

Young Actors' Theatre Camp

**Discover & Develop the Artist Within
2020 Season of Camps and Classes**

“The only thing I don’t like about YATC is that it wasn’t around when I was a teenager!”
– Megan Hilty, *Smash*

“Camp YATC is like heaven for all the drama geeks of the world!”
– Jonathan Groff, *Hamilton*



We are so thrilled that you found YATC and are pleased to introduce you to our 2019/2020 season of camps and classes. From YATC's creation in 2001, our goal has been to deliver a program that we would have desired as young actors. Working alongside industry professionals, learning in a safe and supportive environment created by staff and students alike, and making friendships and memories that will last a lifetime.

Heading into our 19th season, we are proud to say that we have created a program unlike any other. We have had thousands of students come through our doors who have gone on to attend top performing arts schools and work in TV, film, and even Broadway! The classes are fun and challenging, the beauty of the surrounding mountains is awe-inspiring, and our campers are the most amazing young people from around the world.

When we first started out in drama class, we were both instantly bit by the performing bug. We knew that this profession was our true calling, but our parents didn't know where to turn or who to call. How does one get a leg up in the professional world when they have no professional experience? YATC is part of the answer. We can't promise to turn your child into a star, but we are going to teach them the ins and outs of showbiz from working actors, singers, dancers, directors, choreographers, and professionals from all areas of the arts.

In the beginning, we used to think that it would sound cliché to share the truth of YATC. Now, we scream it from roof tops: "YATC is the best place in the country for students of all levels to explore the performing arts and make friendships that last a lifetime!" Imagine a world where students break into "Defying Gravity" during lunch, star in their own short film which is shown at the film festival, learn how to write a hit song from the Academy Award-winning songwriters of *Frozen*, learn how to act for the camera from a major TV star, and meet kids with the same amount of passion for the arts as they have! YATC will change your life, forever!

We know that a brochure cannot possibly address all your questions, so please feel free to give our office a call. We'd love to hear from you and we look forward to seeing you at The Young Actors' Theatre Camp!

John Ainsworth
John Ainsworth

Shawn Ryan
Shawn Ryan



Famous!

Our Overnight Camps

The YATC Overnight Camp program is what we were founded on. The Summer Camps are all overnight and run seven, ten, or nineteen days. The opportunity to come to the forest and be enveloped by the performing arts is a transformative and life-altering experience.

Ages: 8 – 18, all levels encouraged. Register at **CampYATC.com** or call (855) 462-YATC.

REGISTER EARLY – We sell out amazingly quickly!

For complete list of dates and rates visit **CampYATC.com** under Pricing/Locations

2020/2021 Young Actors' Theatre Camp Season

December 27, 2019 to January 2, 2020	Winter Film Camp I Santa Cruz Mountains
January 16, 2020.....	CampYATC Summer Registration Opens at 11am(PST)!
January 22 to 27, 2020	New York City with Camp YATC and BroadwayCon!
March 7, 2020	YATC Saturday Morning Film Festival I Livermore
May 9, 2020	Weekend Workshop Master Class with Stephanie J. Block
May 14 to 21, 2020	Cannes Film Festival Trip
July 5 to 14, 2020.....	Session 1 of Summer Camp
July 16 to 25, 2020	Session 2 of Summer Camp
July 5 to 25, 2020.....	Session Awesome of Summer Camp
August 2 to 8, 2020	Session 3 of Summer Camp
August 2 to 11, 2020.....	Session 4 of Summer Camp
August 16, 2020	Winter Camp Registration Open
September 19, 2020.....	Weekend Workshop Master Class I SF
October 3, 2020.....	Weekend Workshop Master Class I SF
December 27, 2020 to January 2, 2021	Winter Film Camp



* Camp YATC *

Scholarships

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&

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Fundraising

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Program

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The Young Actors' Theatre Camp is proud to provide financial assistance, scholarships, and the opportunity for students to earn their way to camp with our Annual Raffle Ticket Fundraiser. Contact Valerie@CampYATC.com to apply for financial aid or to sign up to sell raffle tickets!

EVER DREAMT ABOUT MAKING A MOVIE?
REGISTER FOR YATC WINTER FILM CAMP
& MAKE THAT DREAM A REALITY!

Young Actors' Theatre Camp

WINTER FILM CAMP

DECEMBER 27 TO JANUARY 2

IN ADDITION OUR FAMOUS SUMMER CAMP, YATC IS PROUD TO OFFER A 7 DAY, 6 NIGHT CAMP WHERE CAMPERS GET TO MAKE HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL LEVEL FILMS WITH REAL INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS! THE FILMS ARE SCREENED & WIN AWARDS IN FESTIVALS ALL OVER THE WORLD INCLUDING THE CANNES FILM FESTIVAL!

IT'S TRULY A ONCE IN A LIFETIME EXPERIENCE!

CAMPERS AGES 8-18 OF ALL LEVELS GET TO CHOOSE WHICH GENRE THEY WOULD LIKE TO WORK IN AND ALSO WHAT JOB ON THE FILMS THAT THEY WOULD LIKE.





Matt McCoy dazzles the crowd at the showcase with his vocals.



Jonathan Groff always says "Risk it! Be yourself on stage!"



Sutton Foster coaches with panache and flair!



