



Kindness

Junior Theatre Troupe FAQs

What is Arts Umbrella's Pre-Professional Theatre Troupe Program?

Commit, collaborate, and excel. The Arts Umbrella Pre-Professional Theatre Program offers intensive training in our Troupes (Musical Theatre, Theatre, and Film) and Young Directors Program. These yearlong programs are structured to offer aspiring actors, and directors, a space to sharpen their skills, increase their confidence, and expand their network. Vocal, movement, and theatrical exercises help develop teamwork and cooperation, discipline and technique, creative expression, and individual artistry. Our instructors are industry professionals who help students explore their artistic potential. Many of our students have gone on to post-secondary theatre programs or professional acting careers around the world.

What is the Junior Theatre Troupe?

The Junior Theatre Troupe is one of our Pre-Professional Theatre Troupes. Students auditioned to get into the program and spent the year working with together to develop their process as an actor. The Fall Session is focused on collaboration, exploration, and experimentation with character work, scene study, and script work to encourage a sense of ensemble and develop strong rehearsal techniques. In the Winter and Spring terms, students continue to hone their performance and rehearsal skills as well as their production skills, including elements such as lighting, sound, costume, and set, to produce, tour, and perform a play for students across Metro Vancouver.

What is *Kindness* about?

Kindness offers an unforgettable lesson in compassion and listening to one another. It sensitively captures the reality of children's feelings as it tells the story of three kids, Tessa, Damon and Keegan, as they navigate the small and large catastrophes in their lives. Mr. Foon spent a week interviewing kids in five Winnipeg schools about what mattered to them. He discovered the importance to children of giving and receiving, compassion, generosity and unconditional love, and these responses provided the foundation for Kindness.

Who is Dennis Foon?

Dennis Foon is a prolific Canadian playwright, and author of Kindness, who has been instrumental in developing a unique voice for Theatre for Young Audiences. He is best known for his play The New Canadian Kid. All of his plays deal with relatable themes and are geared towards young people without feeling like it is talking down to them. Visit his website for more details: <https://dennisfoon.com/>

Why was this play written?

"I confess: I was, for much of my life, an avowed pet hater. It all started when I was eight. I was having trouble breathing and my mom took me to the allergy doctor. When we came home with the diagnosis, it was announced that our dog, Sandy, and our budgie, Beaver, had to go. My older brothers begged my parents to keep the pets and get rid of me, but you know how stubborn and foolish parents can be: The pets were given away, and my brothers began a lifelong campaign of torture against me. It wasn't until I came to Winnipeg last year and started talking to the kids of Kent Road, Rockwood, Queenston and Greenway schools that I started to change my mind. These kids loved their animals and I began to understand how important pets can be to people's emotional lives -- and how much I had missed. This play is, in many ways, about those empty spaces, and the ways we find to fill them" – Dennis Foon



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How old is everyone in the show and how often do you rehearse?

This year, the age range is 12-15 years old. The students cover full instruction on acting, vocal, and dance technique. We have a three hour classes Wednesdays (6-9pm) and Sundays (3:15-6:15pm)

How do people join the Junior Theatre Troupe?

Arts Umbrella holds auditions for all Troupes in June (Wednesday June 15th and Sunday June 19th in 2022) and students are selected and placed in the Troupe that best fits the students' age, experience, skill, schedule and goals.

If you are interested in auditioning for a Troupe, you should visit www.artsumbrella.com/pre-professional-program/

If you are interested in applying for a one day a week Yearlong Theatre Intensive (ages 9-16) you should visit www.artsumbrella.com/theatre-intensive