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2009–10 Production Schedule

(Please Note: Schedules are subject to change when necessary. Additional special rehearsals will also be added and announced. The most current production information can be found at:

Rehearsal calendar:

http://www.google.com/calendar/hosted/ysp.org/embed?src=ysp.org_1imuc0f9214j1sksi3gg8jktgg%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/Chicago

Performance calendar:

http://www.google.com/calendar/hosted/ysp.org/embed?src=ysp.org_trdndkgn4uhid13qdvaqiq2ehk%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/Chicago

Focused Workshop calendar:

http://www.google.com/calendar/hosted/ysp.org/embed?src=ysp.org_19t140b0qtlrqas2otnkmhc9d0%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/Chicago

Julius Caesar, Sept 13–Dec 13

- Introduction, Sept 12, 1–4pm & Parents' Meeting 1–2pm; Readings, Sept 13 11–4pm
- Regular rehearsals Sat 1–4 pm and Sun 11–4 pm, Sept 19–Nov 15, AND Sun 11–4 pm, Nov 29; Optional Tuesdays, 5–7 pm, Sept 29–Dec 1
- Dress Rehearsals Nov 20–24, exact schedule tba
- Performs December 3–6 , 10–12, 6pm & December 13 1pm, exact schedule tba
- Intern Director, Rebecca Young, keahirada@yahoo.com
- Apprentice Directors, Anna Farkas, riverwolf@charter.net and Robert Walter, mr_complainy@yahoo.com
- Parent Coordinator, Caryl Farkas, emrafarkas@charter.net

Idle Conversation, from *In Good King Charles's Golden Days*, Oct 14–Jan 31

- Introduction Oct 14, 5–8 pm (No Parents' Meeting)
- Regular rehearsals Wed 5–8 pm and Sun 9–noon Oct 21–Jan 13
- No rehearsals Nov 25, Dec 20, 23, 27 & 30
- Dress rehearsals Jan 15–17 & 20–21, exact schedule tba
- Performs January 22–24 & 29–31, exact schedule tba
- Apprentice Directors: tba
- Parent Coordinator: tba

Charles Dickens Dramatic Reading Society, *Tale of Two Cities*, Oct 24–Feb 20

- Introduction, Saturday, 10/24, 4–6pm

- Regular rehearsals, Tuesdays, 6–8pm, and Saturdays 4–6pm 10/27–2/2
- No rehearsals 12/21–1/1
- Dress Rehearsals February 5 & 6
- Performs February 12–13 & 19–20
- Apprentice Director, Izzy Livorni, izzymarial@yahoo.com

Winter Project, *The Music Cure* and *Augustus Does His Bit*, Dec 12–March 21

- Introduction, Dec 12, 1–4pm (No Parents' Meeting)
- Jan 2–Mar 1: Rehearsals Saturdays, 1–4pm, and Sundays, 1–4pm, and optional Tuesdays, 5–7pm, Jan 5–Mar 2
- No Rehearsal: Jan 31
- Dress Rehearsals March 4–7, exact schedule tba
- Performs March 11–14 and 18–21, exact schedule tba
- Apprentice Directors, tba
- Parent Coordinator: tba

***Othello*, Daytime home school production, Jan 11–May 2**

- Introduction, January 11, 9am–Noon; Readings, January 13, 9am–about Noon & Parents' Meeting Jan 13, 9–10:30am
- Regular rehearsals, Jan 18–April 14, MWF, 9am–Noon
- No rehearsals January 15, March 29, 31 & April 2
- Dress Rehearsals April 15, 16, 19, 20 & 21 8am–about 5pm, exact schedule tba
- Performs April 21–25, 28–30, & May 1 6pm, and May 2 at 1pm, exact schedule tba
- Director, tba
- Parent Coordinator, tba

Shaw's *Don Juan in Hell* and *Overruled*, March 17–June 27

- Introduction, March 17, 5–8 pm (No Parents' Meeting)
- Regular rehearsals, March 27–June 13, Sat 1–4pm and Sun 9–noon, Optional Wednesdays, 5–7 pm, April 7–June 9
- No rehearsals April 3–4, April 18, or May 29–30
- Dress Rehearsals June 14–17 & 19–20, exact schedule tba
- Performs June 18–27, exact schedule tba
- Apprentice Directors, tba
- Parent Coordinator, tba

Spring Workshop, Mar 10–May 23

- Introduction, March 10, 5–8 pm (No Parents' Meeting)
- Regular rehearsals, March 13–May 16, Sat 9–Noon and Sun 1–4 pm, Optional Tuesdays, 5–7 pm, March 16–May 18
- Special rehearsal time, March 21 9–NOON

- **No rehearsals April 3–4, or April 18**
- **Dress Rehearsal May 21**
- **Performs May 22–23**
- Intern Director, tba
- Parent Coordinator, tba

