



CHILDRENS AMATEUR
THEATRE SOCIETY



Information
Pack

for prospective
Members/parents

The Benefits of Youth Theatre...

The benefits identified in research studies include:

- Increased motivation
- Enhanced self-esteem
- The confidence that arises from individual and group problem-solving, risk-taking and high levels of achievement

Young people participating in youth theatre projects learn things about themselves; they learn to co-operate with others, to think independently, to be imaginative and to analyse difficult emotional and moral questions. In the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) "Arts in their View" study, young people give specific examples of ways in which participation in the arts generally helped them to:

- Meet people and make friends
- Broaden the scope of their interests
- Express themselves better
- Learn how to work with others
- Become more open-minded
- Organise themselves better
- Relieve anger and stress

Some benefits are easy for an observer to see. For example, a young person gains confidence as the result of participating in a youth theatre project and moves into employment. Some benefits are more real for participants than for the observer. Friendships are made, different groups within communities develop a greater respect for each other and self-confidence grows within an individual.

What the young people themselves say...

"I really enjoyed it, looking forward to it every Tuesday. So it definitely made a difference in terms of being a great hobby in my teenage years. It was good to have a different social scene other than school. Also it developed confidence in public situations."

"What differences has youth theatre made? Immeasurable - it has affected every aspect of my life for the better."

CATS Youth Theatre Mission Statement:

- *Youth theatre is the most creative, inspiring, dynamic and powerful way of making a difference to a young person's life*
- *We provide a safe, accessible and open forum in which young people can express themselves whilst learning about and making theatre. Our work provides a creative voice whilst building confidence and developing skills*
- *The programme of work belongs to the young people. They own the content of the workshops and the productions from the outset*
- *We believe that theatre by young people should aspire to the highest of standards in terms of both process and product*
- *We want to make theatre, for audiences old and new, that is dynamic, challenging and honest*
- *If you can't be brave when you're young, then when can you?*
- *We are committed to promoting Youth Theatre in the Bolton Area*

Aims and principles...

CATS Youth Theatre (CATS) was formed in 1994 by Louise and Paul Cohen, to provide an education in stage skills and experience in theatrical performance for young people ages between 8 and 21 years.

CATS aims to challenge young people to develop Confidence, Creativity and Consideration for others, in the context of amateur theatre.

CATS is for young people of all races and social backgrounds who are keen to develop their interest in drama and performance in a concentrated way.

Because most CATS members will not go into the professional theatre, CATS aims to teach 'transferable skills' as well as theatre skills. These skills fall into three categories:

- Creativity
- Personal development
- Social development

Creativity

Creativity is about getting ideas, experimenting, and making things that didn't exist before. It can be very exciting. But making a good piece of theatre is hard work. It is the combination of discipline and fun that makes theatre feel like a real achievement when it comes off.

Personal development

CATS aims to help its members to:

- Become confident about speaking and participating in groups both on and off stage
- Discover, or hang onto, the joy of playing and using their imagination
- Explore different ways of thinking and behaving through acting out different characters
- Make wise decisions about their personal lives

Social development

Social skills are approached through:

- Working very closely and co-operatively with the other members at all times
- Exploring issues that affect our society today
- Learning to relate to people who are different from us

CATS Youth Theatre hopes that every member will leave with a store of rich memories that will enhance their personal lives, their careers, and their ability to contribute to society as creative citizens.

CATS is operated as a non-profit making organisation. Revenues are derived from ticket sales, subscriptions from the membership and other fund-raising activities. As anyone who has staged a musical will know, expenditure on performance rights, costumes, lighting, rehearsal facilities etc.... can be extensive, but in the event of surplus revenue all funds are re-invested in the society.

CATS Youth Theatre has a constitution and a Child Protection Policy, and guidelines for members. These are detailed in the Handbook which you will receive if/when your child becomes a member.

