



City Varieties Youth Theatre (CVYT) 2020/20

“CVYT is a warm, welcoming and, above all, professional company to be involved with. I was part of the youth theatre before I headed off into the big wide world! I had the opportunity to perform in the wonderful City Varieties Theatre and the freelance artists I worked with were professional, encouraging and super creative.”

LIV JACKSON: FORMER CVYT MEMBER

ARE YOU AGED 8-17 YRS?

Would you like to be involved in a thriving city centre Youth Theatre Company? Would you like to tread the boards at our professional and historic venues as part of **City Varieties Youth Theatre (CVYT)** and work alongside professional artists, developing your skills and meeting like-minded young people?

If so, we'd love to hear from you as we currently have a few spaces available. Why not apply today and join us?

“I am very grateful for CVYT. It gave me the confidence to audition for the National Youth Theatre REP company which ended up being the spark to my acting career. CVYT was a place that brought laughter to my week and friends who I consider to be very precious to me.

I just remember how much joy there was in rehearsals and laughter. You gave me so much encouragement to pursue what I really wanted to do and that's led me to work with incredible professionals.”

MEGAN PARKINSON CVYT Member 2014-2015
(recent jobs include Game of Thrones and Holby City)

1. WHAT HAPPENS AT CVYT?

Under the guidance of Artistic Director Lizi Patch and the Leeds Grand Theatre Learning Team you will meet once a week during term time (see **Musical Rehearsals section 3.2** for additions) and train with freelance professional artists at the *Leeds Grand Theatre Studio* to help you become a well-rounded artist and confident performer.

You'll have the opportunity to perform in our professional venues in two shows per year (see **Venues and Shows sections 2-3** for more details) and get some hands on experience of how a professional venue works through visits and workshops with the CVMH Technical Team (new for 2019).

Our focus is on creatively challenging and supporting every single young person who comes through our doors (regardless of experience) and developing theatre skills (acting, dance/movement, physical theatre and vocal/singing training) and vital life skills (including confidence, communication, focus, empathy, commitment, initiative and creative problem-solving).

"Coming to youth theatre weekly was not only a respite from the chaos of daily life but it's hugely important to maximise one's potential. The final production was always a joy to be apart of, however the times where confidence is built, where news skills are learnt, where new friends are made is at rehearsals."

JULIANA EIGBE CVYT 2012-2016



2. VENUES AND SHOWS

We rehearse and perform in some of the most beautiful venues in the city with the support of a professional creative and technical team and a live pit orchestra (for the musical).

Leeds Grand Theatre Studio (LGS): In the heart of Leeds Grand Theatre we hold our weekly training sessions and rehearsals in the basement studio.

The Howard Assembly Room (HAR): Within the Leeds Grand Theatre this beautiful contemporary venue fuels the Yorkshire cultural scene with a varied programme of events, gigs, films, talks and family workshops. The Howard Assembly Room has firmly established itself as one of Yorkshire's most important centres for progressive and diverse musical performances.

The HAR is home to our annual public Winter Performance. The format changes each year depending on the needs of the young people, but previous years have seen a range of cabaret-style showcases, themed and devised new writing and extracts from contemporary plays.

City Varieties Music Hall (CVMH): Built in 1865, this stunning Grade II listed building is one of only four surviving Music Halls from the Victorian period and the only one to have

continually provided a programme of theatre and variety throughout the years. Charlie Chaplin, Harry Houdini, Lily Langtry and Vesta Tilley are just a few of the great Victorian performers to have taken to the stage.

The CVMH has been home to our annual sell-out full-scale musical since 2012 plus a number of new plays from notable playwrights and devised works written and performed by the youth theatre members.