Nurse Caryn and **Camp Teacher Logan** are actually mother and son! Camp is a true family!



Missi Pyle (*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*) is really someone to look up to!



Freeze Tag is an Improv Game Favorite!

Our Programs

Developed by our team of amazing instructors, our multi-award winning programs focus on discovering and developing each individual student's talents in ALL the areas of the performing arts. Our classes are all taught by working actors, singers, directors, dancers, casting directors, agents, managers, and producers who bring their current experiences and inspirations directly to the classroom. There is nothing quite like learning how to sell a song from Sutton Foster or learning Beyoncé's "Run the World (Girls)" from the choreographer James Alsup or learning how to write great lyrics from Darren Criss while he serenades you. All of our programs are designed with each camper in mind, regardless of age or experience level. From our intensive Weekend Workshops to our one-, two-, or three-week overnight camps, we are sure that you will find YATC the perfect match for your goals!

Our Mission

Through our Overnight Camps, Master Class series, and Weekend Workshops, P.A.C.E. Program, and Camp Field Trips to Cannes Film Festival and NYC's BroadwayCon, YATC provides a safe and supportive environment for students of all ages and experience levels to cultivate and explore a life in the performing arts. All of our instructors work in the industry in which they teach which makes for a learning experience unlike any other. YATC guides each student's development of their previous dramatic studies and aids in the discovery of the areas they have yet to try.

Our Instructors

Whether learning how to write a hit song from Robert Lopez and Kristen Anderson-Lopez, the Academy Award-winning composers of *Frozen*, or that "persistence is the key" from Megan Hilty, star of NBC's *Smash*, at YATC you will be learning from THE BEST! We only bring in teachers who are passionate about the craft of performing and who are dedicated to helping your student find their path.

Our Counselors

All of our counselors have been with us for a minimum of three years, but many have been with us six, seven, and even eight years! This is a family run business and that includes our staff! All of our staff have undergone in-depth training in leadership, team building, CPR/first aid, conflict resolution, and have also passed State and Federal background checks. Our staff is family from the beginning, spending weekends and holidays together – we trust our crew implicitly. Led by their counselors, your student and their cabin mates create Drama Tribes of 12, forging bonds and friendships that will last a lifetime.

"When I saw Camp Alumni Ari'el Stachel win the Tony Award for his performance in *The Band's Visit*, my heart leapt! To see our campers living their dreams is why we run this camp, and knowing that years later we're all still a second family to one another is so heart warming. I couldn't be prouder if I tried!" - **Shawn Ryan**, YATC Co-Founding Director





The sunset at camp is beyond magical, it's majestic.



"I met my best friend at CampYATC!"



Dance class brings out all kinds of attitude!



"Decorating the cabin is my favorite part of Day One!"



Three-Time Emmy Winner Laurie Metcalf of *The Connors* really showed us how to dig into our characters!



Leslie Noel teaches us how to truly find our voice.

Glasses

Students attend classes in all the areas of the performing arts while at camp and are allowed to then choose an area of concentrated study by signing up for private coaching. While the curriculum at each camp differs, classes are always offered in the following areas:

Scene Study
Improvisation
Classical Theatre
Auditioning
Film Lab

Broadway Dance
Vocal Study
Stunts
Musical Theatre
Monologue Study

Selling the Song
FX Make-Up
Photography for Film
Dream Boards
And so much more!

Activities

When class time is over, get ready for some of the MOST FUN camp activities ever! Students have numerous activities offered several times throughout each day with multiple options to choose from:

Capture the Flag
S'mores Sing-a-Long Social
Game of Spoons
Morning Meditation

Hiking
Disney Trivia
Pool Time
MisCast Cabaret

Character Building
Workshops
5 Second Musicals
Haunted Hike

Themed Dinners

That's right - each night we dress up for our themed meals. Cosplay at it's BEST! Past themed meals include: Harry Potter and The Great Feast, Be Our Guest Dinner with Belle and the Beast, and RuPaul's Drag Race Dinner, with special performances from both campers and staff.

Locations

Our camps are held in two beautiful locations in Santa Cruz County. Our hosts for Sessions 1, 2, and Camp Awesome is Camp MayMac, nestled in the Santa Cruz Mountains not too far from the historic town of Felton. This camp boasts a state of the art theatre and views like no other. Session 3, 4 and our annual Winter Camp are hosted at Camp Mt. Cross. This camp is located in the adorable town of Ben Lomond (also in the Santa Cruz Mountains) and has an Olympic size heated pool and some of the coolest trails around. At our Summer Sessions we have a showcase on the last day, so Bay Area parents drop off and pick up at these sessions. At Winter Camp we shuttle students via Bus from several Bay Area locations. Out of town students for all camps have the option of taking our Director run Airport Shuttle from the San Jose International Airport. Both Camp locations have become our permanent homes thanks to their wonderful kitchen staff, who cook up delicious meals and attend perfectly to the pleasant cabin accommodations. Walking from class to class and hearing rehearsals echo through the trees brings an immense amount of tranquility and inspiration to our young artists.

Your Cabin

Your cabin will be your home away from home during your stay at camp and will house you and some of the coolest people you will ever meet. Campers are grouped by age and identified gender. Our age groupings are Elementary School (8-10 years old), Middle School (11-13 years old), and High School (14-18 years old). Each cabin is assigned a counselor who will lead your cabin through your time at camp and GUARANTEE that you will forge friendships that last a lifetime!

