is a family tradition, from her grandparents in Vaudeville, to sharing hers, and her husband's love with their own children, now all professionals in the world of theatre. Stage presence, use of body, improvisation, creativity, good diction, character development, are just some of the many skills Miss Anne shares with students based on her education at Glassboro Stage College and her 30 plus years as drama director at Glassboro High School. Facing the world's #1 fear of standing up in front of an audience is the challenge that through theatre classes students will meet head on in a fun and engaging way. Conquering this fear will allow them to feel ready to handle auditions, class room speeches, or running for class officers. Anne Marie's favorite part of theatre education is watching students' confidence and self-esteem grow in leaps and bounds. So welcome to the theatre! Let's get started. You'll love it so!



**DO YOU NEED CHILDCARE ON SINGLE DAYS OFF?  
YOUR CHILD WILL LOVE OUR ONE DAY CAMPS**

- Martin Luther King Day
- Presidents Day
- Easter Monday

More details will be available at [www.mainstage.org](http://www.mainstage.org)

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**Email us at [thestudio@mainstage.org](mailto:thestudio@mainstage.org) if you are interested in Home School Student Daytime Classes.**