Adult Shakespeare Circle, program tba, April 26–Oct 17

- **Introduction, April 26, 7–10pm**
- **Regular rehearsals, May 3–Oct 4, Mondays 7–10pm (except when Focused Workshops perform, 8–10pm)**
- **No rehearsals June 14, June 21, July 26, Aug 16, if performance conflicts with summer programs (tba)**
- **Dress Rehearsals Oct 8–10**
- **Performs Oct 16–17**

***Macbeth*, May 25–Aug 1**

- **Introduction, May 25 5–8pm, Parents' Meeting May 25 5–6:30 pm, & Readings May 27 4–about 8pm**
- **Blocking rehearsals June 5 & 12, 9–Noon, and June 13, 11–4 pm**
- **Regular rehearsals, Mon–Fri, 9am–Noon or 1–4 pm, June 14–July 16**
- **Extra rehearsal July 17, 11–4pm**
- **Dress Rehearsals, July 18–July 22, 8am–about 5pm, exact schedule tba**
- **Performs July 23–Aug 1, exact schedule tba**
- Intern Directors, tba
- Parent Coordinator, tba

***A Midsummer Night's Dream*, June 29–Aug 22**

- **Introduction, June 29, 5–8 pm, Parents' Meeting June 29, 5–6:30 pm, & Readings July 1, 4– about 8pm**
- **Regular rehearsals, Mon–Fri, 9–Noon or 1–4 pm, July 5–Aug 6**
- **Special rehearsal times July 19–22, 5–8pm (replaces daytime rehearsals) & Saturday, Aug 7, 9–4 pm**
- **Dress Rehearsals Aug 9–Aug 13, 8am–about 5pm, exact schedule tba**
- **Performs Aug 13–Aug 22, exact schedule tba**
- Intern Directors, tba
- Parent Coordinator, tba

2009–10 Focused Workshop Schedule

(All meetings 5–8pm, except performance days, which meet at 4pm, break for dinner, and perform 7–8pm, unless otherwise noted.)

- September 28, Oct 1, 5, 8 & 12 (performance): WHEN WE TALK OF HORSES:** Understanding, Seeing, and Conveying Shakespeare's Imagery
- November 2, 5, 9, 12, & 16 (performance): FAIN WOULD I DWELL ON FORM:** The Architecture of Shakespeare's Writing, Part 1
- December—special one week workshop!—28, 29, 30 & 31, 1–4pm, & Jan 2 4–8pm, with performance at 7pm: FAIN WOULD I DWELL ON FORM:** The Architecture of Shakespeare's Writing, Part 2 (no prerequisites)
- January 11, 14, 18, 21, & 25 (performance): THE WORD AGAINST THE WORD:** Understanding and Using Antithetical Figures in Shakespeare
- February 8, 11, 15, 18 & 22 (performance): HA! HA! KEEP TIME!** Understanding Rhythm And Stress In Shakespeare's Verse
- March 8, 11, 15, 18, & 22 (performance): THE CAVE WHERE ECHO LIES:** Understanding and Using Shakespeare's Figures of Repetition
- April 5, 8, 12, 15, & 19 (performance): O, IT CAME O'ER MY EAR:** Shakespeare's use of Sound
- August—special daytime workshop—16, 17, 18, 19 (10am–1pm) & 24 (4–8pm, performance at 7): HA! HA! KEEP TIME!** Understanding Rhythm And Stress In Shakespeare's Verse

The following focused workshops will not be held until 2010–11:

THAT WOULD BE SCANN'D:

An Advanced Workshop on Rhythm, Stress, and Scansion in Shakespeare (**prerequisite: Ha! Ha! Keep Time!**)

GUARDS & GARDENERS, ATTENDANTS & APOTHECARIES: Acting Shakespeare's Small Characters

About YSP

Founded by Richard DiPrima in 1980, The Young Shakespeare Players in its early years produced a single, annual backyard summer production involving about 20 actors. Since then the program has grown into a year-round company with its own building and about than 300 annual registrants, aged 7-18, who perform full-length versions of works by Shakespeare and G.B. Shaw. A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, YSP currently produces four full-length Shakespeare plays per year; two-three Shaw plays; one-two workshops with complete scenes from Shakespeare's plays; one workshop or play for adults; and six brief, text-based workshops focused on specific issues key to understanding and performing Shakespeare's work. The "Charles Dickens' Dramatic Reading Society" is YSP's newest program.

Fourteen of Shakespeare's thirty-seven plays appear in the theater's regular repertoire (a fifteenth will be added in 2010); another fourteen are represented in part in the workshops. In addition, the organization staged the Royal Shakespeare Company's ambitious 10-hour adaptation of Charles Dickens' *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby* in 2007.

YSP seeks to engage and to challenge the young people who participate. Plays are performed full-length. No auditions occur, and no one is rejected. YSP fully incorporates each participant in every phase of production: rehearsing, directing, memorizing, providing technical support like make-up and stage management, performing, and cleaning.

YSP challenges the minds of young people and their families, offers an affordable cultural and creative experience to participants and audience members, furthers the emotional development of young people, and provides them a community in which service and volunteerism is essential to the organization's viability.

