



FOREFRONT ARTS

Spring 2020

JR ENSEMBLE

Young Performers Troupe

FAMILY INFO PACKET

~ perform in Frozen Jr with us this spring! ~

The Forefront Arts Jr Ensemble is open to any K-3rd grader enrolled Forefront Arts student! This new performance troupe is designed to be a wonderful introduction to theatre performance for students ages 5-8! Students will experience the theatre rehearsal process, geared to their age and level of experience. They'll work with an encouraging, upbeat professional children's theatre director to skill-build their acting, singing, dancing, and performance skills, while also working as an ensemble on teamwork, collaboration, and working towards a common goal. Each semester they'll experience an audition process to determine specific roles for each student in the troupe.

Spring Time Commitment for Jr Ensemble members:

- January 2020 - May 2020
- A minimum of 1 weekly technique class (45 minutes - 1 hr/week) -- at any Forefront Arts location
- Weekly Jr Ensemble rehearsal (1 hr/week)
- If cast as Young Anna or Young Elsa, also attend Young Actor Ensemble rehearsals from time-to-time.
- "Frozen Jr" Tech Week in Spring (this is the week leading up to the show, combining with the full "Frozen Jr" cast. Plan on 3-4 nightly rehearsals, app 5-8 pm, and 2-3 weekend performances)
- Following the "Frozen Jr" performance, they will continue to meet weekly to work on Spring Showcase performance numbers.

Technique Class Requirement

- In order to join one of our performance troupes students must be enrolled in a minimum

of 1 weekly technique class (class offerings for this age group include Songs & Scenes, Elementary Theatre Skills, Jr Show Choir, and Elementary Dance Technique for Musical Theatre). Classes allow students to engage in warmups, drama games, technique training, learn theatre history, participate in group exercises, and learn performance pieces from a variety of plays & musicals etc as they broaden their understanding & abilities in the Theatre art form.

- The weekly technique class can be scheduled on the same day as Jr Ensemble rehearsal, or at another day or location.
- Tuition for the weekly technique class is a separate charge from the Jr Ensemble troupe tuition, depending on the class selected and location (see website for schedule & tuition).

Spring 2020 Jr Ensemble Performance Schedule

- Johns Creek cast -- *Frozen Jr* -- March 27-28
- Buckhead cast -- *Frozen Jr* -- April 17-18
- Decatur cast -- *Frozen Jr* -- April 24-25
- May 9 -- Spring Showcase recital for all students

Rehearsal Conflicts & Time Commitment for Jr Ensemble Spring 2020

- Participation in JR Ensemble is for the full spring semester season, January - May, and early withdrawal or cancellation is not an option.
- All conflicts must be turned in, in writing, at the start of each semester. The rehearsal schedule and casting will be based on those conflicts!
- Jr Ensemble Cast members may miss a total of 3 rehearsals per semester, submitted at auditions. Rehearsal conflicts will play a role in determining specific parts for each child.
- One additional conflict, per semester, may be submitted in writing *as a request* for director approval or denial in advance of making other plans. The director has the right to say no, depending on the schedule, your child's role, and if your child is up-to-date with offbook deadlines. We expect cast members and parents to respect the director's decision.
- The final 3 weeks of rehearsal before each show are MANDATORY for all cast. No exceptions will be made, barring a family emergency.
- Tech Week for Spring Musical including all called rehearsals, performances, and strike are MANDATORY for all cast. No exceptions will be made, barring a family emergency.
- Cast may not miss 2 rehearsals in a row, except for extreme circumstances with director approval given in advance.
- The only rehearsals you are absolutely assured you can miss are the 3 conflicts you list on your conflict sheet at the start of each semester. Be sure to include any school breaks on your conflict sheet.
- Regular technique class attendance is required for all Jr Ensemble members.
- Skipping a Jr Ensemble rehearsal without previous approval (considered an unexcused absence) may lead to having lines or roles re-assigned to other students or removal from JR Ensemble.

- Repeated tardiness (arriving late for rehearsal) may lead to having lines or roles re-assigned to other students or removal from Jr Ensemble.