Your Meals

Try the gray stuff, it's delicious! Don't believe me? Ask the...campers! All right, so the dishes can't talk but every time you step into the dining hall you will have a magical dining experience. Our chefs have prepared all your favorites with vegan, vegetarian, and gluten free options. Plus a 20 item salad bar at every lunch and dinner! Oh yeah, this may be camp but we're "drama" people and "foodies!"



Megan Hilty from *Smash* is one of our favorite master class teachers. She's so grounded and wonderfully talented!



Let those inhibitions go while developing your newest character's walk and talk!



The *RuPaul's Drag Race* Dinner is always a favorite camp activity!



"The entertainment at this camp is UNBELIEVABLE!"



James Alsop brings us all the latest Beyoncé choreography and we adore her!



Hamilton's Brandon Hudson teaches us the actual choreography from the show!

YATC's Weekend Workshops

Learning from casting directors, actors, singers, and dancers from the top TV and Broadway shows is just one of the benefits of attending a weekend workshop at CampYATC. It's also a great way to meet or reconnect with other campers while acquiring new acting skills in an educational yet supportive class environment.

Our one day workshops include:

- Audition Technique
- The Do's and Don'ts of the Industry
- College Audition Prep
- Actor's Tool Belt
- Headshots, Resumes, and Demo Reels
- Master Classes in Performance

Our Weekend Workshops are held in downtown San Francisco, taught by incredible industry professionals and are for campers ages 8-18. In the past we've had teachers from *Glee*, *Smash*, *This is Us*, *American Horror Story*, *Brooklyn 99*, *CSI*, *Community*, *Famous in Love*, *Raising Hope*, *Modern Family*, *Shake it Up*, *Twilight*, *Supernatural*. Past Master Class Teachers include Megan Hilty (*Smash*), Sutton Foster, (two-time Tony Winner and star of *Younger*), Rory O'Malley (*Hamilton*), Jonathan Groff (*Frozen*, *Hamilton*), James Alsop (Beyonce's choreographer), and so many more!

YATC Can Come to Your Classroom

Workshops are available for your classroom or after school programs. Contact info@CampYATC.com to schedule your School's workshop today. Multiple workshops are offered, and can be tailored to accommodate specific curriculum or administration needs/requests.

- Improvisation
- Audition Technique
- Character Building
- Performance Coaching
- Dancing for Actors
- Acting for Dancers
- Selling the Song

Private Coaches

Need to brush up on your monologue or song for your next big audition? Or maybe you want help preparing for your next big audition. Let one of our amazing coaches help you prepare to land that next role! All sessions include post coaching notes and parent feedback / follow up.

Visit CampYATC.com/individual-coaching to schedule an In-Person or Skype private coaching.

P.A.C.E.

The Performing Arts Camp Exploration is the perfect way for teachers to bring their students for an overnight, immersive, and explorative camp that will allow kids to discover the performing arts. Remember how fun Science Camp or Outdoor Education Camp were? Well now your school can come explore the arts as a group. Please contact Shawn@CampYATC.com for more information about a specialty arts camp for your class.



"The creative energy (at camp) is so overwhelmingly positive and everyone's participation is valued and encouraged." - Josh E.

"There is some sort of magic at YATC!" - Madelynn P.

"Being a part of the YATC family has truly changed my life!" - Evin M.

"YATC pushed me to grow as an artist and made me into a more well-rounded person." - Anthony K.

"What a thrill! You've pressed all of your love and care into the Camp's direction and have created a delicious monster of talent and fun!"

- Michael K.

Darren Criss concludes his master class with an impromptu concert at Winter Camp.





SUTTON FOSTER



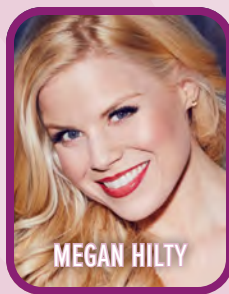
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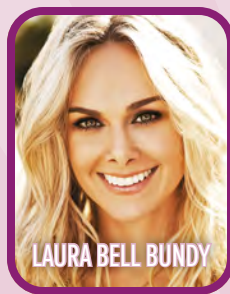
DARREN CRISS



IDINA MENZEL



MEGAN HILTY



LAURA BELL BUNDY



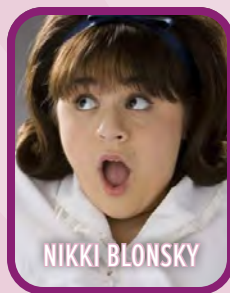
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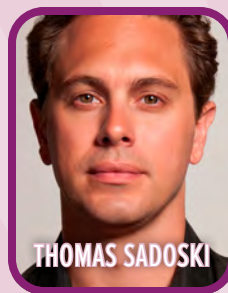
DOT JONES



GAVIN CREEL



NIKKI BLONSKY



THOMAS SADOSKI



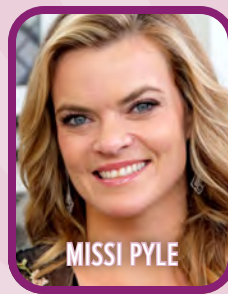
ANDREW KEENAN-BOLGER



HARRY SHUM JR.