The program is designed to show its young participants (and their families and the community) that the plays of William Shakespeare are not "dull" or "above" them, but delightful, accessible, and fun. The actors perform in Shakespeare's words and quickly learn to appreciate the poetic beauty, as well as the drama, of what Shakespeare wrote. It is the only program of its kind in which youngsters regularly master and perform the works of Shakespeare (and Shaw) in their original, uncut form.

YSP is a non-profit, community-supported organization. The actors' tuitions cover only a portion of the costs of the program. Tax-exempt contributions are sincerely appreciated.

The Young Shakespeare Players also supports The Shakespeare Circle, a group of Madison adults dedicated to studying and performing full-length scenes and complete plays of Shakespeare in an informal atmosphere. Membership is open to all.

Contacting YSP

Email: For **General Program Info & Registration**, contact ysp@ysp.org.

Providing YSP with your family's current email address(es) is vital! Those who join YSP's mailing list receive regular information via email about upcoming performances and productions. Current families receive notices via email about volunteer opportunities at the theater. Parent Coordinators keep in regular email communication with all members of a production. If your email address changes, please let us know!!

You can mail payments & registrations to us (or leave these in the mailbox on the office door).

Mailing address:

Young Shakespeare Players
2701 University Avenue, PMB #461
Madison, WI 53705-3700

(Note: this address is our MAILING address only--performances and rehearsals take place at the YSP Playhouse, located at 1806 West Lawn Ave. in Madison, near Monroe and Spooner Streets.)

Phone: There's a phone to make out-going calls only at the theater, and there's a **message line**, 258-0015. Messages are collected every few days; if you need instant information, or you have an emergency illness to report, please call your production's intern. Email will also produce speedier results!

Web: Our website is located at www.ysp.org. We are planning to update the site in the near future and hope to have most of this information available there. Emails can be sent to ysp@ysp.org.

Rehearsal & Scheduling Info: YSP maintains a calendar page with rehearsal and performance information:

through Oct 1: <http://calendar.yahoo.com/yspcal>

after Oct 1: <http://www.google.com/calendar/hosted/ysp.org/>

Check our **Family Info Board** in the ramp area (near the elevator) of the playhouse for up-to-date schedules, announcements, and volunteer opportunities.

Other Contacts:

Program Information, Scheduling, Volunteers ysp@ysp.org or wendy@ysp.org

Supplies & Vacuum Repairs, Carol Magoon, 833-5112

Data Base Updates, Melissa Allen melissalallen@yahoo.com

Building Maintenance, David Simmons, david.simmons@fammed.wisc.edu
Absences, production intern or apprentices. Each production has specific contact info that you will receive during the Introduction.

Registration, Fees, Payments & Refunds

Tuition Fees:

Full-length productions--\$635
Special short Shaw plays--\$535
Full workshops--\$535
Focused brief workshops--\$275
Shakespeare Circle (Adults) Workshop--\$325
Shakespeare Circle (Adults)--\$495

Registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. We encourage you to register as early as possible. If space is available, YSP generally allows actors to register through the Introduction to a play; however, delaying your registration until that time or beyond creates difficulties both for the directors, who do not know how many actors to plan for in the production, and for the administrators, who must photocopy scripts and gather scheduling information from the registration forms. Late registrations result in delayed casting for all actors.

YSP is unable to give refunds on tuition payments after the Introduction. While it is fine to spread out your payments over several months, as noted in the registration information, we ask that you submit all checks with your registration, and postdate them to suit your preferences.

Audio Deposits & Returns

In addition to your tuition, we require you to write a separate \$20 check to be held by YSP until tapes & CDs are returned. You must return audio materials promptly to our library (within a week after the production ends) in order to avoid losing this \$20 Deposit; we still request late returns, however. Deposit checks are destroyed at the end of each production; we ask therefore that you **write a new check when you register for a new production. If you register for more than one program at a time, we need a deposit for each separate production.**

DVDs & Pictures

DVD and picture orders are taken at the Cast Party. Every performance is videotaped. Copies may be ordered for \$35/DVD. Individual photos of actors are \$35 for CDs, and

will be scheduled at the Cast Party and the week thereafter. Appointments last 10 minutes; actors should arrive about 20 minutes ahead of schedule in order to get into costume and makeup. Our Photo Coordinator will email you a reminder of your appointment. Please keep your appointments, arrive early, and notify Wendy, 236-4116, or wendy@yosp.org, if you have a last-minute emergency or illness that prevents you from coming; you will need to reschedule with the Photo Coordinator. It's up to you to reschedule if you are unable to make your appt. **If you pay for a picture but fail to appear or to reschedule your appointment, we will issue you a credit. Credits expire after 6 months.**

Note that YSP no longer provides prints of pictures.

