



Newsletter

Summer Theater Workshop June 6—30

Our annual summer theater workshop begins June 6 and is set to be our largest summer program ever! We have three Drama I classes and our popular Musical Theatre workshop. There is still room in one Drama I class that meets from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Go to nmyoungactors.org to register. Performances will be on June 30 at our rehearsal studio at 7001 San Antonio Dr. NE. We look forward to a fantastic month of singing, dancing, and acting!

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Big Changes at New Mexico Young Actors

NMYA will be under new leadership starting in July 2022. After 18 years of working with the company, 10 as principal music director and 8 as Executive Director, Paul Bower has taken a position teaching music and drama at an international school overseas. We are grateful for Mr. Bower's long tenure, during which he produced, directed, or music directed (sometimes all three) over 40 productions, steered the company through the pandemic, and grew the organization to over 100 students. Thank you, Paul!

We welcome Joel Gelpe as the new Executive Director! Mr. Gelpe brings a wealth of experience to NMYA as an educator, conductor, vocal coach, and pianist, including work with Albuquerque Civic Light Opera (now Musical Theater Southwest), Ithaca College, and three national Broadway tours. Local audiences might remember two original musicals, *The Little Moon Theater* and *Revenge of the Garbage Monsters*, that Mr. Gelpe wrote for local productions. He is excited to share his skills with NMYA and continue to see the company expand.

Fall Program 2022

Classes for Fall 2022 will begin August 11 with registration open after June 6. New students can join us in Drama I, and current and returning students will register for Advanced Drama, featuring auditions for the musical, *The Jungle Book*, and the play, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. We look forward to another exciting semester of theater this fall!