STRUCTURE OF THE SOCIETY

***CATS was founded in 1994 by Paul and Louise Cohen with a membership of 10!
We currently have over 100 members spread across two groups—quite an increase!! In 2003 Louise and Paul were awarded the GMDF "Muriel Goodwin" Trophy in recognition of their "outstanding contribution to Youth Theatre".***

Junior Group

This group consists of children under the age of 14 years. The aims of the group are to:-

- 1) teach theatre skills, dance and singing;
- 2) increase confidence
- 3) teach stage discipline
- 4) enable members to learn new skills and achieve their potential in a non-threatening environment.
- 5) Provide the opportunity for members to demonstrate their skills through performance.

Junior Group members may be involved in a Senior Group production through auditioning, and then after the production they would go back into the Juniors.

Once they are 13 years old, members of the Junior Group may be auditioned for permanent membership in the Senior Group if they are considered to possess the ability, experience and stage discipline to enable them to cope with the demands of the Senior group. In this audition they will be required to sing, dance, perform a rehearsed piece and perform a spontaneous improvisation.

Senior Group

This group consists of members aged 13 and over, and/or more experienced members. The aims of this group are to :-

- 1) provide the opportunity for members to practise and further develop their skills through more challenging workshops
- 2) provide the opportunity for members to demonstrate their skills through performance

Membership of the Senior Group will be gained by audition only.

*Both groups meet on Tuesday evening at Theatre Church,
Seymour Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton*

Juniors: 7.00pm—8.30pm

Seniors: 7.00pm—9.00pm

£1 per week

£7 per calendar month



LAMDA

CATS Youth Theatre offers the opportunity to its members to take LAMDA Acting examinations. LAMDA is accredited as an Awarding Body by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) in England. LAMDA Examinations are part of the National Qualifications Framework. Therefore, they will be useful for CVs for anyone intending studying drama at a higher level.

They are also useful to members by helping them to:

- Unlock the imagination
- Develop communication skills
- Refine technical artistry

Further details are available in the handbook.

Greater Manchester Drama Federation (GMDF):

CATS Youth Theatre is a member of G.M.D.F. (Greater Manchester Drama Federation). A representative from this association comes to watch the Senior Group productions, provides written feedback (including a character analysis) and this review is then an entry into the Annual GMDF Theatre Festival.

National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA):

CATS Youth Theatre is affiliated to the above association.

The Society regularly receive a copy of the NODA Magazine which covers amateur theatre in the whole of the North West of England, including:

- a) Reviews of amateur shows in the North West of England
- b) Adverts for amateur shows
- c) Information about NODA Summer School
- d) Information about NODA workshops

The Regional Representative will attend shows and write a review for inclusion in the NODA North West magazine if invited to do so.

Bolton Amateur Theatre Societies (BATS):

CATS Youth Theatre is a member of BATS. BATS is made up of 22 societies, who meet every two months to discuss matters relating to the presentation of amateur theatre in Bolton.

Past Productions:

"Kids Stuff"	November 1994
"Kids R Us"	November 1995
"Top Cats"	June 1996
"Babes In The Wood"	February 1997
"Snow White and The Seven Dwarves"	November 1997
"The Wizard Of Oz"	November 1998
"Puss In Boots"	November 1999
"Our Day Out"	May 2000
"A Festival Of Music And Drama" (Amateur Community Theatre)	September 2000
"Showtime Spectacular"	September 2000
"An Evening Of Music And Drama"	April 2001
"FAME! The Musical"	May 2001
"An Festival Of Music And Drama" (Amateur Community Theatre)	November 2001
"Godspell"	November 2001
"A Chorus Line"	April 2002
"A Slice Of Saturday Night"	November 2002
"Razzle Dazzle" - A Musical Revue	May 2003
"Honk"	November 2003
"Oklahoma"	May 2004
"Jesus Christ Superstar"	November 2004
"West Side Story"	May 2005
"Les Miserables" School Edition	November 2005
"Disco Inferno"	May 2006
"Anything Goes"	November 2006
"We Will Rock You"	May 2007
"Children Of Eden"	November 2007
"Jekyll and Hyde"	May 2008
"Back To The 80's"	November 2008
"Godspell"	May 2009
"Just So"	November 2009
"Sweeney Todd"	May 2010
"The Wiz"	November 2010

C.A.T.S. on the Web!

