

# JUNIOR THEATER FESTIVAL 2016

Jan 15-17, 2016 Cobb Center Galleria in Atlanta, GA



## A Jam-Packed Weekend of Musical Theater Mayhem!

“What is the Junior Theater Festival?” Simply put, the Junior Theater Festival (JTF) is a weekend dedicated to celebrating young people and musical theater. Produced by iTheatrics and Theater of the Stars, JTF brings students, teachers and Broadway professionals together to celebrate outstanding student musical theater productions. Events include adjudication, workshops for students, professional development for directors, Broadway celebrities, a New Works Showcase, and Awards Ceremony. The festival has become a must attend musical theater event and has even served as the launch for Disney’s High School Musical and NBC’s “SMASH.”

### Key Events:

**ADJUDICATION:** Student groups perform 15 minutes from a Broadway Junior Collection® musical for adjudication by leading theater professionals. Groups are rated in the areas of music, acting, dance and overall performance. The adjudicators offer constructive criticism to each group to encourage further learning in key areas.

**2016 MORE WORKSHOPS** for students, teachers, and parents. Broadway professionals and master teachers from across the country offer interactive workshops for teachers and students in all aspects of musical theater performance and technical theater.

**JTF ALL-STARS:** Selected student performers and student technicians are chosen as festival All-Stars. All-Stars participate in exclusive workshops and are given the opportunity to be a major part of the Freddie G Awards Ceremony.

**CHOREOGRAPHY DVD AUDITIONS:** Selected students are invited to audition for Broadway Junior Resident Choreographer Steven G. Kennedy for future Broadway Junior Choreography DVD shoots!

**NEW WORKS SHOWCASE:** Get a sneak-peak at the newest shows soon to be released in the Broadway Junior Collection. Including the Lion King Jr. & Kids and James and the Giant Peach Jr!

**PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS:** Featuring a panel of young adults from Broadway Junior participant to successful theatrical professional.

**THE BROADWAY JR. SLAM:** One of the most anticipated events of the festival! Creative teams and casts are selected at random and have just one hour to rehearse a song and dance for presentation on the Main Stage!

**DIRECT from BROADWAY:** Get a sneak peak at a Broadway musical, meet its stars and cheer them on in a special JTF presentation. Who will it be for 2016?

**FREDDIE G AWARDS CEREMONY:** Named in honor of MTT’s CEO and Tony Honoree, Freddie Gershon, the Freddie G Awards Ceremony is a celebration of the weekend’s accomplishments. Featuring over 50 different awards, the ceremony also high lights performances by the festival All-Stars and outstanding groups.

**FUN! FUN! FUN!** The fun begins Friday night with the Director’s Reception. Saturday night is the Radio Disney Dance Party, and Sunday night everyone a special presentation. Add spontaneous student sing-alongs, meeting new friends, and confetti cannons and this is sure to be a weekend that students will never forget.

**ASK AROUND:** The students and parents from MW who have attended JTF will tell you that they had a great time during the weekend, but most of them will also tell you that the most rewarding moments always come during their JTF festival performance preparations as they grow to really love and respect each other as friends and fellow actors!

### Who Can Attend JTF?

JTF is designed for any student who has a strong desire to perform and learn! A note to parents of younger students: Please make sure that your child is up to a rigorous weekend of musical theater madness! They will love every second of it and their participation is just as valuable as an older student so they are really put thru their paces!

### Do Parents Also Attend

Yes! We love to have the support and encouragement of our parents so family members are welcome to attend also. Registered parents will attend the same performance schedule and meetings as the students have so you won't miss a minute of the activities. Please be advised that the MW staff members are involved in various "director" activities that are not open for students. Therefore, parents who are not going to Atlanta need to make arrangements with other JTF parents to provide transportation, accommodations and supervision for their child.

### What Broadway Jr. show excerpt will we be taking in 2016?

That's a hard question to answer until all of the JTF registration forms have been turned in to the office.

### What is the pricing to attend JTF?

The 2016 per person cost is \$250.00. This fee applies to all students, parents, directors, and parents. After October 1<sup>st</sup>, it is \$260.00 per person.

