

ODYSSEY theatre

YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Our Apprentices have a chance to choose specialization area, but will participate in all the workshops in order to have a full experience of professional theatre.

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION:

During rehearsals and performances, our apprentices are mentored by theatre professionals as part of our team creating our Theatre Under the Stars productions.

- **PERFORMANCE:** Youth apprentices will be mentored in and participate in the rehearsal process and gain stage experience through scene changes and minor roles in our production.
- **PRODUCTION/TECHNICAL:** Our Technical Director and Production Assistant will mentor youth apprentices who assist with sets, costumes, lighting and sound, care for masks, props, and wardrobe, assist with daily set up and strike and help with quick changes during the performance period.
- **STAGE MANAGEMENT:** Our Stage Manager will mentor a youth apprentice who will assist with rehearsals, the daily set up and strike, and help with quick changes and back stage during the performance period.
- **FRONT OF HOUSE/PUBLICITY:** Our Front of House Manager will mentor youth apprentices who will participate in activities revolving around customer service and audience care. They will mentor apprentices who will assist with publicity, event management, and arts administration.

WORKSHOPS:

All apprentices participate in formal training through intensive workshops.

- **ORIENTATION:** An introduction to the company, programs, mandate and staff, and more broadly, to the ways that many theatres are organized and developed. This will also include a safety briefing to working on the park and our policies on health, safety, and harassment.
- **ACTING WORKSHOPS:** In August, all of our apprentices learn improvisation, physical theatre games, mask performance, and Commedia techniques. They will use Odyssey's signature masks to collaboratively create contemporary scenes on a theme of their choosing. They will then put on a short performance for family, friends and invited members of Odyssey's company.

- **PRODUCTION WORKSHOPS:** An introduction to the areas of production and stage management. Students learn skills in lighting and sound, stage management, costume and prop building and maintenance, scenic painting, and onsite safety. They also learn to make a prompt book, take production notes, organize a backstage area, do quick costume changes and use basic tools.
- **PUBLICITY & FRONT OF HOUSE:** Apprentices are introduced to marketing, social media, and front of house responsibilities required in managing a theatre company and keeping it thriving.
- **CAREER SEMINAR:** This session gives students an opportunity to ask theatre professionals questions about their education, career paths and work within and beyond Odyssey. The director, artistic director, stage manager, production manager, general manager, actors and designers facilitate the seminar. This workshop helps apprentices understand the challenges and possibilities of a career in theatre and offers the beginning of a network of contacts they can approach for advice in the future.

Feedback from Past Apprentices

"Odyssey was an experience that I will keep with me for my entire life. It is an amazing opportunity for young people to interact, get to know the world of Commedia dell'Arte a bit better and be part of a big play. The program offered not only acting advice, but also an opportunity to create something from scratch, and make friends in the process."

"The acting workshop was a big highlight. We had so much fun together. Learning mask work, Commedia characters, stage combat and clown really boost our confidence. Performing in front of the company at the end of the workshop was a great experience."

"This workshop opened my eyes to what stage management really is and how hard the profession is, yet how exciting and fun it can be at the same time. The workshop was informative, exciting and fun, with tons of advice, hands on activities and chances to ask questions."

"This experience has shown me an insider's look at an actor's life, a stage manager's life, and a theatre technician's life, all of which I have gained skills that will help me pursue a career in acting."

"My favourite part of the apprenticeship has been the connection I have made and I love coming here everyday."

"Everyone at Odyssey treated the apprentices with such respect and gratitude. I always knew I was welcome and I never felt as if my work was underappreciated."

"I love how we got to try different roles, like acting or working behind the scenes. This hands-on experience makes everyone more confident and teaches us how to work together. We not only learn about theater but also about problem-solving and communication."