



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF YOUTH THEATRE?

Youth Drama offers personal development, self-esteem, self-reliance, self-worth, confidence, responsibility, heightened awareness, deeper consciousness, better and broader social skills, tolerance, understanding, friendship, romance, community development, group dynamic, cross-cultural exchange, collective identity, transformation, transcendentalism... an enhanced vocabulary, with lots of clapping; artistic expression and dishwashing, acting, dancing, singing, and floor-sweeping, set-building and carpet painting, lighting design and ceiling reconstruction, public disorder and general mayhem...

–Paul Mercier, Playwright

We asked youth theatre members and leaders from across the country to identify the positive outcomes of youth theatre participation. The benefits most identified reflect artistic, social and personal development.

THE ARTISTIC BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN YOUTH THEATRE

- Increased theatre skills
- Increased appreciation of theatre and the arts
- Increased creativity
- Improved workshop skills
- Progression to third-level drama and theatre training and professional theatre

Youth theatre is about learning new theatrical skills and developing old ones. Youth theatre, to me, is about pushing yourself, sometimes just outside your comfort zone in order to learn and produce pieces of art.

–Member, Manorhamilton Youth Theatre

THE SOCIAL AND PERSONAL BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

- Increased levels of confidence and self-esteem
- Increased numbers of friends and an increased ability to make friends
- A more developed sense of personal and group identity
- A sense of belonging
- Increased self-discipline and commitment
- Improved abilities to articulate and express feelings and opinions
- A sense of happiness, fun and well-being
- Increased levels of activity
- A sense of personal and group achievement
- Increased understanding and knowledge of relevant issues
- Increased ability to take risks and be spontaneous within a safe environment
- A sense of empowerment
- A sense of escape and relaxation

Youth theatre is a place where I feel like I can be myself, without worrying about people judging me. It's a place to make friends while learning about something I love.

—Member, Co. Carlow Youth Theatre