### What is included in the pricing?

This fee includes:

- Admission to all JTF events with a JTF wristband (and they DO CHECK THESE very carefully) and a Festival t-shirt
- Special performance on Sunday night. 2014 was a fabulous performance by top-notch Broadway performers including Ashley Brown (Mary Poppins) and Josh Strickland (Tarzan). 2015 was a concert by Broadway / television star, Megan Hilty.
- Other exciting moments from 2015 were:
  - The surprise visit and performance by "Glee"-star, Darren Criss. (Honestly, I thought 90% of the females in the building were going to hyperventilate and pass out!)
  - Lilla Crawford, Broadway's most recent "Annie" and "Little Red" in the newly released film version of INTO THE WOODS dropped by to chat and sing for the festival.
  - The composers of the film, FROZEN, were on hand to play perform selections from the film and to talk with the students about professional performance world!
  - A stunning presentation from the folks of THE LION KING on Broadway who treated the festival participants to a demonstration of how an actor goes from human being to "Scar", the nasty Uncle of Simba with make-up and wardrobe. Of course, you can't have THE LION KING without "Rafiki" who graciously performed and spoke with the audience about her experience in the hit Broadway show!
- Lunch on Saturday and Sunday (Okay, the food wasn't very good last year but it was great in 2014 so there's always hope! Plus, you can save your sandwich and use it as a weapon if you happen to get lost in the undesirable part of Atlanta.)
- Souvenir program: You need this to navigate the festival! (And the app that you will download onto your device the week before the festival.)
- NEW! This year the cost of the MW show t-shirt is included in the total price. This is the shirt that the students will wear for their 15 minute adjudication. Parents and siblings who register and pay the full price will also receive a show shirt.

What other fees will I need to budget for?

Your fee does not include transportation to and from Atlanta, hotel accommodations, or breakfast and dinner on Saturday and Sunday. Your fee does not include the footwear (typically jazz shoes) that the students will need for adjudication. It also does not include any jazz pants which is also a typical part of the adjudication wardrobe.

What are the travel arrangements?

Since most parents attend, we have found that carpooling works the best and that way you have your transportation to and from the Fabulous Fox Theatre also. Those students whose parents do not attend the festival are responsible for working out travel and hotel accommodations with another family.

Where will we be staying?

Families are responsible for making their own hotel reservations. There are several options available in the vicinity of the Cobb Centre Galleria. A list of those hotels will be made available. **The MW staff has already reserved our rooms at the EMBASSY SUITES -Galleria!**

One final thought:

Family members that want to go along to Atlanta for the weekend and not attend the festival activities do not have to pay a participation fee. This allows siblings and spouses to swim in the hotel pool, hang out in Atlanta and do some city sightseeing and other activities like the Atlanta Aquarium and the Coca Cola Museum. Since the festival occurs on Martin Luther weekend some families use this opportunity as a "long weekend getaway"!

Want to go? Great!

- Simply complete the information requested at the bottom of this document and drop it by the studio. You will need to pay a **\$25 per person non-refundable deposit** which will be deducted from your total balance. Please read carefully: It is non-refundable but you can transfer it or "sell" it to someone else should something occur and you have to cancel your trip.
- After your registration and \$25 per person deposit has been paid you may choose to divide your remaining balance into (2) equal payments.

The payments are due on the following dates:    Payment #1: Aug 14th            Payment #2: Sept 9th

**FINAL DAY TO REGISTER for JTF 2016: Aug 10th, 2015**

REGISTRATION for JTF 2016

Name of student who will be performing: \_\_\_\_\_ T-shirt size: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of student who will be performing: \_\_\_\_\_ T-shirt size: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of additional person attending: \_\_\_\_\_ T-shirt size: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of additional person attending: \_\_\_\_\_ T-shirt size: \_\_\_\_\_

**Total # in your party:** \_\_\_\_\_ x \$250 per person                      **Total Balance Due:** \_\_\_\_\_

*The following will be completed by MW staff:*

Registration date: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Paid (\$25 per person deposit) at Registration: \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment: \_\_\_\_\_ Balance Remaining: \_\_\_\_\_

# of video release forms received: \_\_\_\_\_ Video release forms returned on: \_\_\_\_\_