KRISTEN ANDERSON-LOPEZ



MISSI PYLE



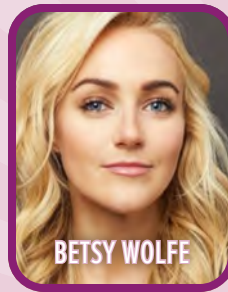
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CAISSIE LEVY



NICK ADAMS



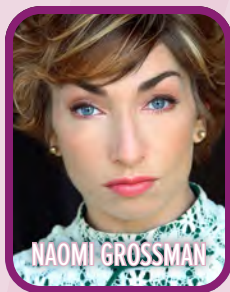
BETSY WOLFE



LAURIE METCALF



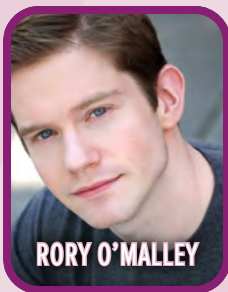
JAMES ALSOP



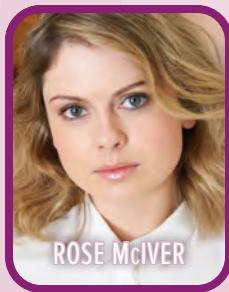
NAOMI GROSSMAN



KATE ROCKWELL



RORY O'MALLEY



ROSE McIVER



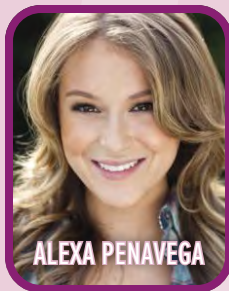
JIM O'HEIR



LESLIE CARRERA-RUDOLPH



BRANDON HUDSON



ALEXA PENAVEGA



MANDY GONZALEZ



JEREMY JORDAN



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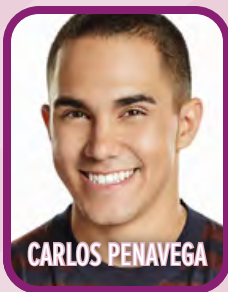
CORBIN BLEU



ANDREW PIROZZI



RACHEL BAY JONES



CARLOS PENAVEGA

Master Class Teachers

"There is nothing more rewarding than giving a young artist the tools to better express themselves. I get to do that at YATC. I love my time there. I get to see the campers grow right before my eyes."

– Laura Bell Bundy, *Legally Blonde: The Musical*

"If you have a child or teen who has any interest in the arts, the Young Actors' Theatre Camp is where they belong. It's a nurturing environment where they will be able to explore their creativity. I can't say enough good things about the wonderful YATC!" – Jim O'Heir, *Parks and Rec*

As seen in



Method in the Madness

At Young Actors' Theatre Camp they don't just train budding thespians. More importantly, they encourage kids to discover their true selves by letting their freak flags fly.

BY GEORGIA PERRY

With blue eyes, curly blond locks and a round babyface, 35-year-old Shawn Ryan was teased a lot growing up. He says as late as the eighth grade adults would ask him if he was a little boy or a little girl. "That probably made me an introvert," he admits.

In his career as an actor and jazz/cabaret singer who is perhaps best known for reaching the semifinals on the first season of America's Got Talent, his look has helped him score some offbeat roles. He once appeared on the 2007 ABC series *Women's Murder Club* as "transgender narcoleptic drag king Karen Adams." But it was a long journey, and Ryan claims theater saved his life.

"In high school I got a lot of, 'hey fag' as I was walking down the hall. Kids can be so mean to one another. I didn't even know I was gay. I just knew people called me fag. I remember asking my sister like, 'What is a fag?'"

But after a trip to New York to look at the American Academy for Dramatic Arts, where he eventually went to college, everything changed. "I remember coming back and being like, 'There's a whole world out there!' So when my senior year started I walked across to those boys that called me fag every morning and I finally stopped and I went, 'Are any of you gay?' And they were like, 'No.' And I'm like, 'OK, I just wanted to know if you're calling me this name because one of you is interested in me, or are you just doing it to be mean?' I am not kidding, it stopped that day."

Ryan is co-director of the Young Actors' Theatre Camp in Boulder Creek, which he founded with his partner John Ainsworth. In addition to the professional instruction, a

big part of the camp's purpose is to give kids that same sense of empowerment that theater gave Ryan when he was in high school.

"Some of these kids are never going to go into the performing arts," says Ainsworth. "But the experience that they'll have gained from being in a place where they're not judged, and they can be how they want to be or try something new without fear of being called stupid, or being called dumb or gay or fag or whatever - that's an experience that literally can flip their whole world."

I'ma Be Me

Indeed, at this camp - which has three sessions, each two weeks long, every summer in the Santa Cruz Mountains - the kids and staff all operate under one guiding principle: Be whoever you want to be.

For the two weeks they're here, everyone is expected to forget the definition the real world has created for them. Instead, they imagine the person they want to be from scratch, and then just be him, or her, or the Hulk, or whatever.

The effects of this are plain to see: The kids, ages 8-18, go from breakfast to activities carrying puppets, or wearing cartoon-patterned footie pajamas, or decked out in vampire makeup, growling "I'm crying blood" at reporters they have never met before. The staff is unfazed by this display: to them, this is the mark of a successful session.