Jr Ensemble Parent/Family Commitment

- Family support of the student and the rehearsal process is integral to an awesome theatre experience for your child!
- Family involvement is a big part of our Productions Troupes program and helps create a spirit of fun and camaraderie! Family involvement builds our awesome community of show families, supports all of the students, and ultimately creates open communication and a welcoming atmosphere between our staff, students, and parents.
- Submit all known conflicts at the start of each semester so we can make the rehearsal schedule
- You may contact the Forefront Arts office with up to 1 additional conflict request per semester, in advance.
- Notify the director of late arrival for any rehearsals, in advance. (texting with your ETA is best)
- Bring your child *on time* to all called rehearsals and performances.
- Assist with Strike after each show.
- Each Jr Ensemble family will volunteer app. 10 hours per show by serving on various Parent Committees (Costumes, Set & Scenic, Props Construction, Marketing & Ticket Sales, Sponsorships, etc.), or they can select the buy-out option.
- Each Jr Ensemble cast family will attend periodic parent meetings for updates on parent committees and show needs.
- Each Jr Ensemble cast family will volunteer during 1 “Frozen Jr” tech week rehearsal or 1 performance -- helping with concession table, ticket table, ushering, costume changes/supervision backstage, etc.
- Each Jr Ensemble cast family will attend Strike at the end of the show to help pack up the sets, costumes, and props, and reset the space (1 parent must attend entire Strike period until dismissed by the Forefront Arts staff)
- Each Jr Ensemble cast family will provide base costume and dance shoes for cast member for each show.
- Each Jr Ensemble cast family will regularly check emails for communication regarding rehearsal schedule, show needs, etc.
- Jr Ensemble parents must communicate with director in advance for any late arrivals for rehearsals. (texting your director your ETA is best!)
- Jr Ensemble cast parents may not bring alcohol or any illegal substances into rehearsal or performance premises at any time.
- Personal pets are not allowed in rehearsal or performance venues.
- Forefront Arts operates closed rehearsals which means that only cast and staff members or designated volunteers serving a specific purpose are allowed in classrooms and rehearsal spaces -- for the safety of the students.

JR Ensemble Cast Member Responsibilities

- Be on time for all rehearsals, in proper clothing, ready to have fun, learn, and work hard!
- Bring your script, water bottle, pencil, and correct shoes to all rehearsals.
- Maintain a positive attitude and show respect to the director and castmates at all times.
- Do your best to be focused during rehearsal and not distracting your castmates.
- Practice your lines, songs, and dances at home throughout the week. (A script, music and choreography videos will be supplied to help you practice at home!)
- Meet the memorization deadlines (“off-book deadlines”) as assigned by the director. (Memorization deadlines will be announced in advance and spread out over the course of each semester)
- If you miss an off-book deadline parents will be notified and the cast member is expected to be caught up with lines by the next rehearsal. If the lines are still not learned by the following week’s rehearsals, they may be reassigned to another cast member. Repeated failure to learn lines may result in reassigning your role or dismissal from the troupe if you’re not ready for this commitment.

Investment for Jr Ensemble Spring 2020

Enrollment is for the full spring semester, January - May, and withdrawal or cancellation is not an option.

- \$250 tuition or \$65/month January - May (5 equal payments)
- weekly 1 hr rehearsals for app. 15 weeks
- App. 16 hours of staff instruction & supervision during “Frozen Jr” tech week
- 2-3 Performances of “Frozen Jr” in the spring
- Performance in Spring Showcase in May 2020
- \$100 Production supply fee due app. 30 days before each show, which includes:
 - 2 comp general tickets to the show (additional tickets \$12-\$15 for spring musical)
 - cast keepsake tshirt & script
 - cast keepsake gift
 - costume pieces
 - set & scenic elements
 - props
 - rehearsal & performance venue rental
 - licensing and royalties
- There are no required minimum ticket sales for the cast.
- Production Supply Fees can also be paid for by collecting Group Ticket Sales, Cast Sponsorships and Shout-Outs in the program.
- For families who are unable to volunteer 10 hours on a Parent Committee, a buy-out option is available for a \$150 donation. The buy-out option provides for a Forefront Arts staff member, or another cast family, to cover your volunteer contribution for you.