Please do not feel obligated to order either pictures or DVDs. **Payment must be made in advance.**

DVDs now usually take 2-3 months to process. Our DVD backlog from 2007 will be available very soon! Photos became backlogged almost two years ago, and you will need to be patient about these, thanks! When Photos & DVDs become available, we will notify you. They are located on the bookshelf inside the upstairs' theater entrance.

Actor Tabs

Cast members are allowed to run a "tab" at Concessions during performances. If they do, we will collect from you at the cast party. It's up to you to instruct your actors on what they can spend. It's very important that these tabs be kept track of accurately, and that they be paid promptly—concessions provide the largest source of revenue for our scholarship fund. We very much appreciate you allowing your actor to eat at YSP during performances!

Scholarships & Donations

YSP is committed to the principle that no one should be excluded from participation because of the costs of tuition. Anyone who needs a reduced tuition can select any rate above one-half the basic tuition fee, and may opt to spread tuition payments over several months. The YSP budget is extremely tight. We therefore ask that each family pay as much within this range as it realistically can. And we further ask that any family able to do so add a *tax-deductible* contribution of \$50 to \$150 to its tuition payment, in order to buttress the scholarship fund.

If even one-half of the basic fee, spread over 4 monthly payments, is beyond your means, YSP will try to provide a larger scholarship or a more extended pay period, but this will depend upon the size of the scholarship fund that we accumulate.

Fundraising

Tuition does not cover all of the expenses of maintaining YSP, providing scholarships for actors, and continuing our commitment to admission-free performances. Other sources of revenue include fundraisers, in-kind donations of goods and services, individual donations, and grants from foundations. While YSP does not require families to be involved in fundraising, we ask that you participate in as much or as little as you are able, in whatever way works best for your family—donating items, volunteering your time, purchasing merchandise.

Fundraisers include:

Concessions: Concessions at performances provide the largest source of revenue for our scholarship fund, so please be generous about bringing baked goods to sell and buying food there yourself! Parents staff concessions and donate food.

On-line shopping: Start an account at ysp.maati.com where a % of your purchases (including gift cards!) at the websites of retailers like Barnes & Noble, Macy's, Orbitz, Target, Office Depot & many others will be donated to YSP at no cost to you!

Brat Fest: YSP provides volunteer crews for the Memorial Day Weekend fundraiser; we are paid an hourly amount based on how many volunteers we can provide, so the more who join in, the better!

Yard Sale: Held in September to coincide with the Monroe St. Festival. We need volunteers to staff, organize, entertain & bake, and donations of stuff you no longer need, as well as baked goods, to sell!

Celebrate Shakespeare! Open House & Silent Auction: Held in April. Donations of goods and services are welcome! We offer free advertising in our playbills to donors. This fundraiser began in 2009.

Volunteering at YSP

YSP has always depended on the generous volunteer commitment of its families—it's how we are able to produce so much amazing theater with almost no paid staff and a small budget; it's also how parents at YSP get to know each other. **All families participate in our efforts by doing a few jobs during the rehearsal and performance periods of their actor's production.**

In addition to jobs that support individual productions, YSP has many other volunteer needs, including:

- Staff & Coordinators for Fundraisers

- Annual Volunteer Positions
- Building Maintenance & Yard Work
- Office Work
- Website maintenance

Parents, Alumni, Students & Friends are all welcome! Contact Wendy Vardaman, wendy@vsp.org.

An **Annual Volunteer Survey** is conducted to ask you about your preferences—this information helps us to plan, and we really appreciate your participation in the survey.

Actors can also volunteer! National Honor Society membership requires 60 community service hours by Fall semester, Junior year. Other schools and organizations, as well as college and scholarship applications often have service requirements which YSP as a non-profit organization can help you fulfill. Actors can volunteer for:

- fundraisers like Brat Fest & the Yard Sale
- yard work and snow removal
- office work
- digitizing
- locating dvd clips for our web site
- special cleaning & maintenance projects
- production-based jobs, like cleaning & concessions' sales

Parent Meetings

YSP depends on parent involvement, both in understanding what the program asks of the actors and in volunteering for jobs that are essential to running the program. There will be one parent meeting for the full-length Shakespeare productions—an orientation meeting, to be held during the Introduction for actors. At these meetings parents go over the details of the program, schedule, and rehearsal structure, sign up for production-based jobs, and ask questions.

Parent Involvement: Be flexible. Check your email daily, especially during the dress rehearsal/performance period, and respond if necessary to messages. Help actors attend rehearsals regularly. Support actors' memorizing by running lines, or by arranging for kids to run lines together. Sign up for a few jobs during the rehearsal and the performance period. Help publicize the show and recruit audience members. Come to multiple performances, if possible. Come to the Cast Party at the end of the production to celebrate!