"From the day we're born, we're defined by other people," says Ryan. Outside the cabin he and Ainsworth



share at the camp near Boulder Creek waves a rainbow flag proclaiming “Born This Way” - the Lady Gaga lyric. “The only boundaries are the ones you set on yourself.”

Ryan and Ainsworth, both working actors in Los Angeles, have run the camp for 12 years. As the only camp of its kind in the Bay Area, it attracts kids from as far away as China and Singapore, and as close as Santa Cruz and Aptos. They come because they love performing and want to learn how to do it from professionals - working television and stage actors who drop in for a couple days at a time and teach master classes in which they offer up prize tips on everything from vocal technique to headshot poses, insider information many professional adult actors may never learn.

Focusing on all aspects of “The Industry” - from acting, singing and dancing to filmmaking, choreography and casting - the camp is definitely geared toward the budding professional actor. In fact, there already are some young pros in their ranks.

“One of the kids in this session - Charlie - he auditions all the time,” gushes Ryan. “He’s the voice of the Leap Frog video games. So when it turns on and you hear, ‘Wanna play?’ that’s Charlie.”

The Young Actors’ Theatre Camp is the only “top five” kids’ acting camp that doesn’t require auditions to get in, says Ryan. Because of that fact - along with its price tag of \$1,750 for a session, quite reasonable compared to over \$3,000 at the other camps like it - “We open for registration and we sell out within like an hour. It’s like a concert ticket,” Ryan says. YATC also offers several scholarships to homeless and at-risk kids.

For the campers who don’t have the added confidence that no doubt accompanies amphibian-themed voice-over success, the whole “be whoever you want” thing has to be encouraged a bit.

“I’ll have parents call and say, ‘She’s interested in singing, but she’s not a great singer,’” admits Ryan, adding a quick caveat that, “I mean, obviously the kids who come to this camp have great parents who send them to this camp, so they’re great parents.”

But when that kid gets to camp and goes into her first voice lesson with her head down, saying she’s not a great singer, that’s when the camp initiation really begins.

“I’m like, ‘OK, let’s tack three words onto this: Up until now,’” says Ryan. “So anything you put out into the universe that’s negative about yourself you can always tack on ‘up until now.’ And you can say that as many times as you need to, because we have to reprogram ourselves.”

Escape From L.A.

Ainsworth is just back from Los Angeles, where he auditioned for a Paranormal Activity-type movie. Now he dangles his legs over the arm of a couch outside their cabin, underneath the “Born This Way” flag. Ryan sits in a plastic chair that until a few moments ago had a pink boa and a strand of fake pearls occupying it. (Jokes Ryan: “These are actually real pearls. We just have so many we’re like, ‘Throw them wherever.’”)

“I’ve been called into this one casting office that does all the Lifetime, Hallmark Channel movie-of-the-week-type things. They’ve called me eight times in the last seven months for eight different films,” says Ainsworth, who wears jeans and a faded baseball cap. “So it’s like, they really like me and really want me to be in one of the films, but they’re trying to find that perfect fit.

“Shawn, did you tell the reporter about the Macy’s thing?” he asks.

Ryan flew back to Los Angeles last week to audition for a national Macy’s spot, and is currently “on avail,” meaning he is one of two people they are considering for the job and is expected to keep the shoot dates available, kind of like a wedding “save the date.”

“Yeah, the phone call’s coming in today,” Ryan says with a wink in my direction. “We’ve already decided.”

“He said that on Saturday,” Ainsworth explains, “and I said, ‘Babe it’s Saturday.’ And he said, ‘It’s comin’ through on Monday.’”

Today is, by the way, Tuesday.

“OK, Tuesday,” Ryan shrugs. But then, he looks at the phone, and some textbook actor insecurity shines through. “It’s so hard!” he says playfully, throwing his arms in the air. “Please call!”

There are 100-120 kids at each session of the camp, and around 50 full time teachers and counselors. The staff is encouraged to fly back to Los Angeles for any and all auditions that may come up during camp.

“We understand that the industry is what calls first,” says Ryan. “If you get a job in Los Angeles go, go, go, go. Come back and show the kids that you just did an episode of you know, **Big Time Rush**.” (*Big Time Rush* is a Nickelodeon series about four former hockey players from Minnesota who move to Hollywood and form a boy band.)

Excited for the chance to see their camp director on the big screen, the kids eagerly ask Ainsworth how his most recent audition went. He jumps on the opportunity for a teaching moment. "Honestly, in this industry you have to go and do the audition and then walk away from it and forget about it," he tells them, "because you likely will never hear if you don't get it. You only hear if you do get it. And there's like 40 other actors that were going in for the same role."

Princess Power

It's day nine of the camp's second two-week session, and Ryan is making morning announcements. He brings up the hidden-talent show that is happening later today at lunch, and a little girl wearing a pink t-shirt, a rhinestone tiara and pink sweatpants that look like they've seen a few days' worth of outdoor playtime raises her hand.

