



Theatre & Kids

...a dramatic
combination!

June 28 thru August 6

Summer 2010 Performing Arts Camps

TWENTY-FIVE FANTASTIC YEARS!

OUR PHILOSOPHY

It has been over 25 years since Will and Suzy Liegel first discovered the magical combination of children and the performing arts. Certainly, anyone at any age can appreciate a show or theatrical training, but especially a **KID**. How?

Theatre training encourages children –

...to learn to take risks in a positive environment and be willing to try new things. To stretch themselves and expand on what they already know, developing self-confidence all the while!

...to develop personal discipline. Learning lines, working on a scene as a team, conquering a difficult mime exercise...These teach children to set goals and to meet them.

...to develop skills in observation, concentration, imagination and creativity. They get in touch with the world around them and can then create a world of their own on stage.

...to understand that it is possible to work very hard and still have fun the whole time!

With these ideas in mind, the Liegels with **Theatre & Kids** have designed a summer camp program that has delighted thousands and thousands of young people and their parents.

The program is diverse and rich with lots of enthusiasm, challenges and plain ol' "camp fun." Every year, we gather a great group of campers who have a blast, learn lots and make friends and memories to last a lifetime.

STAFF

Suzy and Will Liegel are the directors of **On Stage & Off** and **Theatre & Kids** and its summer camp program.

Will has performed for over 50 years throughout the United States and Canada and has appeared in over 700 theatrical productions. He holds a degree in communication arts and a Masters Degree in Education and has taught at Grove City College, Drexel University, Oak Lane Day School and is currently English Department Chair and Drama Director at Phil-Mont Academy. He has directed dozens of shows at area elementary and secondary schools, is much in demand as a theatrical consultant and advisor, and directs T&K's thriving children's theatre program throughout the year.

Susan is a certified elementary teacher and has taught children's dance and music for over 20 years. She has designed many children's educational programs, is a popular speaker on child rearing and adoption topics and studied under Robert Hamilton of the Philadelphia Boys Choir. Currently she is a director of music at a local church, co-directs the award-winning Cantabile Choir program and is director of music grades K-12 at Phil-Mont Academy. Together, Will and Suzy "parented" their brood of ten children ages 19 – 33 and now delight in three grandbabies!

While there may be some minor changes in our staffing of 30+ from last season, we are confident in saying that all of our accomplished T&K teachers are **FIRST** concerned with our campers as growing children and **THEN** concerned with their growth as performers. Teaching is age-appropriate and personal as well as creative, exciting and diverse.

This year we are delighted to welcome back **Mike Macartney** of Penn State, a true treasure to those who enjoy music and song. Our experienced Drama Teacher Team of 8 is headed by U. of Arts grad and actor **Randall J. Moyer** along with four college drama aides, bringing along large amounts of training in both education and theater and a genuine love for young people. Dancers and performers **Betsy C. Falk** (DeSales Univ.) and **Matthew Olson** (Fr3sh hip-hop team) bring experience in ballet, tap, funk, pointe, modern and Broadway forms "to the fore". Camp dance classes become exciting, stretching experiences for every division. **Will and Suzy Liegel** will be directing daily and assistant directing will be North Penn teacher **Lauren Jones**, a Master's grad of Lehigh University. Mix in two dozen other teachers, directors, artists, dancers, writers, educators, technicians and administrative staff from a dozen performing arts universities and we have a ratio of 1 to 5 staff to students, with each class being able to have a full time instructor and aide.

OPENING AND CLOSING SESSIONS

Each day begins and ends with the whole camp gathered together. We begin each morning with aerobics to warm up sleepy bodies and accent rhythm, coordination and team-building. Each day there is a different "behind the scenes" accent (costuming, lighting, makeup, etc.) and campers learn the vocabulary of theatre (leko, blocking, hitting your mark, proscenium, etc.). There's lots of laughter as students share improv with one another, dress to support our theme, meet guests or win prizes for props, behavior, courage or costumes. Our morning closing session is full of music and kids sharing scenes and songs they've been working on in classes. Amazingly, both older and younger students delight in these varied, challenging, personal times.

MORNING CLASSES

The camp is divided into four age groups and then into ten small classes which move through a series of carefully designed group camp activities and three 40-minute classes in music/singing, drama/acting, and dance/movement.

Dance – Jazz, street funk, ballet, creative motion, choreography, working with dance props, basic musical comedy steps, movement exercises, pantomime, body language, and dance videos challenge the novice and reinforce the experienced.

Drama – Improvisation, storytelling, voice production and projection, concentration, imagination drills, script reading, blocking, prop usage, comic timing, and drama videos combine at every grade level for these exciting sessions. (These classes usually have ten or less students for lots of personal stage time.)