Job Descriptions: Production Volunteer Duties

Rehearsal Period

- **Lunch Parent:** Stays over lunch hour to have an adult presence in building. Close supervision not required.
- **Last Parent:** Stays in building until last actor has been picked up. Should not have to stay more than 15-20 minutes after rehearsal. Please do not leave actors in building alone. Turn off lights, except for downstairs hallway & front porch. **Check that the 2 back doors are closed and locked.**
- **Cleaning Supervisor:** Comes to supervise weekly cast clean-up of building. Amount of supervision is discretionary: some parents like to “check-off” jobs as actors complete; others do not. Actors should have signed up for a job during rehearsal if it is their cast’s turn. Cleaning should take about 30 minutes. Cleaning supplies and vacuum cleaners located in closet off Women’s Bathroom. Trash bags located in downstairs closet across from washer/dryer. Cleaning sign up should be hanging on bulletin board.

Dress Rehearsal Period

- **Gofer:** Someone with a car to do errands, e.g., get hair ties or makeup, if necessary. Mostly reads/works or watches rehearsal. Do small clean-up jobs, like taking out trash, or assemble programs, if available. Gofers may be on call with a cell phone number rather than present at rehearsal.
- **Last Parent:** Take out trash, if necessary. Stay in building until last actor has been picked up. Should not have to stay more than 30 minutes after rehearsal. Please do not leave actors in building alone. Turn off lights, except for downstairs hallway & front porch. **Check that the 2 back doors are closed and locked, if after 8pm.**

Performance Period

- **Pre-performance Cleaners:** Do at call time or earlier if desired. Clean public space, i.e., bathrooms, entry, upstairs theater, and stage before performance. Sweep & vacuum. Put out new supplies if necessary.
- **Backstage Parent:** Backstage resource for actors. Keeps a low profile; quiets actors if necessary. Asks them to pick up trash, etc. Help keep water jugs filled.
- **Concessions Workers:** Come 30 minutes early to help set up. Sell food during intermissions. Help put away concessions after last intermission or performance.
- **Post-performance Cleaners:** Pick up and take out trash. Tidy backstage area, within reason. Check that curling irons are unplugged in make-up area. Turn off lights, except downstairs hall & front porch. Is also **Last Parent** for performance. **Check that the 2 back doors are closed and locked.**

A word about the autonomy of actors & the intervention of parents:

As a lunch/building/backstage parent, you are available for emergencies or if the apprentices need help. You can identify yourself to the apprentices, but they will probably not need assistance.

However, if you do see something that concerns **safety**, please intervene. For instance, no kids should be playing on the fire escapes or climbing trees. And no kids should be fighting with or teasing anyone else. Also, if you hear/see any inappropriate talk/behavior (as outlined in the agreement we have on our registration forms -- i.e., regarding sex or drugs, or couple's behavior), you should remind actors that those things are expressly prohibited (and that they and their parents signed off on that!).

If you are a building parent and therefore present during rehearsals and you see kids "hanging out," it's also appropriate to say "Hey, aren't you supposed to be in rehearsal right now? We're not on break, are we?"

Finding that balance between enough adult presence and too much will always be a challenge at YSP!

Attendance

Attendance at rehearsals is vital for the development of the individual actor and for the progress of the project as a whole. **Each actor is expected to attend all scheduled rehearsals** except for those listed in advance on the actor's registration form, and except for those that must be missed because of the actor's illness or other family emergency, in which case a parent or guardian should contact the intern director for your production.

Actors who will need to miss part of the rehearsal or performance schedule are admitted at the directors' discretion, although we try to be as accommodating as possible.

Rehearsals

All rehearsals will be at the YSP Playhouse, 1806 West Lawn Ave. Each full-play program begins with an introduction and then, in some cases, a reading for specific parts, after which the actors are cast. Each workshop also begins with an introduction, after which the roles and scenes are assigned in each cast.

Morning/Afternoon: Some actors must have their regular rehearsal times either in the morning or the afternoon, and we do our best to accommodate those needs when a choice is available. Please do not indicate a "requirement" on the registration form unless it is absolutely binding; it will otherwise make organizing the event difficult, and may limit the roles your actor can receive.

Special Rehearsals: In addition to the regular, scheduled rehearsals, actors and families should expect the possibility of some **extra, specially scheduled rehearsals** to work on difficult scenes as dress rehearsals and performances approach. We will announce these as they are scheduled. **Please make every effort to attend; these rehearsals are not "optional."**

Run-throughs: On run-through days, when a cast “runs through” a major portion of the play without scripts, rehearsals can be a little longer than normal.

Rehearsal Breaks: Depending on the timing, a rehearsal may include short breaks or lunch breaks. The parents or guardians must arrange with each actor any rules or restrictions about the actor’s whereabouts during these periods (for example, whether the actor may leave the YSP Playhouse, and where he or she may go). A Director, Intern Director, or other adult will generally be present at the building during short breaks. A parent volunteer will be present during lunch break for rehearsals that span lunch; however, this adult is not responsible for taking attendance during breaks or for assuring compliance with rules set between the actor and his/her family.