"This is Natalie Tanner, everyone," says Ryan, who wears teal shorts and a newsboy cap over his blond curls. He invites her to come stand with him at the front of the cafeteria and everyone applauds, because they applaud at almost everything here. He continues, with more than a touch of "hey girl" punchiness in his voice: "We all have our inner child, and this is exactly what I picture my inner child to look like - always wearing a tiara, sparkly and excited for the day."

Miss Tanner has an announcement regarding the talent show: "My thing is, my dad forgot to bring my violin, and I do play it."

Ryan feigns panic. "Can anyone whittle a violin before the talent show?" But luckily that won't be necessary - a big kid offers to let Tanner borrow hers. Whew.

"Look at that, Natalie, we magically got you a violin!" says Ryan. As Tanner takes her seat, everyone applauds again. Why not, right?

Dream Boarders

During the day, the campers have the opportunity to take a range of classes from working professionals. There's a film class, scene study, dance and even a "Dream Board" class taught by Ryan's mother, who is a professional motivational speaker. (Dream Boards are collages with pictures of your goals - think *The Secret*.) Master classes from big names such as Sutton Foster, who starred in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* on Broadway, as well as Jonathan Groff and Darren Criss from the hit FOX series *Glee*, are one of the camp's biggest draws. Campers are even invited to sign up for coveted one-on-one sessions with the celebrities.

Today there is a class called "Power Breathing" taught by Chris Dille, a professional singer and teacher who currently tours with an a capella theater show called Voca People.

Dille has a bright white grin and a muscular chest. He plays piano and leads the kids in a singing warm-up where they belt vowel sounds in different octaves. However, there is a catch. The kids each have a plastic straw and have been instructed by Dille to try to sing the exercise while sticking their tongues out and using them to hold the straws just underneath their lower lips.

"Our tongue has a habit of tightening up when we sing," he explains, which can cause it to go back and block the hole leading to the air supply and limiting the power of a singer's voice. "This exercise is about teaching the tongue where it should be."



While most of the kids stumble through the exercise, catching their straws as they drop - the tongue is a muscle that needs to develop strength just like any other - Dilley holds his straw easily with his tongue and plays the piano with both hands. Afterwards he has them stretch by sticking out their tongues, then wag their heads from side to side like dogs.

"Whose tongue is sore?" he prompts. Everyone nods and moans. That's good, though. "Did you think you were just gonna sit in a chair for an hour and 'la la la?'"

The Show

As the lunchtime talent show takes place near the picnic tables outside the main cafeteria, everyone is remarkably attentive. Unlike adult open mic nights, where the performers go into self-absorbed trances a couple slots before and after their individual sets, these kids give their full attention to whomever is onstage and, of course, treat them to raucous applause when they finish.

The talents are not quite what you would expect, either. While there are some spot-on drama camp moments—one girl belts out a perfect soprano opera while wearing pink gym shorts—a lot of it resembles the kind of stuff you might see at any summer camp's talent show. One boy does the moonwalk. A girl impersonates a parrot, saying "Polly wants a cracker" in a high-pitched, nasal voice. One kid, who is missing a front tooth, says his talent is squirting liquids through his teeth. Someone else does a backbend, and one girl reads a poem she wrote: "Eternity, tranquility, serenity—the key to be."

When it is time for Natalie Tanner's much-anticipated violin solo, the instrument is too big for her to support on her own. She is one of the littlest kids at camp. But again, it is no problem. The owner of the violin, a teenage girl wearing knee-high lace-up Converse sneakers and a monkey hat, holds up the other end of the violin for Tanner. Another kid holds up her music book. Tanner performs a song very slowly, with pauses between each note for her to get her fingering and bow placement right. The campers and staff hang on every note. When she's done, the crowd erupts into the biggest applause of the day.

Drama With No Drama

After the talent show, a few teenage campers sit down for an interview. They're quick to explain why they feel so comfortable here.

"Meanness is, like, not an option here. You get kicked out of camp if you're mean," says 13-year-old Natalie Cheyette of Burlingame. Cheyette got stage-mommed into the industry, landing a job as a department store model when she was just four years old. She says she likes performing because of the attention, and being at camp because of the friendly atmosphere and how everyone has similar interests. "I am not much into

sports, and many of the people here are also not that much into sports, so you don't have to make small talk about sports," she says.

"It would be really hard to make a movie out of this, 'cause there's no drama. Everyone's so nice and there aren't mean girls," adds 15-year-old Sara Narragon, who is from Santa Cruz. "You learn more than just performing here, you learn how to treat people. I'm probably gonna leave here and somebody's gonna say something mean to me and I'll be like, 'OK, that's cool!'"

Sally Shields has long, straight hair and a laid-back ingénue look that casting agents could probably describe as a "Mischa Barton type." Shields is still glowing from a recent master class with LA casting director Ty Harman.

"He was sitting over there and I went up and introduced myself and after a [brief] conversation he was like, 'Definitely get Shawn to tell me if you come down to L.A. anytime, I'll give you my information.'"

Like her camp mates, she is quick to assert that, yes, she wants to make it. Yes, these kids want to be famous.

"Everyone wants to perform," says Shields. "No matter what aspect - acting, singing, dancing - everyone is here because that's what they want to do."

Ryan and Ainsworth just want to do their best to help them achieve those goals.

"People ask us all the time, 'You guys will make such great parents, are you gonna have kids?'" says Ryan. "And we're like, 'We have 500 kids.' I may not have had any kids of my own, but I definitely feel like I've had a hand in raising a couple. And I'm so proud of them all."

