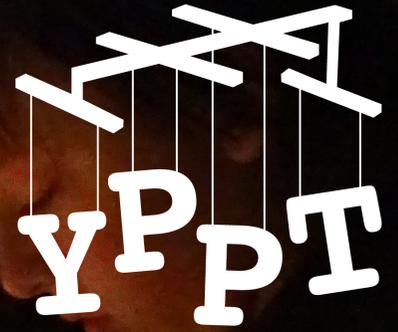


How Not To Rob A Bank

A new comedy by Oliver MacKinnon



YOUNG PEOPLE'S
PUPPET THEATRE

SUMMER CAMP
8-13 August 2022
INFORMATION PACK

YPPT summer camp

WHO: 30 children aged 9-13

WHAT: A week-long puppetry-based summer camp—learn technical theatre skills including voice acting, lighting, set design and puppetry as you work with our team to produce amazing performances of our brand new comedy, *How Not To Rob A Bank!*

WHEN: 8-13th August 2022

10-5 each day (exact times tbc)

Taster/auditions: 9th April 2022

WHERE: Trestle Arts Base, Russet Drive, St Albans, AL4 0JQ

HOW MUCH: £120 per child.

Bursaries are available.

Participants must be at least 9 and no older than 13 years of age on Monday 8th August 2022. Proof of ID may be requested. Unfortunately, we are unable to make any exceptions to these age restrictions.



The Young People's Puppet Theatre

The YPPT is a registered arts education charity. We run large-scale puppetry and puppetmaking projects for children and young people. Our projects teach a huge range of technical and practical skills, from sculpture and painting to voice acting and puppetry as well as technical backstage skills such as lighting design and stage management. They also allow the children involved to develop key life skills including teamwork, communication skills, independence, resilience and self-confidence.

A typical project takes a class or group children right through the process of creating a complex marionette show, from puppet design and making, through set design to rehearsals and performances. Every child is involved in all stages of the process, and the final performances are run entirely by the children themselves. For this summer camp, the marionettes will have been made in advance by a team of older people from the community in St Albans. You can follow the making of those marionettes on the YPPT's social media accounts.

The YPPT was founded in 2014 by father-and-daughter team Jeremy and Caitlin Duschenes. Since then, with the help of a team of project leaders we have run nearly 70 projects at schools across six counties, involving over 2000 children and young people, and creating 2000 puppets in the process. We are delighted to be working with Trestle Arts Base to bring this brand new summer camp opportunity to St Albans for the first time.



YPPT backstage

There will be places for 30 children on the summer camp. Every child will take part in set design and painting activities, and in rehearsals and performances. The production will be using one of our high-tech stages built by international stagebuilders Brilliant Stages, who have also built for Take That and One Direction. In our production, there will be parts for:

- Voice actors
- Narrators
- Puppeteers
- Stage crew
- Technical crew (lighting, sound and special effects)

These jobs will be shared out between the 30 children so that each child has an equally valuable role. You might end up with several smaller jobs, or one job over several scenes—when you come for the taster workshop, you'll be able to have a go at several of them, and then tell us which ones you prefer!

Most of the jobs are backstage, so if you're not normally the sort of person who is confident enough to be on stage, this might just be the summer course for you! You'll learn lots of new skills in a highly professional environment and learn to work in a really close team without the fear of stage fright.



The summer camp

The summer camp will last 6 days, from Monday 8th August until Saturday 13th August 2022. All days will be at Trestle Arts Base, St Albans. A provisional timetable is below—we will confirm the times with the parents/carers of children selected for the course nearer the time.

Monday 8th August	10am-5pm	set design, stage construction
Tuesday 9th August	10am-5pm	set painting, blocking rehearsals
Wednesday 10th August	10am-5pm	technical rehearsals
Thursday 11th August	10am-5pm	full rehearsals
Friday 12th August	10am-4pm	dress rehearsals
	7pm	public performance
Saturday 13th August	11am	public performance
	2pm	public performance
	3pm	taking down the stage

Every child in the production will have an individual, vital role, so it will be important for every child to commit to attending the summer camp all day every day. This is not something you can dip in and out of. Children attending erratically will get very little out of the experience, will risk damaging the experience for other children, and may be asked to leave the project. Please note that children will need to bring a packed lunch each day.

