

National Festival of Youth Theatres 2022 Information for Parents/Guardians

What is the National Festival of Youth Theatres?

The National Festival of Youth Theatres is an annual event for Irish youth theatres and is organised by Youth Theatre Ireland. This year, thirteen youth theatres from all over the country will take part. Each youth theatre can bring up to eight members, aged 12 and over, and must send two adult leaders to accompany them. This year the festival is taking place Tuesday 5 July to Friday 9 July in Kilkenny.

What will my young person do during the Festival?

Participants will spend their days in workshops exploring different aspects of drama and developing new skills. Social activities will be organised for each evening. It is a great opportunity for youth theatre members to meet like-minded young people from other groups all over the country. The emphasis is on enjoyment and learning.

Where is the National Festival of Youth Theatres held?

The venue for the festival is Kilkenny College. Accommodation is in the form of small dorm rooms. Males and females will be in separate dorms. Leaders will be situated close by for supervisory purposes. All meals will be provided and served on site, and all the activities will take place in the College.

What is the cost to attend the National Festival of Youth Theatres?

Youth Theatre Ireland believes that all youth theatre members should be able to participate in its events and therefore there is no cost for young people to take part in the festival. We cover the cost of workshops, food, and accommodation. We don't cover the cost of travel for groups to and from Kilkenny. We will be bringing a professional theatre production to the Festival and will have a Festival t-shirt for each participant. The combined cost of the t-shirt and attending the theatre performance is €10 per participant. We will cover the cost for anyone who has difficulty paying this. If this is the case, please talk to your son/daughter's youth theatre leader and they can let us know.

What will my young person need to bring to the Festival?

Participants will need to bring:

- Loose comfortable clothing for workshops
- At least one towel. All bedding is provided.
- A plate and mug if they like tea/toast in the evening.
- Although most activities are indoors, it is wise to be prepared for both good and bad weather. So, raingear or an umbrella but also sun cream (fingers crossed for good weather!).
- There will not to be too many opportunities to spend money but there is a shop near the venue so some spending money for snacks may be advisable.
- We would discourage participants from bringing valuables. There are lockers beside nearly all the beds in the dorms. If participants want to make these secure, they must bring their own lock and key.

What do I need to do?

- We ask that you facilitate your young person's full participation in the festival. To get the full benefit of the programme, they need attend for the full duration from Tuesday 5 July to Friday 9 July.
- If they are aged under 18, we need your consent for their participation. Please complete the Participant Information and Parental Consent Form provided to you by the youth theatre with all relevant information relating to your young person, i.e. any medical requirements or details of any condition that may affect their participation in the festival so we can ensure that they are fully supported and have the best possible experience at the Festival. As a result of the new GDPR regulation that came into effect in May 2018, you must also provide the youth theatre with consent to use your young person's personal data for the purposes stated on the Parental Consent Form.
- Please ensure that your son/daughter has an adequate supply of any medication they need.
- We also ask that you give both the youth theatre and Youth Theatre Ireland permission to use images/video footage. We will use these images for promoting the festival and for archival purposes and manage them in line with our Use of Images Policy.

What is Youth Theatre Ireland?

Youth Theatre Ireland is the national development organisation for youth theatre. We support a network of youth theatres who deliver year-round programmes of drama workshops and performance opportunities to young people aged 12 - 21 from cities, towns and villages across Ireland.

Established in 1980, Youth Theatre Ireland is unique in its commitment to youth-centered drama practice. At Youth Theatre Ireland, we know that youth theatre is a place to develop young artists and young citizens and we promote youth drama opportunities that focus on the artistic, personal and social development of young people

YOUTH THEATRE IRELAND PROMOTES:

- drama as a medium for learning and as a means of expression for young people
- the advancement of the artistic, personal and social development of young people through drama and performance related skills
- youth theatre as a medium to extend and enhance young people's understanding of theatre as an artform
- the emergence and development of youth theatres in Ireland

WE ARE GUIDED BY THE FOLLOWING CORE VALUES:

- Commitment to quality in provision and experience for all young people
- Commitment to equality of participation for all young people
- We ensure our work is young person-centred and that the voice of young people is represented in all aspects of the work of the organisation
- We ensure a balance between the values of artistic quality and youth participation

What about Child Safeguarding?

Youth Theatre Ireland is committed to safeguarding the wellbeing of all young people who participate on our programmes. We meet the requirements of the Children First Act 2015 and have developed a Child Safeguarding Statement. We also have a comprehensive Child Safeguarding Policy based on *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children*, published by the Department of Children 2017. To view a copy of our Child Safeguarding Statement, visit the [welfare-child-protection](#) section on our website

How can I get in touch with Youth Theatre Ireland?

Youth Theatre Ireland welcomes feedback from both participants on our programmes and their parents/guardians. If you want to talk to us about any aspect of your young person's participation, please contact Eoghan Doyle, Director of Youth Theatre Ireland, by telephone on 01-8781301 or email eoghan@youththeatre.ie.

We look forward to welcoming your young person to the Festival. If previous years are anything to go by, they will come away with new theatre skills and lifelong memories!