Past musicals include: *Return to the Forbidden Planet, Little Shop Of Horrors, Peter Pan The British Musical, Oliver!, The Addams Family, Loserville and The Wizard of Oz.*

Past plays include: *Alice in the News (Charles Way) Daffodil Scissors (Philip Ridley), Summer Snowball (devised), Kaspar The Wild (Tim Crouch), Frankly Prince Charming You're Just Not My Type (devised), Princess in the Basement (devised), Safe Hands (devised), Second Person Narrative (Jemma Kennedy) Darcy in Happylandia (written by CVYT students Olivia Mee and Abby Marshall), Sensa/ Sensa 2 (devised)*

CVYT just helped me in so many ways. I can tell you that: it helped my confidence, helped me find the man I aspire to be and gave me amazing role models in the artists and the older members. It genuinely feels like a massive family you can trust and love.

JAKE GALE CVYT 2013-2016 (Jake joined Ballet Rambert in Sept 2017)



3. SESSIONS AND GROUPS

Members are divided into different age groups and will rehearse on Saturdays, during term time only.

When there is a half term or school holiday groups will generally (but not always) rehearse on the first Saturday of the holiday (and break for the second Saturday). Please see the **Term Dates** (section 5) for full details.

GROUP 1: 10.30am-12pm: Years 4, 5, 6 (8-11yrs)

GROUP 2: 1pm – 2.45pm: Year 7, 8, 9 (11-14ys)

GROUP 3: 3.30pm – 5.30pm: Years 10, 11, 12, 13* (14 – 17yrs) *up to the age of 17yrs

WHAT WILL EACH GROUP DO?

ALL GROUPS: We programme the year so that we have time to nurture each individual and challenge each young artist creatively. We cast the shows on a rotational basis, giving everyone the opportunity to take centre stage over the course of the year, and the ensemble is highly valued.

Sessions focus on building confidence, trust, self-awareness and creative skills. Regular vocal and physical warm ups plus acting, singing, dance and physical theatre skills run by freelance professionals will prepare you for the public performances.

GROUP 1- 3: SHOWS FOR Autumn 2019 – Summer 2020

- 1) **Summer Musical at the City Varieties Music Hall.** The first half of the Spring Term is spent further developing performance skills, confidence and focus in readiness for the musical rehearsals. Principal roles are cast post February Half Term. It is vital that each cast member in the musical - principal or ensemble - understands that their role in the musical is integral to the overall show. Our musicals sell out because they are of a very high standard and we challenge the young cast to be the best they can be with support from the entire Creative, Learning and Technical Team.

MUSICAL REHEARSALS for 2020

We are very fortunate to have secured the CVMH for **two production weeks* prior to the Summer Musical. For 2020 this means that we will be resident in the CVMH from **Sat 11th – Sat 25th July** and there will be a programme of extra rehearsals scheduled throughout this time culminating in the shows on **Fri 24th July** and **Sat 25th July**. Please note, throughout the Summer Term a number of full cast rehearsals are introduced where weekly Saturday sessions are extended. There is no extra charge for these rehearsals which will take place around any school commitments and full details will be circulated at the beginning of the Summer Term.

Principals will also be called for extra evening singing sessions throughout the Summer Term. These dates will be agreed after casting has taken place (generally just before or after the Easter Break).

**NB: Attendance at these rehearsals is vital and patterns of attendance throughout the terms and availability throughout the production weeks will be taken into consideration when casting.*



They really push you to reach your potential in a safe and fun environment! If you want to make friends, enjoy theatre and being around creative young people this is definitely the place for you. I really believe they were a key part of my development as an actor and as I've just graduated from the American Musical Theatre Academy of London with an agent, CVYT definitely helped me along the way on my journey! Thank you so much to all I met there and was taught by!

**OLIVIA JACKSON, FORMER CVYT MEMBER:
(GRADUATE: AMERICAN MUSICAL THEATRE ACADEMY)**

4. FEES

CVYT costs **£435 per year** for three terms including productions and all additional rehearsals.

This can be paid up front or in three termly instalments of £145. For Autumn Term 2020, **£145 is due by Monday 30th September** – once your child has had a chance to attend a session to see if it suits their needs and has confirmed they wish to stay.