Reprinted by permission. As of 2015, YATC no longer holds camp sessions in Boulder Creek. Prices have changed since this article was first published.

The REVIEWS are in!

"The Young Actors' Theatre Camp is more like a Broadway musical come to life!"

"(YATC) is sure to rival any theatre camp in the country!"

- *The San Francisco Chronicle*

"One of the Top Five Theatre Camps"

- *CBS News*

"..Go to YATC and become AMAZING"

- *Heather Morris, Glee*



“This camp always brings so much joy to my life and I’m always telling people about my experience there. But the one thing I appreciate the most from YATC is the message that it teaches, a message to accept every individual.”

Noel M., *Two-time camper and now a counselor*

“I hadn’t realized before just how much more you offered beyond a drama camp, but from her stories it is obvious that you created an accepting and inclusive environment where kids can feel comfortable being themselves.”

Jen R., *Parent*

“[my daughter] had the BEST time in her life...I am so impressed and happy with you and your camp. The atmosphere of support is amazing and [my daughter] came home happy to the core and full of ambition for the future!”

Heather P., *Parent*

“Thank you for giving [my son] such a wonderful experience through your camp. He feels that you are part of his new family and it means the world to us.”

Janine H., *Parent*

“My daughter had a life changing eleven days at YATC. The first thing she said to me when I picked her up was, ‘I don’t care if I get another present for Christmas or my birthday, I just want to go back to YATC next summer!’...thank you both for creating a world full of love and acceptance, where it is safe to explore new things and be successful without jealousy.”

Michele W., *Parent*

“Thank you so much for making a place like YATC, where I can walk around in a rainbow tutu and an ugly Christmas sweater and receive compliments. I always learn something new about myself...There is some sort of magic at YATC...the atmosphere makes everyone confident in their own skin!”

Madelynn P., *Camper*

“I wouldn’t be the person I am today if it wasn’t for the magical place you’ve created that is YATC!!”

Matt M., *Camper*

I could not live without this camp!”

Lauren L., *Camper*

“...[YATC] changed my life and made me a better and more confident person.”

Tyler C., *Camper*

“One of the most rare qualities of the YATC experience is that all of the campers at YATC get their solo moment in the spotlight. Instead of just a few ‘stars’ in a single production, YATC produces a galaxy of young talent in a universe where everyone gets to shine.”

Misdee G., *Parent*

*We have a wonderful list of Family Referrals from all over the World. If you’d like to chat with a camp family regarding their family and child’s YATC experience, email info@**CampYATC.com** with “Family Referrals” and we’ll provide a contact list with information and details so you can connect with other YATC Camp Families.*

YATC Alumni

With almost 10,000 students over 18 years, many have gone on to the biggest School, Stages, and Screens! Here are just a few examples of our amazing alumni accomplishments:

“There is no other place like YATC! It is ABSOLUTE MAGIC!”

Jillian Butler, *Les Misérables* and *Wicked* National Tours
Graduate | Boston Conservatory

“YATC is a haven that any musical theatre nerd, like myself, would find him or herself very fortunate to experience as an artist and human being.”

Bobby Conte Thorton, *A Bronx Tale* Original Broadway Cast
Graduate | University of Michigan

“YATC is a special place. As a youngster I had the opportunity to go to a few different theatre camps, but none so inclusive and fun as Young Actors’ Theatre Camp! Shawn and John have created a safe space for the young artist to grow, explore and discover themselves not only through comprehensive classes on the craft, but through activities that help the young artist build a community, ensuring they understand that they are not alone in this crazy world. I am forever grateful to them for what they’ve done for me and countless others. Whether or not one ends up pursuing a career in theatre, the YATC experience is invaluable and unforgettable.”

Kent Overshown, *Porgy and Bess* National Tour
Graduate | University of Michigan

“YATC gave me the understanding of the power of theatre at a young age, and access to tools that other youth theatre programs couldn’t. Shawn and John nurtured me and my fellow campers by taking us seriously as creative people and giving us the gift of believing that we could do anything. And most importantly, at YATC I found a sense of community and belonging that I had been looking for my whole life, and as an adult, that community is still there.”

Alec Mathieson, *Ragtime* National Tour
Graduate | New York University

“In the grand scheme of things, 7 days is not a long time but my first Winter Camp was an experience that has made me a better person every day since. As an incredibly shy teenager, I finally found a community where I felt safe to take risks and know that every single person there was cheering me on. Even if someone only comes to one session, they’re part of the family and will always have a network of people for support.”

Valerie Dohrer, *YATC Associate Director*
Graduate | Drew University



JILLIAN BUTLER



ALEC MATHIESON



KENT OVERSHOWN



BOBBY CONTE THORNTON



VALERIE DOHRER



MEGHAN RIENKS

We're So Glad You Asked

Operators are standing by to answer any and all questions you might have about YATC. We'd love to chat with you one on one, when the time is convenient for you. Call (925) 858-3548. Here are a few of the most commonly asked:

Q: What does a "day in the life" at Camp YATC look like?

