

urbanStages



Urban Stages Summer Camp FAQ

About Us

Since 1992 we have been touring productions in libraries and community centers throughout the five boroughs of New York City. While these theater pieces allow us to reach many audience members, many of whom would not traditionally attend live theatre, these performances are usually one time events, offering short lived moments of connection.

Summer Camp provides a completely different way of interacting with young people; we meet with the same group of young people every day for five weeks. This extended time is a real gift, allowing us to foster a deeper understanding of performance and theater making in the young people. We focus on the art of collaboration and build an ensemble of campers who collectively develop their own original performance. Our classes are more than a sharing of skills, we seek to challenge the young people to articulate their opinions, make artistic decisions, and become active members in creating theater.

One of the most trying aspects for staff and campers is the development of our ensemble and the process of collective creation, but through this method we are able to challenge the young people to develop ways of working with a group, to share and critique ideas, and overall to support each other and the final show. It is an incredible experience to watch the development of these young people as the five weeks progress and we at Urban Stages feel honored to have the opportunity year after year to go on the summer camp journey. Thank you for helping us make this a possibility for the past eight years. Here's to our 11th Summer Camp and many more!

Our Goals

- To provide an opportunity for campers to learn as much about theater as possible
- To allow campers to find what aspects of theater they enjoy and where they shine
- To form a camp ensemble and build collaboration skills
- To create an original high quality show that highlights the interests and talents of the campers
- To encourage social development
- To build confidence and ability to articulate one's opinions and ideas
- To create a fun and playful environment where learning and trying new things is encouraged

Typical Day

9:30-10am:	Improvisation Warmup
10-11am:	Dance Class
11-12:30pm:	Acting
12:30-1:30pm:	Brown bag lunch (campers bring their own lunch) outside in a nearby park/playground
1:30-2:30pm	Voice or Spoken Word
2:30-4pm:	Puppet Design/Costume Design/Stage Management/Special Topic (on camera workshop, mime workshop, clowning workshop)
4-5pm:	Acting/Playwrighting

Our Classes

Students will take classes in improvisation, acting, playwriting, dance, voice, spoken word, puppet design, costume design, stage management, lighting design. Each year we have a variety of special classes which may include: stage makeup, set design, on-camera workshops, mime workshop, clowning workshop.

Our Staff

Campers will interact with over 12 different theater professionals throughout the five weeks of camp. At any given time there at least 5 staff members present with the campers. Our staff members are passionate about sharing their love of theater with young people and we work hard to find ways to showcase the individual talents of our campers.

Our Vibe

We aim to create an environment where students can take risks, try out new skills, and grow as artists and people. We do not audition and do not create an atmosphere of competition or ranking. We believe campers can do their best when they are in a welcoming environment.

Our Campers

Urban Stages campers come from all five boroughs of NYC as well as Long Island, Westchester, NJ, PA and sometimes as far away as Spain and China! Our students join us with a variety of experiences and backgrounds. Some campers have taken years of dance classes but are new to acting and singing, other campers are experienced in acting but have never danced or designed costumes. Because of our high staff:student ratio we are able to work with and challenge all of our students in each discipline.