

PROGRAM INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES (FAQs)

What is YOUTH TAKE THE STAGE (YTTS)?

Youth take the Stage is an exciting new program directed to providing opportunities for talented youth to do what they love – PERFORM!

Do I have to be affiliated with CPP to participate?

No. The program is open to ANY youth or group of youth, whether currently associated with CPP, or a different group (theater company, dance company, music school, school group, after-school program, etc.), or no group at all (self-taught performer, vocal coach student, advanced hobbyist, etc.).

If I am affiliated with another group or program, who gets the credit?

You and any group or individual that helped you develop your performance piece will be given the credit. Simply let us know and we will give credit where credit is due!

What performance genres will be considered?

All entertainment styles and disciplines will be considered – acting (monologues, scenes, pantomime), singing (solos, duets, groups), dancing (all forms), playing instruments (bands, individuals), specialty acts (gymnastics, baton twirling, magic, juggling, stand-up comedy), and more!

Are there age limits?

A lower limit would, typically, be 5 years of age. Younger performers who are able to deliver an audience-ready performance piece will be considered. Youth who are still of school age (even through college) are the primary program group. Older – “youth-at-heart performers” – may also be considered at the discretion of the program coordinators taking into account factors including space to fill in upcoming performance dates.

Where would I get to perform?

Initially, Youth Take the Stage would provide performance opportunities monthly at the Palm Springs’ VillageFest (likely the 1st Thursday of each month from 5:30 to 10:00 p.m.). As the program grows, so will venue opportunities.

What other time commitment would be expected?

Since the program relies on candidates having audience-ready performance pieces, once selected there would be minimal time required with program staff. There is a possibility for a call-back, in-person audition based upon video submissions and, if selected, at least one rehearsal performance will likely be scheduled. Of course, when additional venues and/or performance dates are established, this will lead to added time commitments.

What would I have to provide as a performer?

Performers would be expected to provide any sets, “costumes” (encouraged), props, make-up, instruments, and the like necessary to their audience-ready performance piece. Musicians and bands would be expected to provide any specialty equipment and connections for their specific situation (instrument mics, amps, etc.).

So I can use props, sets, and costumes?

Absolutely! In fact, they are encouraged. The only caveat is, as indicated above, you are responsible for them. As well, they need to be able to move in and out of the stage area quickly and be stored in the available staging areas.

What does it cost to participate?

THERE IS NO COST TO PARTICIPATE! Of course, costs for performer provided materials (see above) are the performer’s responsibilities.

What support would the Youth Take the Stage program provide?

YTTS would provide:

- basic sound equipment (audio playback device, microphones, amp/mixer, speakers, and the like);
- a green room area for pre-staging, performance preparation, and safe storage;
- a program MC to announce acts and provide promotional information; and,
- display of credits for performers and associated youth groups or instructors.

What is not allowed?

Off color or non-family-friendly fare: The anticipated audiences will include all ages; therefore, material (subject matter, language, gestures, wardrobe, etc.) should be appropriate for all audiences.

Non-age-appropriate material: All selections should take into consideration the age of the performers and be appropriate in that regard (costuming, makeup, content, etc.).

What exactly is an “audience-ready performance piece”?

An audience-ready performance piece (“A-RPP”) means just that – it is ready to be heard, seen and experienced by an audience! The performance should be strong and demonstrate confidence applicable to its genre, vocals and instrumentation should be accurate, the piece should be technically correct, and, the look and feel of your performance (wardrobe, hair, makeup, etc.) should be complementary to the piece.

How will I demonstrate that I have an A-RPP that qualifies to be in Youth Take the Stage?

You will review and follow the submission guidelines and instructions. After recording a video of your performance piece, you submit the link to that video. A submission review and qualification panel for Youth Take the Stage will assess the audience-readiness of the piece.

How long should my A-RPP video be?

Video submissions should not be longer than 5 minutes. If your overall act time is greater than 5 minutes, submit a 5 minute portion in your video, identify the overall act time in your submission form, and, if selected, arrangements will be made to see the full act (either by video or otherwise).

How many performance pieces can I submit?

There is no specific limit to the number of submissions in any given time period. Each submission will need to be qualified independently. Multiple performances, or extended performances, on any particular show night will be considered (make sure to follow the submission process guidelines below).

What happens if my submitted piece is deemed to not be audience-ready?

You will be provided with the reason(s) that the piece is not yet ready and offered constructive critiquing and directed to resources to help you improve and ultimately succeed with your desire to perform. Keep in mind, it is not the focus of this program to instruct. However, through CPP programs or those of other organizations, you can be directed to teaching resources to assist. When ready, your piece can be resubmitted for consideration in the program.

If my A-RPP is selected, what then?

YTTs production staff will work with you to schedule the show(s) in which you will perform and any rehearsal that might be required. You (and your parent if you are under age 18) will also be asked to sign a release for taking photos and videotaping your performance and using them for CPP/YTTs promotional purposes.

What if I still have questions or concerns?

Feel free to contact us at info@youthtakethestage.com.

What encouragement can you offer me?

If you have a desire to perform, we have a desire to help you succeed with that! This program is not about rejecting submissions, but about helping all youth find their path to performing and getting them before audiences. Put your best foot forward and reach for your dreams!