

Mixed Age Group Classes:

Acting/Writing: Pixar Power (5th-8th)

We may know and love Pixar for its amazing movies and stories like *Toy Story*, *Coco*, and *Monsters Inc* among others. However, they're also known for nurturing the next generation of storytellers and creators through their short animation film series. We'll look at several examples from Pixar, and use their principles to create our own original works. In the Pixar world, anything and anyone can make and create a story. Toys and cars can talk and have feelings... and also feelings have.... Well, feelings. It's a world where creativity is endless and real-world rules need not apply. We'll also learn how to craft our own stories into something worth telling in a script format. And to build up our acting skills, we'll be using scripts and scenes from actual Pixar movies to practice our performance, memorization, and acting chops. Part writing, part performing, this class is pure Pixar fun! And of COURSE, we'll be playing plenty of theatre and ensemble games as a part of our process.

Skills Focus:

- Developing ideas into a story and refining the work
- Creative collaboration and group work
- Acting scenes and performing scripts
- Working to write and create original scripts and stories
- Using the everyday as inspiration and creativity
- Ensemble building and problem-solving

Intro to Dance & Creating Choreography (5th-8th)

Welcome, all dancers/movers and storytellers! This class is designed to give you confidence as you perform and assert yourself as a dancer (or mover). Whether you are new to dance or a more seasoned dancer, we want to meet each student where they are at and increase their skills and confidence. We will explore various physical warm-ups and drills as well as musical theatre and dance vocabulary and terminology. We will break down some of the basic foundational dance steps and then work to build a choreography sequence. AND we will introduce how to see and communicate a choreography vision

into reality. We'll work together to take some pieces of music and create an original vision, choreography, and dance steps for them. The goal is to give students some building blocks and then permission to fly creatively. Let's dance!

Skills Focus:

- Developing confidence learning dance steps and choreography sequences
- Understanding basic dance and musical theatre terms and vocabulary
- Learning how dance, movement, and choreography fit into acting and theatre
- Developing original choreography ideas for dance and music
- Learning proper warm-up and physical safety
- Moving your body with confidence and strength
- Taking notes, making form and execution corrections on dance combinations

Specialty: DIY Theatre (4th-7th)

If you've ever wanted to "do it all" from the ground up, this is your chance! This class will work together to create, cast, rehearse and produce a short 10-20 min performance. Aside from helping select the story/script, students will also design and put together all the production elements such as costumes, props, sets, makeup, hair, and other backstage elements. This class will also spend time in some of TWS's wonderful resource rooms like the props basement, wig/makeup rooms, and costume inventory. It's a great chance to get your hands dirty in all the different aspects of a production from start to finish. Students may choose to act or just participate in creating the elements of the performance. If your student likes to try a lot of different things, work together with a group and make something crazy creative, this is a perfect class for them! Let's DIY theatre!

Skills Focus:

- Group collaboration and ensemble work
 - Backstage theatrical skills
 - Choosing and adapting a story or selecting scripts
 - Rehearsal and production timelines
 - Discovering some of TWS' resources
 - Understanding all elements of a production/performance
 - Expressing creativity through elements: designing, painting, crafting and building
 - Using different elements to create a cohesive storytelling experience
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Jr High

Specialty: Comedic Commercials & Silly Sketches

Let's make 'em laugh! This class combines humor, creativity, writing, performance, and video for one incredible, fun, and fast-paced experience. Students will work together in groups to develop story ideas and turn those stories into scripts to create some hilarity and frivolity. We will film some of the material, and also perform some of the material live in our open-house class. If your child is always cracking you up with one-liners, crazy antics, funny stories, and punch lines, this is the perfect class for them. Bring your funny ideas to life and share a laugh with the audience.