Taster day

11am-3pm, Sat 4th June, Trestle Arts Base

If your child is interested in taking part in the summer camp this year, please sign them up for a free taster workshop on Saturday 4th June. Your child can have a go with a puppet, learn more about what goes on backstage, and do a short audition for a voice acting part if they want to have a speaking role. They will not need to prepare anything in advance for this.

The taster day will work on a drop-in basis, and is designed to give your child an idea of what the camp would be like. Children may want to stay for up to an hour.

Photos

If your child applies for the camp, we will require a photo of them. This is only for the purpose of selecting children for the camp, and the photos will not be shared beyond the selection panel/workshop leaders. You are welcome to bring a photo of your child, or we will take a digital photo on a company camera on the day. These photos and the data you provide on the form will be stored in line with our privacy policy, which is available on our website: www.yppt.org.uk/privacy-policy.



Applying for the camp

Application forms will be available at the taster day, and priority for places on the summer camp will be given to children who have attended the taster day. If you are unable to attend but would still like to apply, please email admin@yppt.org.uk.

If your child has previously taken part in a YPPT project, they do not need to come to the taster day. However, we strongly recommend that they attend if possible, so that we can see what other jobs they might be keen to do in a show. Please note that, if we are oversubscribed, we will give priority to children who have not experienced a YPPT project before.

Note to parents

We rely on good communication with parents to ensure that the project runs smoothly, therefore please ensure that all the forms are filled out correctly. We will email information to you to keep you informed of camp times and schedules and rely on you to make sure your child is available for the duration of the camp. Please don't hesitate to contact us should you need to discuss further any information regarding your child and their involvement in the summer camp.



Selection

We have 30 places available on the camp. If we have more applicants than places, we will select 30 children to participate based on their application forms. It's important to highlight that we're not particularly looking for children with lots of acting, puppetry or backstage experience; we look for children with potential and will work with them throughout the project to develop that potential.

You will be notified if your child has been selected for the summer camp by email by mid-June. The selection decision will be made by an experienced panel, and their decision is final. Correspondence regarding casting will not be entered into. If your child is selected, they will be required to attend all days of the summer camp.

Fees and Cancellations

There is no charge for the taster workshops. Participation in the summer camp is £120 for the week. If your child is selected for the summer camp, we will require payment in full by the end of June 2022 to reserve their place on the camp. No refunds will be possible unless we have to cancel the camp for any reason. Bursaries may be available.

Children on the summer camp will be expected to behave in a polite, respectful and cooperative manner. YPPT reserves the right to remove any child from the camp should their behaviour jeopardise the experience of others. In this situation, no refund will be offered.

We are closely monitoring information and advice from HM Government, the Department of Health and Social Care and Public Health England regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19). At present, we expect that the camp will go ahead as planned. We will continue to keep you updated if the situation changes, and HM Government issues any restrictions.

Enquiries

We look forward to seeing you at one of the workshops— please tell your friends and get them to sign up too! If you have any questions, please email admin@yppt.org.uk.



What they said

Previous participants' comments:

*“The best part was being able to **work as a team on an exciting production because we all had to work together to create what I think was an amazing show**”*

Jake, aged 11

*“Thank you, thank you, thank you for the **fantastic experience you have given the children. My son has not stopped enthusing about it since day 1!**”*

Jim, parent

*“What a **wonderful experience for the children and a real treat for the audience! Thank you so very much - I’m moved by the performance and you’ve provided a unique opportunity. The children should be super proud!**”*

Maryam, parent



FAQs

I've never done any puppetry before, is that ok?

Yes! We don't expect any child on the camp to have worked with puppets before, or have any experience in a theatre.

How much does the taster workshop cost?

It's free! Just register your interest at www.yppt.org.uk/summercamp

How do I apply for the summer camp?

Sign up for one of the taster workshops - you can apply at the end of your workshop.

Do I have to come to a taster workshop to go on the summer camp?

You don't have to, but children who have attended a workshop will be given priority in selection for places on the summer camp.

What should I wear for the workshop?

You don't need to wear any special clothes –just comfortable clothes that you can move around in a bit. We don't recommend wearing high heels.

What do I need to bring?

We will need a photo of you to remind us what you look like when we are selecting which children will be invited to attend the summer camp. Either you can bring a photo with you, or we'll take one on the day.

See you soon!

If you have any questions about the camp or the taster workshops, please contact our Associate Director Caitlin:

07914 830730

admin@yppt.org.uk