Visit our website at :
www.catsyouththeatre.org



CATS Youth Theatre

NOMINATIONS AND AWARDS

G MDF Nomination 2001/2002 Originality: "Godspell"

G MDF Nomination 2001/2002 Best Female Performer (Youth)

Elizabeth Oakes ("Godspell"/"A Chorus Line")

G MDF Award 2001/2002 Certificate of Promise (Youth)

Elizabeth Oakes (Cassie in "A Chorus Line" and Joanne in "Godspell")

G MDF Award 2002/2003 Best Youth Production:

"A Slice Of Saturday Night"

G MDF Award 2002/2003 Muriel Goodwin Trophy

For Outstanding Contribution to Youth Theatre

G MDF Nomination 2002/2003 Best Director

Louise Cohen ("A Slice Of Saturday Night")

G MDF Nomination 2002/2003 Best Male Performer (Youth)

Jonathan Cunliffe for Eric in "A Slice of Saturday Night"

G MDF Award 2003/2003 Certificate of Promise:

Jonathan Cunliffe for Eric in "A Slice of Saturday Night"

NODA Nomination: Best Youth Production (North West)

For "A Slice of Saturday Night" 2002/3

G MDF Award Best Youth Actor (Geoffrey Kellett Cup)

Daniel Whitehead for Bullfrog in "Honk!"/Ali Hakim in "Oklahoma!" 2003/4

NODA Award: Best Youth Production (North West)

Joint Winners for "Jesus Christ Superstar" 2004/5

G MDF Nomination 2004/2005 Certificate of Promise:

Robert Flitcroft for Bernardo in "West Side Story"

G MDF Award 2004/2005 Certificate of Promise

Jonathan Cunliffe for Pilate in "Jesus Christ Superstar"

G MDF Nomination 2004/2005 Certificate of Promise

Carolina Garcia-Cox for Mary Magdalene in "Jesus Christ Superstar"

G MDF Nomination 2004/2005 Best Youth Actor (Geoffrey Kellett Cup)

Daniel Whitehead for Tony in "West Side Story"

NODA Nomination: Best Youth Production (North West)

For "Les Miserables" 2005/6

G MDF Nomination 2005/2006 Best Female Performance (Youth) June Leech Trophy

Lucy Telleck for Cosette in "Les Miserables"

G MDF Award 2005/2006 Best Youth Actor (Geoffrey Kellett Cup)

Daniel Whitehead for Valjean in "Les Miserables"

G MDF Nomination 2005/2006 Best Youth Actor (Geoffrey Kellett Cup)

Joshua Little for Jack in "Disco Inferno"

G MDF Nomination 2005/2006 Certificate of Promise

Liz Baxendale for Maggie in "Disco Inferno"

G MDF Nomination 2005/2006 Certificate of Promise

Louise Davenport for Eponine in "Les Miserables"

G MDF Award 2005/6 Certificate of Promise

Robert Flitcroft for Marius in "Les Miserables"

G MDF Nomination 2005/2006 Best Musical Direction (Ronald Ashworth Trophy)

Jennie Allcock, Louise Cohen & David Bamford for "Disco Inferno"

G MDF Award 2005/2006 Best Director (Wyn Davis Trophy)

Louise Cohen for "Les Miserables"

G MDF Award 2005/2006 Best Youth Production

"Les Miserables"

CATS Youth Theatre

NOMINATIONS AND AWARDS CONTINUED...

