



Round House Theatre Teen Performance Company & The Sarah Metzger Memorial Play 2016/2017

INFORMATION SHEET

THE PROGRAM:

The Round House Theatre Teen Performance Company is a pre-professional program for the next generation of theater artists. Students selected gain behind-the-scenes access to RHT productions, and attend special events and master classes with RHT company members. Each company member is exposed to all the elements that are required to bring a professional production to the stage.

The program culminates in The Sarah Metzger Memorial Play. This production provides high school students with the unique opportunity to fill all the positions on a production and collaborate with their peers in a professional setting. The production is directed, designed, stage managed, and performed by the Teen Performance Company working closely with with experienced professional artists and practitioners as mentors.

The Teen Performance Program seeks to inspire, teach, guide, and support young theater artists in the professional play-making process. Students leave the program understanding the validity and power of their individual artistic voice. We encourage the development of critical life skills: time management, forward thinking, communication, collaboration, and creative problem solving. Students' appreciation and awareness for the challenges and joys of creating deepen through involvement in our program.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Students must be in the 9-12 grade as of Fall of 2016.
- This program is free of charge.
- Participation is through interview or audition only.
- Participation in this program includes the following required dates:
 - **March 7-12, 2017:** Tech Week for the entire company
 - **March 14-16, 2017:** Dress Rehearsals
 - **March 17-19, 2017:** Performances

THE 2016-2017 PRODUCTION: *Beach Week* by Diana Metzger

A comedic play centering around the slightly nuts but amazing local DC Metro Area (and Beyond!) tradition of high school graduates living on their own, without parental supervision, for a week at the beach. This year's company will have the privilege of working on a world premiere play!

WHY IS THE PRODUCTION CALLED "THE SARAH PLAY"?

The Sarah Play honors the memory of Sarah Emily Metzger, an active member of the theater community in her school and at Round House. One of the Round House family's lasting memories of Sarah is that, while still a high school student, she independently mounted a full-scale theater production. Wishing to expand on the opportunities offered by her high school's theater department, Sarah worked to raise funds, secure facilities and a production staff, market and promote her production, and direct a full-length play.

Sarah passed away in a car accident her freshman year at University of Michigan. After her passing, Sarah's family worked with Round House to create and fund an annual program that would serve as a tribute to this inspiring young woman. The resulting Sarah Metzger Memorial Play was established by the Metzger family and friends to celebrate the memory of Sarah Metzger. It was created to provide similarly motivated high school students with a unique opportunity.

Through this program more than 225 students have taken part in producing a play at Round House over the past 14 years – and thanks to the generosity of donors, all activities of this program continue to be free of charge to students.

POSITIONS FILLED BY STUDENT COMPANY MEMBERS:

Director – Guides and oversees the production artistically. They conceive and develop the unique world within which the playwright's words come to life.

Dramaturg – Compiles research for the production, creating packets of background information for the artists and writing articles and supporting materials for the audience.

Stage Manager – The record keeper and organizer of the production. Also “calls” the show in performance from the booth.

Assistant Stage Manager – Assists the stage manager and acts as crew chief.

Run Crew – Runs lights, sound, and backstage. Are also involved in light hang and focus and other technical elements of the show.

Costume Designer – Envisions and creates the costume design for the show.

Lighting Designer – Creates the stage lighting for the play, by writing light cues on an ETC Ion light board, working from a plot created in partnership with their advisor.

Sound Designer – Creates or finds all the music and sound for the show, and working with their advisor, programs them into Qlab for the run of the show. Can, but does not have to, include composing.

Properties Designer – Works with the RHT staff to create the set & properties for the show.

Actor – Performer in the show.

Production Associates – Works with the RHT's Associate Producer, Education, and Marketing departments to provide support for the Teen Performance Company.

Students in all positions are members of the Teen Performance Company, and attend all classes and special events.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING?

- **Interaction with a Professional Company:** Students engage with the Round House Mainstage all year, as audience, as inside observers, and as participants.
- **Master Classes:** Workshops geared towards exploring one particular perspective in the world of theater. Guest Artists from the RHT Mainstage lead these Master Classes that provide concentrated training to the entire company on a particular discipline in the arts.
- **Practical Training:** Students gain hands-on skills in their craft.
- **Artistic Home:** Round House Theatre welcomes students into the family each season.
- We serve as a **safe and creative space** for students to engage.
- **Social Group:** The Company is a great way to meet teens from a diverse array of high schools. They meet friends that share their interests and build a community.
- **Resume Value:** As students prep for college, this program demonstrates their ability to commit, multi-task, and collaborate independent of what they study. Mentors also regularly write recommendations for students.

TIME COMMITMENT:

Please note that events take place both at the RHT Education Center in Silver Spring, and at Round House Theatre at 4545 East-West Highway, Bethesda. Company members are responsible for their travel to and from all events.