Actor Responsibilities: The actors have a lot of freedom, but also many responsibilities, e.g., cleaning, teching, memorizing, critiquing each other’s work. YSP differs from other activities your children may participate in with respect to the emphasis it places on their responsibility. The multi-age nature of the program is another unique aspect. Older kids often look after younger ones. Veterans welcome new people. Actors have freedom during breaks to leave the theater.

Actors as Directors: YSP actors also help direct their counterparts. A unique and highly effective feature of the program is its multiple-cast rehearsals. When several casts rehearse together, one cast is on stage while the other actors help "direct" by watching and listening with extraordinary care and by commenting constructively on the performance.

Parent involvement: Parents are welcome to attend as many or as few rehearsals as they like.

Cleaning: Cleaning responsibilities extend the rehearsal time one day of the week by 30 minutes for alternating casts. Please remember that we have no janitorial staff at YSP; when actors do not do their part to clean, the work either goes undone, or falls to someone who is busy with many other tasks that keep YSP running. **Please pitch in—5-10 minutes of each actor’s help at the end of rehearsal adds up to hours of a single volunteer or staff member’s time!**

Rehearsal Personnel

Many people, including every actor, are involved in directing and organizing our rehearsals. Others include:

Richard DiPrima & Anne DiPrima, Directors. Anne also designs and produces YSP’s costumes.

Apprentice Directors, Older, experienced actors currently in YSP who assist with direction.

Intern Directors, Alumni of YSP, 18 or older, who direct a production.

Parent Coordinator, A parent volunteer who facilitates communication between the directors and the families via email, and organizes the production volunteers. Will send out weekly reminders about jobs and clean-ups, as well as a PERFORMANCE PERIOD JOB LIST towards the end of the production.

Memorizing & Tapes/CDs

YSP's young actors perform with complete understanding. Key to the actors' memorizing and understanding what they are saying is a system of audio materials that the directors have prepared over 20 years. "Explanation tapes" examine every line of a particular part, explaining meanings and ways in which words, lines and passages fit into the play. "Lines only" tapes help young actors memorize their parts (whether or not they read well.) **Listen to the explanation tapes before memorizing. Listen often to both the explanation and to the lines only tapes. These are essential to successful performance.**

YSP productions depend on full understanding of performed lines and on their solid memorization. In order to dress rehearse and perform, each actor must listen to the provided instructional tapes and/or CDs at home in a timely manner, and must memorize his/her part(s) according to the schedules provided during the rehearsals or in official YSP notifications.

Please let directors know if you have too much to memorize as soon as possible. Also let them know if you need help. Actors cannot perform if they are not memorized by dress rehearsal. Deadlines will be announced soon after the beginning of a production, but please remember that memorizing early and well insures a less stressful dress rehearsal period for all involved!

Shaw productions & Workshops v. Full Shakespeare productions

Shaw productions

- have no parent meetings;
- are made up of veteran YSP participants;
- can be short or long: "short Shaws" are one-acts, and usually do not have intermissions, unless multiple one-acts are done on the same evening; concessions may be held after a performance or in between performances if multiple ones occur on same night; full-length Shaws are longer and will have intermissions;
- no "explanation tapes," so actors can begin memorizing as soon as they know their parts; actors will receive lines tapes/CDs, however;

- often have “ensemble” casting—meaning actors are involved in 2 or more casts with different roles of different sizes; generally no “tech” cast; sometimes even a different cast configuration is created for each performance, although every actor will always have two performances for each role;
- fill parent jobs via email, but families usually must sign up for more jobs than in a Shakespeare production because of smaller cast size.

Workshops

- are made up of multiple scenes from different plays (but still full-length performance time, typically 3 ½ hours);
- usually have one intermission, not two;
- no T-shirts & no photographs;
- more minimal costuming than full plays;
- small workshops, like the Spring One-on-One, usually have only one cast, and performance conflicts will be difficult or impossible to accommodate.

Cleaning/Lost & Found

Actors are given the responsibility of cleaning the theater during the rehearsal period. Productions usually have one regular day per week to clean; alternate casts are assigned on a rotating basis, and must stay about 30 minutes afterward for that purpose. Each actor signs up for one or two jobs on a job chart. A parent comes to supervise. During the performance period, parents volunteer to clean.

Supplies are located here and there! Paper towels & toilet paper are stored in the vanity of the Women’s bathroom. Brooms and mops are in the closet located off of that bathroom. Vacuum cleaners, bags, & belts, as well as garbage bags are in the downstairs closet across from the washer/dryer in the “backstage” area.

Carol Magoon, 833-5112, buys supplies for the theater and takes vacuums in for repair. Call and leave a message for her if something is out-of-stock.

Vacuums take a beating at YSP. If you know how to put in a new belt, feel free! There are always extras in the vacuum closet. Otherwise, call Carol Magoon at 833-5112, and leave a message. You could also tape a note with the date to the machine that is not working.

With all the productions & all the kids at YSP, the theater tends to look a bit battered, especially downstairs. Please encourage your actor to be responsible about their own

stuff, about trash and food, and about the building in general. Only water is allowed upstairs!

