

TARRAGON THEATRE

OutReach programs for youth – Outlines 2007

Attention Drama/English Teachers:

What follows is an outline for three of Tarragon Theatre's free OutReach programs for youth. Please help us find the best candidates by bringing this information to the attention of any students who are interested in a serious commitment, a creative challenge, and working with theatre artists in a professional environment. Students can also access the information and application forms on our website at www.tarragontheatre.com

Young Playwrights Unit

The Tarragon Young Playwrights Unit is a FREE program designed for young writers aged 16-19. The program strongly reflects Tarragon's mandate of developing new and exciting Canadian work and will enable participants to share their own stories and experiences in an innovative and creative manner.

Each member of the group will take on the stimulating process of creating a play. Students will also have workshops in design, directing, and improvisation in order to gain a perspective about a play's development in the theatre. It is not necessary to have previous theatre training or experience, only a strong interest in writing. It is also important that students make a full commitment to the program and be able to attend every session. We will be selecting a maximum of eight writers.

The program will begin on the week of the March break, each midday from 12pm – 3pm. Each session will begin with a workshop on an aspect of theatre i.e. improv, design, or directing, led by professionals in the field. These will be followed by intensive sessions with the instructor. Through discussion, creative exercises, brainstorming and text study, participants will begin to develop a script.

After March break the unit will meet on Saturdays 12pm – 3pm until June 2.

During these sessions each student will get at least two individual tutorials.

We encourage all interested writers to apply for this motivating program. Participants will meet young writers from Toronto and beyond while learning a great deal, and having lots of fun.

Under 20 for Under 20's playwriting contest

Tarragon Theatre is holding its 9th annual playwriting competition for young people. In March 2007 we will be choosing the best new play UNDER 20 minutes in length written by a writer who is UNDER 20 years of age. The first prize is \$250, plus a workshopped reading of the winning script by professional actors in the Tarragon Spring Arts Fair, May 26 & 27, 2007. Qualifying scripts will be judged via blind readings (the readers will not know who wrote each script until after their selections have been made).

Qualification

Ontario resident writers who are under 20 years of age on January 29, 2007 are free to submit one play.

Criteria

Each writer can submit only one play; only plays that have not had a professional production will qualify. Plays submitted last year will not be considered.

A qualifying play must be no longer than 20 minutes (approximately 12 pages).

There should be no more than four actors required to perform the qualifying play.

Submission

One copy of the script, on single-sided 8.5"x11" paper and typed or word-process printed (using a laser jet or a bubble jet printer, not dot-matrix). No faxes or e-mails can be accepted.

Name, age, phone number, address, as well as school name and number.

Proof of age.

Deadline

Scripts must be post-marked or hand-delivered no later than January 29, 2007.

Notification

Scripts will not be returned but Tarragon will notify all participants by mail about the result of the contest by April 2, 2007.

Send scripts c/o: Under 20 for Under 20's playwriting contest, Tarragon Theatre

Spring Training Program

Tarragon's youth theatre program serves the needs of serious young students of theatre, 16-19 years of age, with some background in the performing arts. We actively encourage everyone to apply. It is not a requisite that you have experience or training but it is important that you are prepared to make a full commitment to the entire program.

The various instructors for the program all work professionally in the theatre and they bring a range of different philosophies to the program. These varied perspectives make for a challenging program of study; students in previous years have particularly liked this diversity.

The focus of the classes will be text work. The process begins with basic skills classes - clown, voice, movement, acting technique and improvisation. Two thirds of the program consists of these classes. The last third will be rehearsals for an ensemble piece built around scenes and monologues from written dramatic material. The class will perform this piece several times at the annual Tarragon Spring Arts Fair, May 26 & 27, 2007. The course will be held every weekday during March Break and there after will meet every Saturday until early June. In the two weeks, daily sessions will be held, after school, in preparation for the weekend performances in the Spring Arts Fair.

This is an excellent course of study for anyone with a strong interest in acting. Students learn a great deal while also having a good time.