To participate in the classes, payment must be received by the beginning of each new term.

Please make cheques payable to Leeds Grand Theatre & Opera House Ltd and send to The Learning Team, Leeds Grand Theatre, 46 New Briggate, Leeds, LS1 6NZ (you can also hand this over in person on a Saturday). Ensure you write your child's name on the back. To make a payment over the phone, please contact Pat Bruce, Box Office Supervisor on 0113 2977041.

Any requests for alternative payment plans will be considered if discussed with the Learning team in advance. Please note we also offer a limited number of bursaries to families on a low income; if you would like to find out more about this, please contact the learning team for a bursary application form: learning@cityvarieties.co.uk

If it wasn't for CVYT I honestly don't think I'd have built the skill level needed to get onto my course at university doing drama, and I definitely know I wouldn't have exceeded in the devising module without the knowledge I gained with the youth theatre. I also met the most amazing people and gained friendships that will never end. Thank you CVYT.

JAMIE-LEIGH FISH CVYT 2012-2016

5. TERM DATES (Autumn – Winter 2019):

- 1 Saturday 14th September
- 2 Saturday 21st September
- 3 Saturday 28th September
- 4 Saturday 5th October
- 5 Saturday 12th October
- 6 Saturday 19th October
- October Half term week*
- 7 Saturday 2nd November
- 8 Saturday 9th November
- 9 Saturday 16th November
- 10 Saturday 23rd November
- 11 Saturday 30th November
- 12 Saturday 7th December

Spring 2020

- 1 Saturday 11th January
- 2 Saturday 18th January
- 3 Saturday 25th January
- 4 Saturday 1st February
- 5 Saturday 8th February
- Spring Half term week*
- 6 Saturday 22nd February
- 6a **Thursday 27th February evening*
- 7 Saturday 29th February
- 8 Saturday 7th March
- 8a **Thursday 12th March*
- 9 Saturday 14th March
- 10 Saturday 21st March
- 10a **Thursday 26th March*
- 11 Saturday 28th March

Summer Term 2020

- 1 Saturday 25th April
- 1a **Thursday 7th May evening*
- 2 Saturday 9th May **Please note, no rehearsal on Bank Holiday weekend 2nd May*

- 3 Saturday 16th May
Summer half-term holiday *ADDITIONAL REHEARSALS in half term for those that are available
- 4 *Tuesday 26th May daytime
- 5 *Wednesday 27th May daytime
- 6 *Thursday 28th May daytime
- 7 Saturday 6th June
- 7a *Thursday 11th June evening
- 8 Saturday 13th June
- 9 Saturday 20th June
- 10 Saturday 27th June
- 11 Saturday 4th July
- 12 Saturday 11th July at CVMH
- Monday 13th July – Saturday 25th July 2020:** Musical Production Weeks *additional rehearsals
- Friday 24th and Saturday 25th July 2020:** Musical Performances at CVMH



6. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

CVYT promotes excellence and creativity and provides an accessible and safe environment for all people regardless of gender, ethnic origin, disability, religious belief or sexual orientation.

When joining City Varieties Youth Theatre, all young people create and agree to a code of conduct that ensures everybody gets the best out of the experience. We also ask members to complete a monitoring form, so we can report back to funders and measure whether our projects are inclusive and accessible. This information is separated from application forms and not linked to individuals, and you reserve the right not to answer all questions

7. PRAISE FOR CITY VARIETIES YOUTH THEATRE

"If this is the standard of youth theatre in Leeds, we have not a thing to worry about in terms of the future of our city's cultural offerings. I eagerly await CVYT's next performance." **Adam Zed. Leeds List**

"(My son) is passionate about CVYT, his confidence and self-esteem are rocketing positively since he began 18 months ago." **Youth Theatre Parent**

"A huge piece of work for all concerned and a great bit of entertainment... thanks to you all for a great and grand night out." **Audience Member**