Please remember that we have no janitorial staff at YSP; when actors do not do their part to clean, the work either goes undone, or falls to someone who is busy with many other tasks that keep YSP running. **Please pitch in—5-10 minutes of each actor’s help at the end of rehearsal adds up to hours of a single volunteer or staff member’s time!**

Actors also tend to leave huge amounts of (sometimes valuable) stuff behind at YSP. Please try to check the bin periodically. Leftovers will be donated at the production’s end. Until that time, you can check the lost & found box downstairs.

Publicity

Every family has the responsibility of recruiting audience members. The fuller the playhouse, the more satisfying the event will be. Remember, people can come for part of the performance, too, although they are asked not to enter or leave in the middle of a scene. Actors will be given “postcards” or “tickets” with times of performances on them. Kids can mark which performances are theirs and either pass the cards out to friends or mail them. These will be available at the theater. We also produce a flier advertising the show, and parents and actors can post these.

Dress Rehearsal & Performance Issues

The most stressful time in the program are the dress rehearsals. There will be a lot of demands on you and your actors. Especially if you are new to YSP, stop in to one of the dress rehearsals to see how things run. Don’t be surprised if the dress rehearsal does not look polished – it’s not supposed to. You’ll appreciate even more the transformation that takes place at performances!

Schedule: A specific dress rehearsal/performance schedule is produced shortly after casting is completed; **only conflicts noted on registration forms can be taken into consideration.** As much as we try to give each cast at least one prime performance slot (Fri or Sat night, or the opening and concluding performances), we are not always able to manage. Sometimes, for instance, there are simply more casts than we have weekend evenings to go around. Your patience & flexibility are appreciated with this challenging exercise in logic—a couple of different conflicts within a single cast can make this job very tough! YSP maintains a calendar page with rehearsal and performance information: <http://calendar.yahoo.com/yspcal> (before Oct. 1) <http://www.google.com/calendar/hosted/ysp.org/> (after Oct. 1)

Number of Performances Remember that during this period each actor will have two dress rehearsals (one regular/one tech) and four performance (two regular/two tech). Unless special arrangements are made in advance, each actor is expected to attend the one dress rehearsal and two performances of both his/her performance cast and tech cast. All dress rehearsals and performances will also be at the YSP Playhouse, 1806 West Lawn Ave.

Timing: Dress will be long, especially the first one. For full-length plays and workshops, 5-8 hours is likely. Please try to be patient and flexible at this point. Performances of full plays will last about 4-5 hours, including two 30 minute intermissions. Workshops have one intermission, and usually last 3-4 hours. The performance AND tech casts should arrive an hour and half before show time, i.e., 4:30 “call time” for the 6pm performances, or 11:30 am for the 1pm final matinee.

Perkin’s Nights: The kids always initiate unofficial post-performance trips to Perkin’s or Michael’s. It’s a tradition. Everyone’s invited. Be prepared to be asked by your kids if they can go. You may end up driving and STAYING if you say ok. There’s generally at least one table of parents at each Perkins night. The idea has always been that the kids will take a while to wind down, might as well let them do it together. Use your judgment, and kids should use theirs. This event is not supervised or officially organized by YSP.

Cast Party—Don’t Miss!

After final matinee, at the Playhouse. This is for actors and their families. Richard, Anne and the other directors have a traditional ceremony to close the production. This ceremony (which lasts an hour or longer, depending on the number of actors involved) is *followed* by a potluck dinner. The whole party can last 3 hours or so and will probably start about 30 minutes after the performance ends. Every family brings a dish to pass. Families with multiple siblings may bring one dish. A cast party announcement with details on what to bring will be emailed to you towards the end of the production. During summer productions, the cast party usually takes place in the yard—bring your own chairs and/or blankets.

Dress Rehearsal & Performance Attire

Please remind kids to shower and use deodorant. Multiple casts will share costumes. No one wants to jump into a shirt that smells like sweat from the night before.

Acting cast (to wear under costumes, unless otherwise instructed):

*Opaque black tights (not see-through nylons or thick leggings): dance tights work well; can be purchased at any dance supply store; Walgreen’s may also have

*Shorts (any color, mid-thigh length or shorter to wear under costumes)

- *Sleeveless tank top (any color, unless otherwise specified)
- *Soft-soled black shoes (can be any style as long as it is unobtrusive and completely black - no logos or other designs)—again dance shoes work well

Tech cast:

- *Long black pants
- *Long-sleeved black shirt—no skin showing please
- *Black socks
- *Soft-soled black shoes

(If an actor has a performing role in their tech cast, they should bring the under-costume clothes as well.)

We suggest purchasing tights at a dance-supply store, like Rosy Cheeks at Westgate Mall. While dance tights are more expensive, they do last longer. Jazz dance shoes that lace up or slip on are also a good option, although any black shoes are fine, as long as they have no markings and are soft-soled. Remember that kids do have to go outside, even in inclement weather, in order to travel from backstage to upstairs.