Music – Rhythm, warm-ups, note reading, beat patterns, part-singing, vocal production and projection, pitch matching, opera background, musical theatre history, great songs from great shows, and video scenes make music come alive!

Dividing the children by age allows for each group to move at an appropriate pace and to go as far as possible. For example, the youngest children do very little reading and accent storytelling and improvisational pieces. Older campers are able to tackle difficult scenes from major plays. Our experience has been that kids of all backgrounds benefit from the program. If they've had no theatrical classes or experience, our "start from the beginning" approach brings everyone on board right away. If they've had training, the uniqueness of our program challenges them and the accent upon basics retrains, breaks bad habits and stretches everyone. However, in all our camp activities and afternoon electives, kids interact with others of ALL ages!

THIS YEAR'S MORNING THEMES

While we do lots of music and warm-ups from a wide variety of sources and time periods, we try to help the campers to focus a bit and grow in their general musical knowledge by choosing camp music themes to draw their attention. This year we've selected another pair of super accents:

Camp I – (June 28 to July 16) "**The Golden Age of Disney**" Walt Disney forever changed the motion picture industry with his introduction of the full-length animated feature. Classics like Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Pinocchio, Sleeping Beauty and Cinderella were hits in their time and remain classics today. Session I will study the music and style of these well-loved films.

Camp II – (July 19 to August 6) "**Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber**" Andrew Lloyd Webber is a giant in the world of the musical theatre, with such smash hits as The Phantom of the Opera, Cats, Sunset Boulevard, Evita and Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. His music is beautiful and timeless and loved by theatre-goers world-wide. Join us as we explore the soaring tunes and deep emotions of Andrew Lloyd Webber!

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

Campers get to choose from over **36 electives** to accent their interests and abilities. Taught by specially provided leaders, workshops and classes may include puppetry, writing, show choir, set and costume design, stage make-up, stage combat, special FX, street funk, play writing, clowning, poster art, vocal jazz, ballet, one-act production, video production, claymation and more.

VIDEOS AND GUESTS

Every class will include some carefully chosen video clips and visitors to accent discussions and lessons. **Music Class** has included opera clips, rare sound tracks, working concert artists and instrumentalists. **Drama Class** has featured Broadway performers from Joseph Papp's *Shakespeare in the Park*, Steve Burns in pre-Blues Clues days, videos of current Broadway shows and teachers from area colleges. **Dance Class** has brought live percussionists, folk dancers, State Champion gymnasts and ballroom dancers. Some of our "ALL CAMP SPECIALS" have included a live petting zoo, improv teams, puppeteers and more! In addition, both of our **T&K Summer Caravan Road Shows** make a visit to camp and do a full performance. This year, it's two crowd pleasers – *Pinnocchio and Goldilocks and the Three Bears*.

DEMONSTRATION / PERFORMANCE

The **last Thursday evening** of each three-week camp will bring a special opportunity for the campers to show what they've learned to an appreciative audience. Family and friends come at 6PM to see afternoon electives in intimate spaces and then all are invited to see the entire camp demonstrate some of the basics necessary to become a fine performer as they perform scenes, songs and dances in the main auditorium. Refreshments are served and anyone may attend at no charge.

SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAMS

The **Theatre & Kids Camp** is a year-round program run under the over-arching title "**On Stage & Off, Inc.**" Campers stay involved with their teachers and peers by attending shows for children done by adults or taking a class at the high school through the on-going spring or fall **Saturday Morning Performing Arts Academy**. We also produce four to six full-length plays for young performers, in three graded levels from 3rd grade to college -- **Pirates of Penzance, Charlotte's Web, Seussical, The Wiz, You Can't Take it With You, Once on this Island,** and **How to Eat Like a Child** -- are just a few of our previous triumphs.

SPECIAL CAMPERS

Our experience has shown that mildly handicapped students benefit greatly from our program and add to the team experience of everyone involved. Physically disabled, educationally challenged, hyperactive and behaviorally disturbed children have all participated in our camp and have done well. Teachers are trained to bring them into a total camp experience and we will gladly discuss a specific situation or problem.

PARTY DAYS

The final Friday of each camp is a blow-out costume party with games, contests, prizes and awards. Campers get to say "good bye" to the special friends and sign camp yearbooks - and with food and fun in abundance, a good time is had by all. In addition, camp features Special Accent Days, 50s Day, International Day, Hat Day and still other specials to go along with our chosen themes and music.

