

The Mill Youth Theatre

Below is an explanation of the expectations of the company and a bit about how it runs.

Students' Attitude

Although my workshops can be a lot of fun, I expect a serious attitude to learning drama. They are designed for young people who want to improve their drama skills, not for those who want a couple of hours of larking about! I make an assessment of each potential company member's attitude during the first workshop and do not allow those with a poor attitude to join the company. A continuing positive attitude is essential to remaining in the company.

Clothing

It is important that the students wear comfortable clothing in which they can move about easily without tripping and/or getting too hot. They will be working on the floor for some of the time. Trousers/joggers are preferable and shoes should be trainers or something similar. Earrings should be simple studs.

Use of the Loo

It is very disruptive for students to wish to leave for this reason so they should make sure they go beforehand! They should be old enough to cope! If there is any reason why this is not the case, please do let me know by way of a note.

Drinks, Snacks and Breaks (Juniors and Teens only. Not Minis)

Please provide your child with a nutritious, high-energy snack such as a cereal bar. Students should also bring an unbreakable container of water to drink at the break as drama work will make them thirsty. Very dilute squash is acceptable, although it is not so good for the voice. **Please do not provide sweets or crisps or fizzy drinks; they are very bad for concentration.** There will be a short break for snacks to be consumed in the drama space.

The Nature of the Work

The young people can expect to be working on such areas as learning focus and control, co-operative group work, role-play, improvisation, devising, physical drama and the like, rather than scripted drama. Each youth theatre company aims to perform a short, devised piece of theatre at least twice a year, at the end of the Easter and Summer terms in the theatre. Sometimes we also create a studio piece in the Autumn term but that is essentially a term intended for learning and improving skills.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT EACH COMPANY MEMBER COMMITS TO REGULAR ATTENDANCE AND AVOIDS BOOKING OTHER EVENTS DURING WORKSHOPS, ESPECIALLY IN THE TERMS WHEN WE PERFORM. NOT TURNING UP CREATES DIFFICULTIES FOR ALL THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY. MEMBERS SHOULD TRY TO STAY FIGHTING FIT! IN PERFORMANCES TERMS, MEMBERS MUST BE AVAILABLE FOR PERFORMANCE DATES, DRESS AND TECHNICAL REHEARSALS OR MUST DROP OUT FOR THAT TERM.

We encourage company members to be theatre goers! Members get free entry to some Mill shows and each term we try to attend at least one show all together. Members also get priority booking for next term until a publicised deadline. **To retain places in the company, it is important to re-book before the deadline.**

If you need to contact me (it really helps to know if someone can't make a session), my numbers are 01926 403424/400450. I am more usually on the former during the daytime. e-mail :

meg4ever@greenbee.net web-site: www.megharper.co.uk where all info is available on Mill pages.

Thanks for your help and looking forward to working with you!

Meg Harper