"I came to see the show last night & I just wanted to say what a marvellous, professional and such an engaging and entertaining performance it was! All of the staff involved and the cast members were so superb it blew me away!! Additionally, I have been very impressed about how important you have taken the safeguarding and welfare of the children." **Youth Theatre Parent**

"During a winter of austerity, this was conducive to the kind of theatre experience that stays with you for a long time after you have seen the spectacle." **Review**

"I just wanted to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to you all for the difference being part of the youth theatre has made to my daughter's life. It has made a real positive impact on her self-esteem and confidence." **Youth Theatre Parent**



TO APPLY FOR A PLACE PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING FORM (2-SIDED) AND RETURN/EMAIL TO:

The Learning Team, Leeds Grand Theatre & Opera House Ltd (LGT&OH Ltd), 46 New Briggate Leeds, LS1 6NZ.

Tel: 0113 2977042 **Email:** Learning@leedsgrandtheatre.com

CITY VARIETIES YOUTH THEATRE COMPANY: APPLICATION FORM

Young person's name:

Age: DOB:

Name of School/College:

School/College Year Group:

*Please note that we ask for school information so we can apply for a **Child Performance Licence**, enabling the young person to take part in our Youth Theatre productions in professional venues.*

Address:

Young person's Email:

Parent's/Guardian's E-mail:

We will communicate updates with you about the classes via email. If you would like us to send updates to more than one email please detail:

Parent/Guardian's name and relationship to young person:

Parents/Guardian emergency Tel. Number:

Payment Details (please tick your preference)

£435 for the year's fees (cheques made payable to *Leeds Grand Theatre & Opera House Ltd.*)

In three instalments of **£145** at the beginning of each term

THE CANCELLATION POLICY

- Cancellations must be confirmed in writing and sent to The Learning Team, at least two weeks prior to the start of the next term
- If you cancel after this point you will be charged in full for the following term
- We will refund any pre-paid course fees for each full term not attended. We do not refund mid-term or pro rata

Dropping Off and Collecting Information (please tick relevant sections)

- I will sign my child in with the Youth Theatre Directors or Learning Team on our arrival at the theatre and pick up my child from the same point promptly at the end of each session.

OR

- I am happy for my child to be dropped off and collected by: _____

OR

- I am happy for my child to make their own way to and from the Grand Theatre and/or the City Varieties Music Hall

AND

- During longer rehearsals, I am happy for my child to leave and return to the theatre unaccompanied at break times

Important Medical Information

Please detail any allergies, medical conditions, access, learning or support needs we need to be aware of. *Please note, our weekly rehearsals take place in a basement studio that is accessed via stairs (lift available). In an emergency evacuation, if your child is not able to use the stairs please detail what support they'd need (eg transfer to an evac chair; 1-1 support up the stairs):

In the event of an accident, do you give permission for a trained member of staff to administer First Aid? **Yes / No** (delete as appropriate)

Parent/ Guardian declaration (please tick to opt-in)

- I am happy for my child to take part in the Youth Theatre classes and associated sessions.
- I am happy to be contacted about other Learning /Creative Activities for young people offered by Leeds Grand Theatre, City Varieties Music Hall and Hyde Park Picture House.
- I am happy for LGT&OH Ltd to use photos, moving image and sound recordings of my child in press, publicity materials, learning resources, reports and online. (Images are stored securely with this signed page for up to 5 years, then archived).
- I am happy for the CVYT Artistic Director to use photos, moving image and sound recordings of my child in associated social media posts to widen the promotion of the youth theatre and on www.lizipatch.co.uk to illustrate the quality of the Artistic Director's freelance work
- Please tick if you would like us to send you opportunities from other organisations, such as auditions or workshops. We will not share your data but can forward opportunities to you.

Note: information in this form is scanned and stored securely, accessible only to the Learning Team for the duration of the project, to enable participants to engage safely and for staff to contact parents/carers as required. A paper copy of emergency contact details is accessible to Learning staff during sessions and locked away at other times.

Signed:

Print Name:

Relationship to child:

Date: