

## National Festival of Youth Theatres 2023

Kilkenny College, Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July.

Be part of the year's biggest gathering of youth theatres in Ireland!

*The youth theatre has gained so much from learning new skills to making new friends. It was great to be involved in such a brilliant Festival and we hope to come back next year!* - Leader, participating Youth Theatre

*I feel that this week really taught me to believe in myself and I'm now realising I can do anything I set my mind to.*

- Participant



The National Festival is a unique experience. It will provide your members with a fantastic opportunity to learn new skills, work with specialist facilitators and get to know young people from youth theatres all around the country. It will be full-on and a lot of fun!

The National Festival is the largest gathering of youth theatres in Ireland. It offers 5 days of activities: including specialist core workshops, roving skills workshops, leaders' activities, social activities and the sharing of short devised pieces with other participants. The programme is designed to help young people develop theatre skills and friendships within a supportive, creative community. For youth theatre leaders, it also offers the opportunity to build relationships with your own youth theatre members, other youth theatres and engage with the leaders' programme of activities.

The programme for the National Festival 2023 is still on the drawing board (but is shaping up nicely!) and the timetable will be issued to successful groups in April. If you have any queries ahead of that please contact [Joanne@youththeatre.ie](mailto:Joanne@youththeatre.ie) Please note that youth theatres are not required to bring performances and participating groups will be informed in April if they are required to bring anything particular to the festival this year.

Join us in Kilkenny for the #bestweekever

## The Details

- 12 youth theatres can participate.
- The Festival is open to youth theatre members aged 12+.
- Each participating youth theatre should bring 8 participants.
- Each youth theatre must bring two leaders who have been vetted in advance of the festival. These leaders will be responsible for the welfare of the group. The gender of the leaders should reflect the gender mix in the group (e.g. if you have a mixed group, you should have one male, one female leader). Leaders should be aged over 21. (If there is a situation where a group has a very experienced leader aged over 21 and another leader aged 20, who has demonstrable experience in a leadership role, this may be acceptable subject to certain conditions. Contact Joanne on 01-8781301 or [joanne@youththeatre.ie](mailto:joanne@youththeatre.ie) for more information).
- You should also **have an additional vetted leader on standby** in case of illness or emergency. All participating youth theatres must have 2 leaders at all times at the Festival. If a group cannot provide two leaders, the group will not be able to attend.
- At least one leader per youth theatre must be available to attend an online Information session on the 20<sup>th</sup> of April from 4-6pm.
- Accommodation is in dorm rooms. Please note: this is also the case for leader accommodation

## How Much Does It Cost?

Youth Theatre Ireland believes that all young people should be able to participate in our programmes, so there is no participation fee. We provide accommodation, meals and the activity programme. We ask youth theatres to pay €5 per participant for a Festival t-shirt and €5 per young person for a live theatre performance during the Festival.

Youth theatres are responsible for their travel to and from Kilkenny. Youth theatres leaders at the festival may be there in a paid or voluntary capacity. We would encourage youth theatres to fundraise for these additional costs or include them within their youth theatre's budget for the year. It's important to Youth Theatre Ireland that any costs that are passed on to young people are not presented as a participation fee set by our organisation for taking part in the Festival. If you're thinking of fundraising, have a look [here](#) for some ideas that work.

## How Does My Youth Theatre Apply?

To apply for the National Festival of Youth Theatres 2023, complete the Expression of Interest Form [here](#) by the **22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2023**.

## How Are Groups Selected?

We expect a high level of interest and we may not be able to offer places to all youth theatres that wish to take part! If Youth Theatre Ireland needs to select participating youth theatres, we will use the following criteria:

- We will prioritise youth theatres that have not been to the festival before or have not been in a few years
- We will prioritise youth theatres that have the capacity to participate (e.g. provide 2 leaders, complete administration for festival etc.)
- We will prioritise youth theatres that are planning to send 8 young people who have not been to the festival previously
- We will try to ensure a regional spread of participating youth theatres
- We will try to ensure there's a mix of experience amongst the youth theatres and leaders at the festival

Youth theatres that have submitted an expression of interest by the deadline will be contacted on or before Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> March to let them know if they will be attending. More information will be provided to participating groups after this date.

If you have any further questions or queries in relation to the National Festival of Youth Theatres please contact [joanne@youththeatre.ie](mailto:joanne@youththeatre.ie)