



Vagabond Theatre Company's Actin' Up Camp 2020

Vagabond Theatre Company is happy to say that we are gearing up for another year of fun while staying within Manitoba's newest June 21st guidelines for physical distancing and stage performances. With the possibility of guidelines changing quickly, we cannot say for sure that this year's camp will be exactly as it has been in the past, but we will try to make camp the best that it can be.

First, what stays the same?

We will still have drama, dance, and vocal instruction. We will still have the same great food (nut free menu, of course). We still expect each camper to bring their own backpack, stage shoes, and water bottle. And we will still have fun, fun, and more fun, smiles, and laughs!

What's new at Actin' Up Camp 2020?

NEW! ADVANCED ACTING CAMP for participants aged 14 and up. This new trial venture is for youth that want to improve their acting skills, stage movement and vocabulary of the theatre. Our instructor, Jane Neumier, has been on the stage performing for many years as one of our Vagabond alumni and has recently graduated from George Brown College in Toronto, majoring in Acting. She is excited to bring her knowledge of the theatre world to our youth. Please note that the Advanced Acting campers will not be working on a play, but will demonstrate exercises during the Friday performance. A senior camper who would rather stay in the play performance group is welcome to do so.

NEW! TECHNICAL TRAINING CAMP for participants aged 15 and up who don't want to be on the stage and would like to discover the rewarding art of behind-the-scenes theatre. Experience the challenges of lighting a production, hanging microphones, and setting up a sound control system. You will learn not just how things work, but *why* they work--knowledge that you will be able to apply in any theatre setting. Space is limited in this camp so please register early.

Now, let's think about how things might look under the new Manitoba guidelines for camp this year...

In order to maintain our allowable numbers, each group will be no bigger than ten campers.

Acting: The theme of Manitoba's 150th birthday will be woven into the plays this year. Not much has to change in the structure of the rehearsals for the plays, but you will be asked to contribute your own creative ideas!

Music: We are not permitted to have singing during the performance at this time. We will, however, still have vocal instruction...with some twists! Our instructor is trained to teach singing and vocal exercises like speech clarity, breathing exercises, tongue twisters, etc., and each class will learn the music by repetitively listening to the CD tracks. During the performance, the actors may lip-sync to the professional CD.

Dance: If dance is your favourite thing then you will enjoy the many opportunities to include dance in this year's plays. There are no limits to the amount of dancing that we are allowed to perform on the stage!

Performance Day: We will be closely monitoring our indoor seating capacity. If indoor audiences must be limited, we are hoping to offer a live stream of the performance to family and friends that we are not able to accommodate in the theatre or who are in isolation. This will be subject to change and finalized on the first day of camp so family and friends are aware of final performance guidelines.

Our revised plans also include holding classes in designated areas; and training instructors and campers on virus transmission, personal safety, and proper hand-washing and sanitizing techniques. Sanitizing stations will be set up at the entrance to each room with instructions for all to use when entering and exiting the room. Lunch and snack breaks will be moved to the large community hall where there is more room for campers to spread out.

We will email and post updates as things evolve. Every time we ask a government representative about the guidelines they always assure us that things are changing every day!

We understand that part of the fun of *Actin' Up Theatre Camp* is meeting with old friends and making new ones and that will not change. Camp may look a little different, but it will still be fun! We will make it happen!