A: You'll start your day with a themed breakfast, maybe dressing as Harry Potter or Katniss Everdeen and walking the runway after filling up on buttermilk pancakes. After announcements, you are off on your way for a fabulous day of classes, workshops, and themed activities. Lunch is at noon sharp, so don't be late, otherwise you might miss The Hidden Talent Show. In the afternoon, brush up on your dance moves, attend a 1-on-1 coaching, or just take a dip in the pool. After a delicious dinner, hang out with your new best friends by the campfire, roasting s'mores before heading off to cabin bonding and a good night's rest, so you can do it all again the next day.

Q: At Overnight Camp, what are the sleeping arrangements like?

A: Students are grouped by age and gender into cabins of 11 students for every one counselor. Your counselor will stay in the cabin with you and take you to all your classes. We admit between 100-150 students to our programs and have anywhere between 30-50 full-time staff members. You and your cabin mates can decorate your cabin and we suggest bringing comfy bedding from home to make your bunk the most plush!

Q: I've never been to an overnight camp before, is this for me?

A: This is maybe the BEST first overnight camp experience. The staff and students are all one big family and by the end of camp we guarantee, you WON'T want to leave! It's a life-changing experience!

Q: What if I have little or no experience in the performing arts?

A: Not to worry! We have students of ALL levels. All we ask is that you come with the intention to learn about the performing arts. We have students who have never stepped on stage before and then we have students who go onto NYU and Juilliard. ALL LEVELS are encouraged!

Q: Can I bring a friend?

A: We love it when first time campers come with a friend! ALL bunk requests are honored given that students are in the same age group. We also have a referral program for all of our students who spread the word about the wonderful experience that is YATC! Also know that a lot of first timers come to camp not knowing anyone at all – but we'll fix that on the first day, for sure!

Q: What happens at the Weekend Workshop?

A: Weekend Workshops are from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturday and include eight hours of instruction with a top casting director or actor from one of your favorite shows. This is not an audition but rather an intensive workshop to learn about the "Do's and Don't's" of casting, auditioning, or mastering your monologue as well as ALL about how to give your BEST audition, whether it be for a hit show or your school play.

Q: Do you offer financial aid or payment plans?

A: Of course! Please call our office to register and sign up for a payment plan that will be specifically tailored to your family's needs. We also have an EARN YOUR WAY TO CAMP Program that allows many students to attend YATC for FREE!



Tony Award winner and
CampYATC alumni, Ariel Stachel



Our Counselor in Training Program is a great way to try out your skills as a leader!



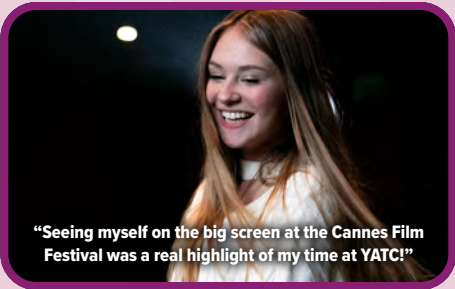
The pool is always open to help keep us cool!



Our Master Class Series has welcomed circus clown Kevin Kent over ten times in 18 years and we always cherish our time with him.



Camp is all about the costumes. Let's camp it up, as they say.



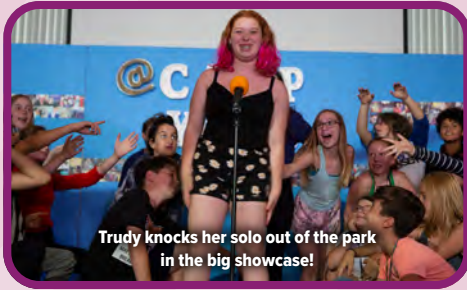
"Seeing myself on the big screen at the Cannes Film Festival was a real highlight of my time at YATC!"



Making new best friends is not optional or mandatory, it's inevitable.



YATC is your home away from home!



Trudy knocks her solo out of the park in the big showcase!



Everyone at YATC is so supportive.



Aryn, Val, and Quinn are three of YATC's original campers!

YATC YouTube Channel

With more than 43,000 subscribers and over 18 MILLION views, Young Actors' Theatre Camp's YouTube channel is an awesome place for your talent to shine. At each and every camp session we create either short films, sketches, and other crazy-fun content for our YouTube channel to show the world the immense talent that our campers possess. Basically, get ready to go viral.

Visit [YouTube.com/YoungActorsTheatreCamp](https://www.youtube.com/YoungActorsTheatreCamp) to subscribe! Just search "Young Actors Theatre Camp" to find us!



YATC Trips and Film Festivals

Each year, we take a group of students to New York City to experience BroadwayCon. It's an unforgettable trip where CampYATC gets to spend 5 days and 4 nights in the Big Apple!

The Films that we create at Winter Film Camp have been admitted into and won awards at countless Film Festivals, including the Cannes Film Festival in France! Yes, we know – it's amazing! When you come to Winter Film Camp, you have the chance to be a part of a film that could possibly be in festivals all over the world and seen by millions of people! And yes, we also take a very select group of our students to experience firsthand the Cannes Film Festival for 9 days and 8 nights on the amazing French Riviera!



Connect with us at @CampYATC online!



YoungActors' TheatreCamp

PO Box 461324, West Hollywood, CA 90046



"A Great Opportunity!"

- ABC 7 News



Registration Hotline: 855-462-YATC



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CampYATC.com