Backstage Food

Allowable backstage food for actors **wearing costumes** is limited to pretzels, carrots, celery, bagels (no cream cheese), animal crackers, water and sparkling water. Once performances begin, tech cast members only can also get food at concessions. Actors may bring food for themselves and have other food during breaks, as long as they remove their costumes and eat in the designated area backstage.

Parent volunteers provide backstage bagels during performances.

YSP has a policy of **NO NUTS** backstage, due to severe allergies of multiple actors. Please refrain from bringing nuts as snacks, including those in trail mixes, or any nut butters to YSP.

Behavior Policies/Rules acknowledged in registration packet

In addition to policies already mentioned regarding payment, attendance, memorization, instructional tapes/CDs, and dress rehearsal/performance attire, each actor agrees to

- act at all times with appropriate respect for and courtesy toward the Program, fellow participants, directors, volunteers YSP neighbors, the YSP playhouse, and other rehearsal and performance sites, and remain off YSP premises when no adults are present

- refrain from any use, sale, purchase, or discussion of tobacco, alcohol, or any banned substance—and refrain from any “couples behavior”—at any time on YSP premises or during YSP sessions or “breaks,” OR on the way to or from YSP sessions or “breaks”

YSP 2009–10 Staff, Board & Volunteers

DIRECTORS

RICHARD & ANNE DiPRIMA

COSTUMES

ANNE DiPRIMA

STAFF

**WENDY VARDAMAN,
Administrator**

BOARD

**RICHARD & ANNE DiPRIMA, HAL BENNETT, FRANK DiPRIMA, SARAH
SISKIND, MICHEL WATTIAUX**

ANNUAL VOLUNTEERS

ADVERTISING, vacant

ALUMNI PROJECT, MARY FONS

BRATFEST, vacant

BUILDING MAINTENANCE, DAVID SIMMONS

CONCESSIONS MANAGER, vacant

DATABASE, MELISSA ALLEN

DIGITIZING, MEGHAN HARNEY & BRITTANY RAUSCH with YSP Actors

GARDENING, SUE BRANTLY & TOM DUBOIS

LOST & FOUND, vacant

OFFICE ASSISTANCE, REBECCA YOUNG

PHOTO/DVD ORDERS, vacant

PICTURE HANGING, CELESTE ROBERTS

PROGRAMS, FLEISCHMAN FAMILY

PUBLICITY, vacant

SUPPLIES & VACUUMS, CAROL MAGOON

TRASH, JIM ESPESETH

VIDEO COORINATOR & DVD PRODUCTION, KAREL OLIVERAS

WEBSITE REDESIGN, BRAD PARKEL

WEBSITE, ASJA YOUNG

YARD SALE, LISIE KITCHEL

Volunteer Questionnaire 2009-10 Name(s): _____

YSP operates largely as a volunteer organization. During a production, **each family** performs a share of one-time jobs, usually 4-6. Other needs include fundraising, finance, maintenance, and office work. We acknowledge and greatly appreciate your support for the individual production tasks as well as for the work needed to sustain YSP year-round.

Please indicate your family's volunteer interests (use initials for multiply family members, and check all that apply):

___ Our family prefers to volunteer for **one-time jobs** (like concessions, cleaning & back-stage parent) only when our actor is involved in a production

___ We prefer to volunteer only when our actor is involved in a production, but are willing sometimes to take on a **leadership role** during that production (e.g., Parent Coordinator, Concessions Coordinator, Cast Party Coordinator)

___ Our family is also willing to help with **non-production based jobs of limited duration** e.g., staffing extra fundraisers; pitching in during a "building improvement day" or yard clean ups--we will email you with specific opportunities as they arise!

___ I am interested in an **annual** volunteer job. (These currently include, for example, buying supplies for the theater, maintaining the data base, video coordination & reproduction, supervising concessions.)

*The following positions are currently vacant (feel free to indicate another specific interest): **Concessions Mgr., Brat Fest Coor., Advertising Coor., Silent Auction Coor., Photo & DVD Coor., Publicity Coor., Lost & Found Coor.***

___ I would be willing to work on a **board committee** when these are established:

- ___ Fundraising
- ___ Finance
- ___ Grant writing

___ I have **skills** in the following areas that I would be willing to share occasionally (please note that you will be contacted when a specific need or project arises):

- ___ Art/Graphic design/Photography
- ___ Building Maintenance, e.g., carpentry, electric, plumbing
- ___ Computer/digital expertise
- ___ Desktop publishing (especially familiarity with *Indesign*)
- ___ Gardening/Yard e.g., planting, pruning, weeding, mowing, snow removal
- ___ Non-profit board or staff experience
- ___ Office work, e.g., sorting, filing, labeling tapes/CDs
 - ___ monthly
 - ___ weekly
- ___ Publicity/Marketing
- ___ Sewing/Costumes
- ___ Web design/maintenacnce
- ___ Other, please specify:

Thanks for taking the time to respond to these questions and for all of your contributions to YSP!