Skills Focus:

- Group brainstorming, collaboration, problem-solving, and execution
- The process of adaptation and how to bring ideas to a story structure, script, and final product
- Finding the “beats” of humor and comedic timing
- Executing comedic material in performance using physicality, facial expressions, and vocality
- Creating characters and developing strong scenes
- Playing off scene partners
- Comedic timing delivery and joke telling

Musical Theatre: Six the Musical

Queens of all sizes, shapes, genders, and attitudes are welcome in this electric class. Based on the wives of Henry the 8th, the musical *Six* celebrates strong, empowered women with modern-day ballads and anthems. We will choose some of our favorite songs from *Six* and learn some dance moves and vocals from these Broadway tunes. *Six* celebrates being “one of a kind!”. Full of fun, zest, passion, and excitement, this fast-paced class will leave you energized and singing and dancing out of class. Dancers/movers and singers of all levels are welcome to build their confidence and performance abilities through this experience.

Skills Focus:

- Performing with energy and excitement
- Learning and practicing choreography sequences
- Basic group singing
- Learning backstory and character arcs

- Performing as individuals as well as blending within an ensemble
- Basic theatre, stage, choreography, and vocal terminology
- Utilizing various actor tools such as physicality, facial expressions, and vocal tone

Improv: Big Choices Bootcamp

Welcome to improv, where we make things up as we go along! In this class, we will focus on making big, bold choices. Whether you're feeling "stuck" in a scene, not sure where to go next, or just want to bring more energy and life to your scenes, this class is for you. We'll focus on tools to jump-start scenes and how to be energetic and bold without yelling and being super crazy. And as always in our improv classes, we teach you how to build scenes with characters, relationships, objectives, and environments. Our goal is to help you produce scenes that are full of life, interest, fun, and of course, some great laughs! So drop the script and step on into the scene, the spotlight is yours for the taking.

Skills Focus:

- Basic structures and "rules" of improvisation including the foundation of "Yes, And"
- Creating interesting and energetic scenes
- How to elevate offers and scenes to the next level
- Developing stock and unique characters
- Responding to and playing off your partner
- Short-form improvisation games

Mixed Age Group Classes

Acting: Scenes from Modern Stories (Jr High/High School)

Let's get to the heart of the actor and dig in deep. We'll be working to create grounded, well-rounded characters and scenes that captivate and enthrall the audience. This semester, we will be working with scenes from the plays like *The Wolves*, *Peter*, and *the Starcatcher*, *Puffs*, *She Kills Monsters*, and *the Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*. We will discuss how these plays and scenes relate to our lives today and how we can bring ourselves and our own stories into these works. Along the way, we will help add acting strategies and tools to your toolkit to give you more confidence and fearlessness on stage and off. Let's create!

Skills Focus:

- Working together as a creative ensemble
- Warm-ups and theatre games

- Script analysis and character background development
- Finding the beats and moments in scenes
- Creating honest, grounded, real, and raw performances
- Memorizing lines and working with scripts and stage directions
- Taking and incorporating acting notes and feedback
- Responding to and connecting with scene partners

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Technical/Backstage Theatre (Jr High/High School)

Welcome to behind the curtain, where the theatrical magic happens! This class starts every week in the TWS scene shop, where they will take on projects and develop skills in various areas of production. The class projects evolve based on students' interests as well as project support for TWS and CTWS shows. This class works alongside the TD to support and do "real" work on the productions. Throughout the semester, students may learn about areas such as sound design, lighting, costumes, stage management, set dressing, design, painting, props, producing, building, or other skills. We make sure our students stay safe but don't always make sure they're not messy! If your student is interested in being hands-on and learning lots of different things, this is a great class for a backstage star! This class has a collection of instructors and topics that change through the semester. Bring your sharpie, your gaff tape, and a pencil, and let's create! PS- YES students in this class get to visit our tech booths and lighting grid!

Skills Focus:

- Understanding design and how it relates to areas of production
- Creative, hands-on projects that support the spring season of shows
- Exposure to many different areas of backstage production and projects
- Safety, cleaning, and organization procedures
- Locating and utilizing different resources
- How to execute a project based on design plans
- Various tools, materials, and resources and how to utilize them
- Both independent and small group project work