

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Hanover Theatre's Youth Summer Program Expanding to Include New Age Groups



Worcester, Mass. (April 1, 2016) The Hanover Theatre's 8th annual Youth Summer Program (YSP) is expanding to include two new age groups in its performing arts programming. In addition to the traditional teen program for students ages 13-18, the theatre is offering a pre-teen program for students ages 9-12 and a children's program for students ages 6-8. Registration opened in February with high demand. With this new expansion, the theatre is excited to see another summer of success among our community's youth.

"Each summer, we are thrilled to fill the otherwise dark theatre with students who are eager to learn about the performing arts," remarked Meghan Montaner, director of education. "With the expansion of our programming this summer, we anticipate close to 150 children from Central Massachusetts and beyond will be filling our studios, lobby and stage from late June through August." This year's Youth Summer Program will be the first to utilize the theatre's new Performing Arts Conservatory located next door at 551 Main Street. Construction of the building is due to complete at the end of May and a full schedule of performing arts programming is slated for the fall.

The new children's program for ages 6-8 offers students opportunities to learn and explore the world of musical theatre. Daily classes feature theatre games, dance combinations, music appreciation, singing, visual arts and much, much more. On the final day of the program, the students will showcase their work. General information can be found on the [children's program page](#) on The Hanover Theatre's website.

The new pre-teen program introduces students ages 9-12 to the joys of participating in a show. Students will work with a director/choreographer and music director over the course of two weeks to present *Shrek, Jr.*, the junior production of the full Broadway show. Students will attend daily classes where material from the show will be used to teach them skills in areas of music, drama and dance. A 60-minute performance will be presented on The Hanover Theatre's main stage at the end of the program. General information can be found on the [pre-teen's program page](#) on The Hanover Theatre's website.

The popular teen program offers students ages 13-18 daily morning classes focusing on music, drama and dance, as well as afternoon rehearsals for the final production. Due to high demand with the first session, selling out for girls in one minute, the theatre is offering two sessions. Students will present three performances of the full-scale, Broadway show *Shrek the Musical* at the end of each session. Teachers and directors for both sessions include the following well-known instructors: Jennifer Agbay (dance, *YSP I*), Kallin Johnson (music, *YSP I & II*) and Meghan Montaner (drama, *YSP I & II*). General information can be found on the [teen's program page](#) on The Hanover Theatre's website.

For more information on any of the Youth Summer Programs, please contact Meghan Montaner, director of education, at 508.471.1793 or Meghan@TheHanoverTheatre.org.

About The Hanover Theatre

The Hanover Theatre continues to draw over 170,000 patrons annually with world-class performances and headlining acts including Broadway hits ("Les Misérables," "Jersey Boys," "Camelot"); comedians (Dave Chappelle, Jay Leno, Daniel Tosh); musical acts (Neil Young, Aretha Franklin, John Legend); and everything in between ("A Christmas Carol," Maya Angelou, Rudy Giuliani, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre). Consistently ranked by POLLSTAR as one of the Top Theatres in the World, the theatre opened in March of 2008 following a \$32 million historic renovation. Over the last seven seasons, the theatre has established its place as a world-class performing arts venue, acting as a catalyst for the economic development of downtown Worcester. In the spring of 2015, the theatre finalized the purchase of a vacant, three-floor former office building with street-level retail space at 551 Main Street. The building will ultimately house office space for theatre administration, function areas, a restaurant on the ground floor and a performing arts conservatory on the lower level. The building will open in summer 2016.

Worcester Center for Performing Arts, a registered not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, owns and operates The Hanover Theatre for the Performing Arts. All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

###