SHOW CAMP

Each August, T&K presents two show camps for students grades 3-9 and grades 9-12. In just two well-planned and exciting weeks (9AM to 4PM), three dozen young performers learn an entire Broadway musical and present it at one of our areas most interesting theater venues. Past shows have included versions of **The Music Man, Dear Edwina and Bye Bye Birdie** and the final product is always polished and professional. Ask for individual materials for this year's show, **Schoolhouse Rock, Live! Jr.**

LOCATION

The partnership between **Theatre & Kids** and the North Penn Community Education Program enables our summer camp to be held in the spacious facilities of Pennbrook Middle School.

Located at North Wales Road and Hancock Street in North Wales, the air-conditioned classrooms, large indoor spaces, enormous auditorium, outdoor areas and available hot lunches provide the perfect setting for summer fun and learning.

DAILY SCHEDULE

Note: Grades 1 to 9 – a.m. or a.m./p.m. sessions

A.M. Schedule

- 8:45 – 9:00** Campers arrive. (**Please not before 8:45 a.m.**)
- 9:00 – 9:30** **OVERTURE** (opening session including daily topic, aerobics, singing)
- 9:30 – 10:10** **ACT ONE** (1st class sessions meeting simultaneously)
- 10:10 – 10:50** **INTERMISSION** (snack time; snacks vary daily. Then group sessions with whole camp meeting together for videos, guest presentations, demonstrations)
- 10:50 – 11:30** **ACT TWO** (2nd class sessions meeting simultaneously)
- 11:30 – 12:10** **ACT THREE** (3rd class sessions meeting simultaneously)
- 12:10 – 12:30** **FINALE** (closing session, sharing a day's activities, wrap up)
- 12:30 – 12:45** Campers depart (**Please not after 12:45 p.m.**)

P.M. Schedule

- 12:30 – 1:10** **Lunch** – Campers will need to carry their own lunch to camp.
- 1:10 – 1:35** **Recreation** – Organized recreation and supervised free time. Aides and staff will provide creative and enthusiastic fun and games.
- 1:35 – 2:20** **Workshop I** Each camper will be able to choose three workshop electives from 36 offerings
- 2:20 – 3:05** **Workshop II** .
- 3:05 – 3:15** **Snack Time**
- 3:15 – 4:00** **Workshop III**
- 4:00 – 4:15** **Departure (Please, not after 4:30 p.m.)**

FINANCES

We are aware of the pressures on today's families, so T&K Camp remains one of the best bargains of the summer. Compared to other arts camps in the area, we offer a much more comprehensive program for a much lower price. With the economic uncertainty facing the country, we have only raised our prices 4% over the past two year's price. We want to keep everyone coming back!"

\$100 deposit (includes \$25 nonrefundable registration fee)
\$420 / 3 weeks a.m. only \$760 / 6 weeks a.m. only
\$760 / 3 weeks a.m./p.m. \$1,325 / 6 weeks a.m./p.m.

\$25 discount if registered by April 1 10% sibling discount

Payments: Balance due by June 14 (Camp I) or July 5 (Camp II).

Camp Scholarships: We want to make the joy of T&K camp available to as many children as possible; therefore, we do offer scholarship assistance for each camp session. Those interested in financial aid should send a letter with an explanation of the situation. No tax forms or financial specifics are required. Call for further information (**215-858-9528**).

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AND – OUR AMAZING APPRENTICE PROGRAM!

Theatre & Kids wants to take kids as far as possible in their training and experience. Therefore, we have an apprentice program which includes young people in grades 10-12, who are now beyond our ninth grade cutoff. The Cream of the Crop are offered a special opportunity to work in one of three "tracks" with special teachers: **Education, Tech, and Performance**. They have special "behind the scenes" duties, produce their own musical talent showcase, and spend a full day touring NYC and attending a live Broadway show! The season is capped off by a wonderful Night of One Acts where serious drama or riotous modern comedy join for a great evening of more mature performance.

Interested young people should contact **Theatre & Kids** immediately! The price for one camp is only \$450 (either Camp I or II), and only \$725 for the entire summer experience.*** They can choose from the entire range of afternoon electives and work side by side with older campers and younger staff. Last season over 40 apprentices enjoyed the program and added to their weekday experience with Saturday ball games with staff, movie nights and trips to area shows and concerts. Under Apprentice Director **Evie Cook**, they really do become a family.

The spaces for our apprentice participants are limited and all must have previous performance or technical experience in school or the community. This program is also the "training ground" for future aides and assistant staffers. Contact us early with your resume and application and perhaps you can be a part of the adventure. What a great way to spend a summer!

***Apprentices who are new to our program will need to arrange for a personal interview.

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