G MDF Award 2006/7 Best Supporting Actor

Gareth Cunliffe—"Lord Evelyn" in Anything Goes (Certificate of Promise)

G MDF Nomination 2006/7 Best Supporting Youth Actress

Lucy Telleck—"Reno Sweeney" in Anything Goes

G MDF Nomination 2006/7 Best Youth Actress

Liz Baxendale—"Hope" in Anything Goes

G MDF Nomination 2006/7 Best Supporting Youth Actor

Danny Whitehead—"Moonface Martin" in Anything Goes

G MDF Nomination 2006/7 Best Youth Show—"Anything Goes"

G MDF Award 2006/7 Best Youth Actress—June Leech Trophy

Rebecca McLean—"Scaramouche" in We Will Rock You

G MDF Award 2006/7 Best Youth Actor (Geoffrey Kellet Cup)

Danny Whitehead—"Galileo" in We Will Rock You

G MDF Nomination 2006/7 Best Supporting Youth Actress

Emma Gilbertson—"Meat" in We Will Rock You

G MDF Nomination 2006/7 Best Youth Show—"We Will Rock You"

NODA Award: Best Youth Production (North West)

For "Children Of Eden" 2007/8

G MDF Nomination 2007/8 Best Costume Design for "Jekyll & Hyde"

G MDF Nomination 2007/8 Best Technical Presentation for "Children Of Eden"

G MDF Nomination 2007/8 Best Youth Show—"Jekyll & Hyde"

G MDF Award 2007/8 Best Youth Show—"Children Of Eden"

G MDF Award 2007/8 Best Musical Director

Jennie Allcock—"Children Of Eden"

G MDF Nomination 2007/8 Best Youth Actress—June Leech Trophy

Rebecca McLean—"Eve/Mama Noah" in Children Of Eden

G MDF Nomination 2007/8 Best Supporting Youth Actress

Danielle Hayes—"Yonah" in Children Of Eden

G MDF Nomination 2007/8 Best Director

Louise Cohen for "Children Of Eden"

G MDF Nomination 2007/8 Best Supporting Youth Actor

Matthew Howard-Norman for "John Utterson" in Jekyll & Hyde

G MDF Nomination 2007/8 Best Youth Actor (Geoffrey Kellet Cup)

Matthew Gavin—"Adam/Noah" in Children Of Eden

G MDF Award 2007/8 Best Youth Actor (Geoffrey Kellet Cup)

Danny Whitehead—"Jekyll and Hyde" in Jekyll and Hyde

NODA Nomination : Best Youth Production (North West)

For "Jekyll and Hyde" 2008/9

G MDF Award 2008/09: Best Youth Production—Godspell

BOLTON NEWS: Best Youth Production 2008/09—Godspell



I want to join...what happens now?

If you have decided you would like to become a member of C.A.T.S. Youth Theatre, you need to complete the **"APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP"** form which is included in this pack, and return it to Louise and Paul at the address stated.


Your details will then be registered, and your name will be entered on the waiting list.

Members will be taken into the Junior Group as and when places become available. You will be contacted to be offered a place and given a start date as soon as one comes available.

Admission to the Senior Group is gained by audition only. When there are places available, people on the waiting list will be invited to audition. Information will be sent out about this nearer the time. Auditions will usually take place around the months of June and December each year, and will take place at Theatre Church. If you audition for the Senior Group and are not successful, you will be given the option to remain on the waiting list and re-audition at the next set of auditions. Please note that the number of places available will vary at each set of auditions.

NB:

If there are places available in the Junior Group and you are under the age of 14, you may be offered a place in this group if you are not successful in your audition for the Senior Group. You may then re-audition at the next set of auditions.





C.A.T.S. Youth Theatre
73 Smethurst Lane, Middle Hulton, Bolton, BL3 3QJ
Tel: 01204 659199 Mobile: 07947 681320
Email: info@catsyouththeatre.org Web: www.catsyouththeatre.org



Affiliated to NODA (National Operatic and Dramatic Association)
Member of BATS (Bolton Amateur Theatre Societies)
Member of GMDF (Greater Manchester Drama Federation)

Bolton
Amateur
Theatre
Societies

**Based at Theatre Church, Seymour Rd,
Astley Bridge, Bolton**



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

NAME:

ADDRESS:

POSTCODE:

TELEPHONE NUMBER: (.....).....

DATE OF BIRTH:/...../.....

PAST EXPERIENCE (IF ANY):

HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT C.A.T.S.?

Please return this form to:
Paul and Louise Cohen
73 Smethurst Lane
Middle Hulton
Bolton
BL3 3QJ