- **September 2016:** Auditions for the acting company. Director and Production Team begin the initial planning and production process. Students will meet on average 2-4 times per month
- **September 2016-December 2016:** The full company (production team and cast) participates in Master Classes to develop essential skills for the production process. The company will also attend production meetings and special events. Students will meet an average 6 times per month.
- **January 2017-March 2017:** Rehearsals for actors, director, and stage manager happen 3-4 times per week. Designers meet 3-5 times per month.
- Note the required rehearsals and performances under “REQUIREMENTS” section.
- Round House Theatre Education compiles a Master Calendar that is updated periodically to reflect schedule updates. This schedule is created around conflicts that students provide at the beginning of the program. Parents and students receive a weekly email every Friday with the schedule for the next week, as well as monthly updates.
- Unless the student is sick or there is a family emergency, we expect students to be present and on-time, unless they have a pre-approved conflict.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

How is the Teen Performance Company at Round House different from just doing a play?

In several significant ways. It is truly a company – so you will get to know and work with people in all theatrical disciplines, and learn about all areas of theater, regardless of your role. This program is also tied to the RHT Mainstage of an award-winning company, and the adults you will be working with are accomplished professionals and teachers plying their craft at RHT and other professional stages across DC.

How do the adult mentors and advisors work with the students?

Each student is paired with an RHT staff member to serve as their **Mentor**. Mentors are available at every step to guide the process and support the students. Our focus is on teaching the process of a professional production, providing the training to be successful, as well as on the growth of each student professionally and personally.

In addition, artists from the professional community serve as **Artistic Advisors**, and join the students during critical learning periods. They function as the artistic sounding board and confidant. Their primary concern is supporting the student's artistic vision for the production reinforcing the independence of the student in their choices.

Guest Artists that also work on the RHT Mainstage act as **Master Class Teachers**, providing concentrated training to the entire company on a particular discipline in the arts.

Do I have to have a lot of experience to apply?

The program is designed to take students at every level and prepare them to participate in final production. We encourage students of varying backgrounds to apply regardless of your prior experience.

What if I have other after school activities or other conflicts?

At the beginning of the process and before finalizing the rehearsal schedule, all students are asked to provide their conflicts. If you are accepted into the company, every effort will be made to schedule around those conflicts. New conflicts must be approved by the Director of Education.

What are the "special events"?

Special events include activities such as opening nights for RHT Mainstage productions, discussions, dress rehearsals, and attendance at other theater companies.

Tell me about Round House.

OUR MISSION: Round House Theatre is a home for outstanding ensemble acting and lifelong learning. We seek to captivate audiences with stories that inspire compassion, provoke emotions, and demand conversation.

Round House is one of the leading professional theaters in the Washington, DC metropolitan area, producing a six-show season of modern classics, new plays, and musicals for more than 40,000 patrons each year at our 400-seat theater in Bethesda. Round House has been nominated for 146 Helen Hayes Awards (including six in 2015) and has won 27 (including three in 2014). Its productions have won "Outstanding Resident Play" four times. Its many innovative education programs encompass Full Day Programs for Youth, including Summer Programs for K-12; a Teen Performance Company, School Outreach, Student Matinees, Play It Forward, and Classes for Adults & Youth.

WHAT DO STUDENTS SAY ABOUT THE SARAH PLAY?

- "The mentorship in the Sarah Play program is beyond belief. Being able to work one-on-one with professionals in *all* facets of the theatrical experience is absolutely life-changing. And to top it off, they treat you like you are serious about theater, and like you know what you're doing, no matter the discipline and no matter your experience. They challenge you, and they push you to give an effort that even you didn't know you could."
- "As an actor in the Sarah Play, this was the first time in my life that I felt successful. Truly successful. This experience has shown me that I can accomplish great things artistically and it made me a believer in my own abilities."
- "It's so incredible to be able to meet these teens from around the greater DC area who are in love with the same thing you are. Some of my best friends have come from the Sarah Play, and these are friends who are now studying theater at schools across the country."
- "It's been the best theater program I've ever done because it doesn't show you one aspect of theater, it shows you every aspect. I did it last year and it was amazing so I did it again this year."

- "You get to meet other high school students who have the same interests as you, you get to see how a play comes together from the ground up and you get to have fun doing what you have a passion for with like-minded peers."
- "I think the Sarah Play's mentorship program is super unique and special. You have access to so many different experienced and helpful professionals from a wide variety of fields, letting you learn about all the different parts that go into producing a play whether it be acting or design or crew work."
- "My involvement with The Sarah Play helped me gain a deeper understanding of the actor's role in professional theater. I thought I knew what it meant to be professional – now I really do!"
- "Directing the Sarah Play has been the most inspiring and exhilarating theatrical experience I have ever had. The Sarah Play is truly one of the best theater programs for students in the country, offering a unique opportunity for students to experiment, learn, and grow. This learning and growth is fostered through the mentors' commitment to the show and to the student team."

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

DIRECTOR, DESIGN (COSTUMES, LIGHTS, AND SOUND), DRAMATURG, STAGE MANAGEMENT, CREW, and PRODUCTION ASSOCIATES:

Download, complete and return the appropriate application. Applications may be returned by email to SarahPlay@RoundHouseTheatre.org or by mail to Round House Theatre Education Center, 925 Wayne Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910. The Early Decision deadline is **June 2, 2016**. To be guaranteed consideration, have your application in by that date.

ACTORS:

Auditions will be held **September 21-24, 2016**. More information on auditions will be available in early September. To receive more information, please email SarahPlay@RoundHouseTheatre.org

Like **RHT Teen Performance Company** on Facebook for updates on all The Sarah Play activity!