



CALGARY YOUNG PEOPLE'S THEATRE

SNAPSHOT

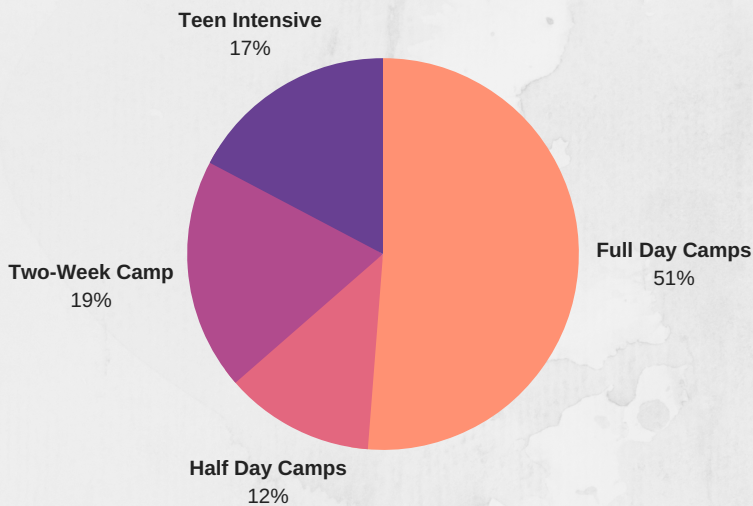
of a season 2017/18



SNAPSHOT OF A SEASON

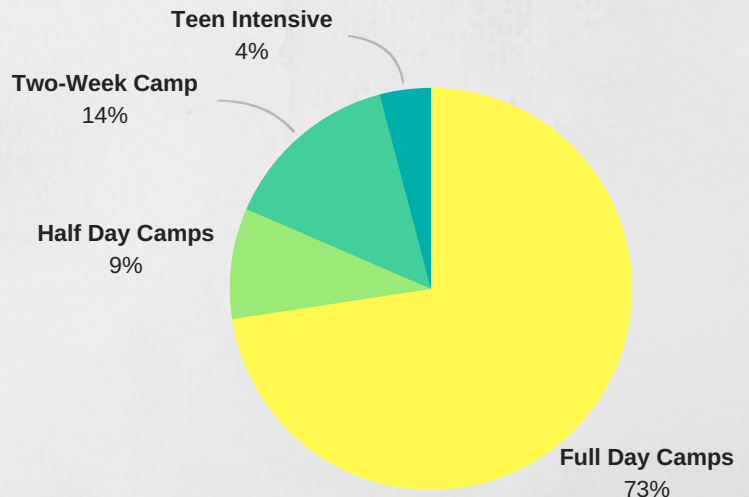
IN OUR 2017 SUMMER CAMPS, WE WELCOMED 308 YOUTH INTO OUR DOORS TO HAVE FUN
MAKING THEATRE AND MAKING FRIENDS!

NORTH CAMPS (4 WEEKS)



Stage Make-up camp is
always a hit!

SOUTH CAMPS (3 WEEKS)

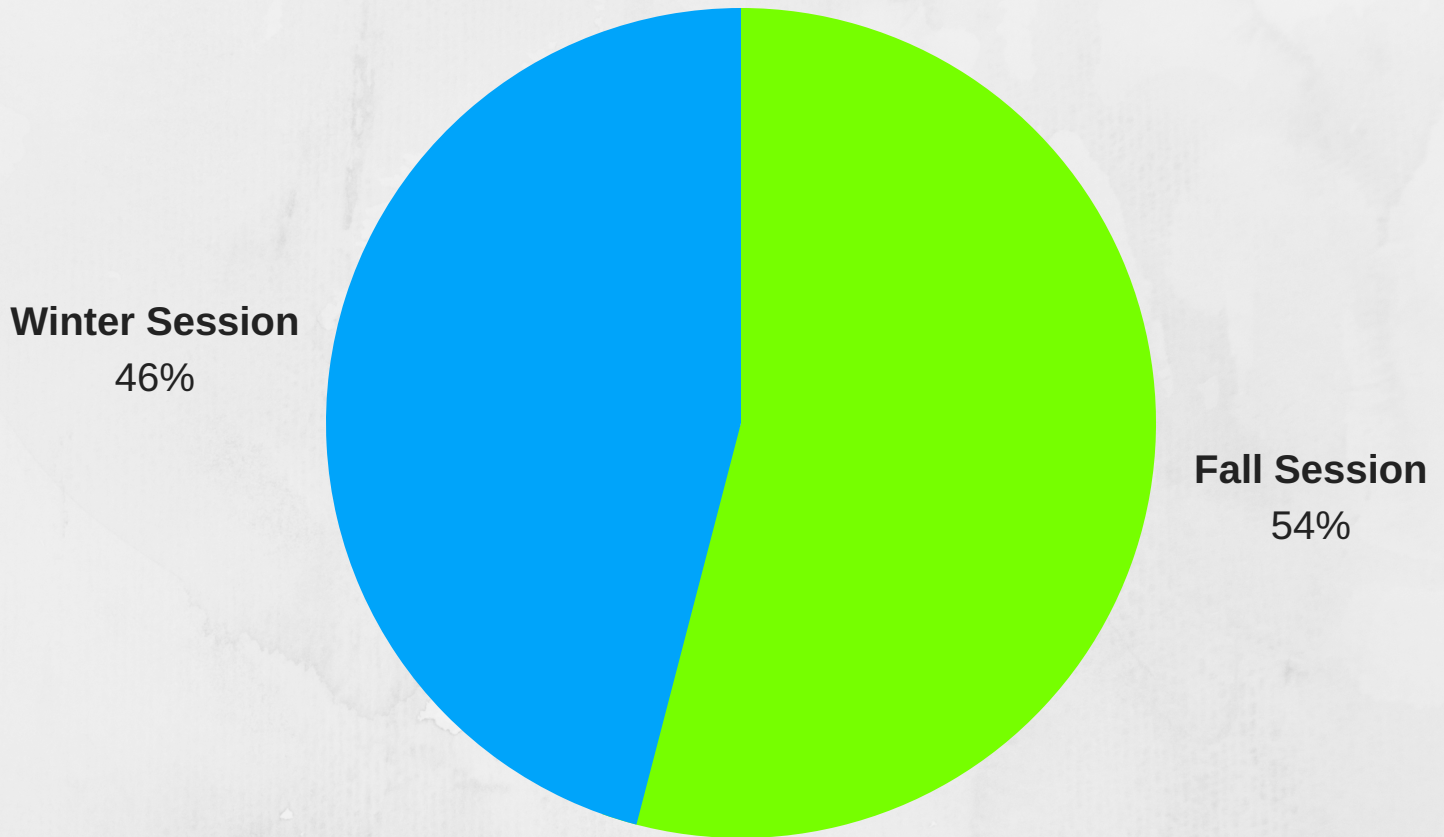


HIGHLIGHTS

- Many of our south camps were sold out this year!
- We welcomed back CYPT alumna Amanda Storwick and Abby Weeks, both of whom are studying drama at University in Edmonton
- As part of a new mentorship opportunity we mentored 2 of our current students in instructing drama classes

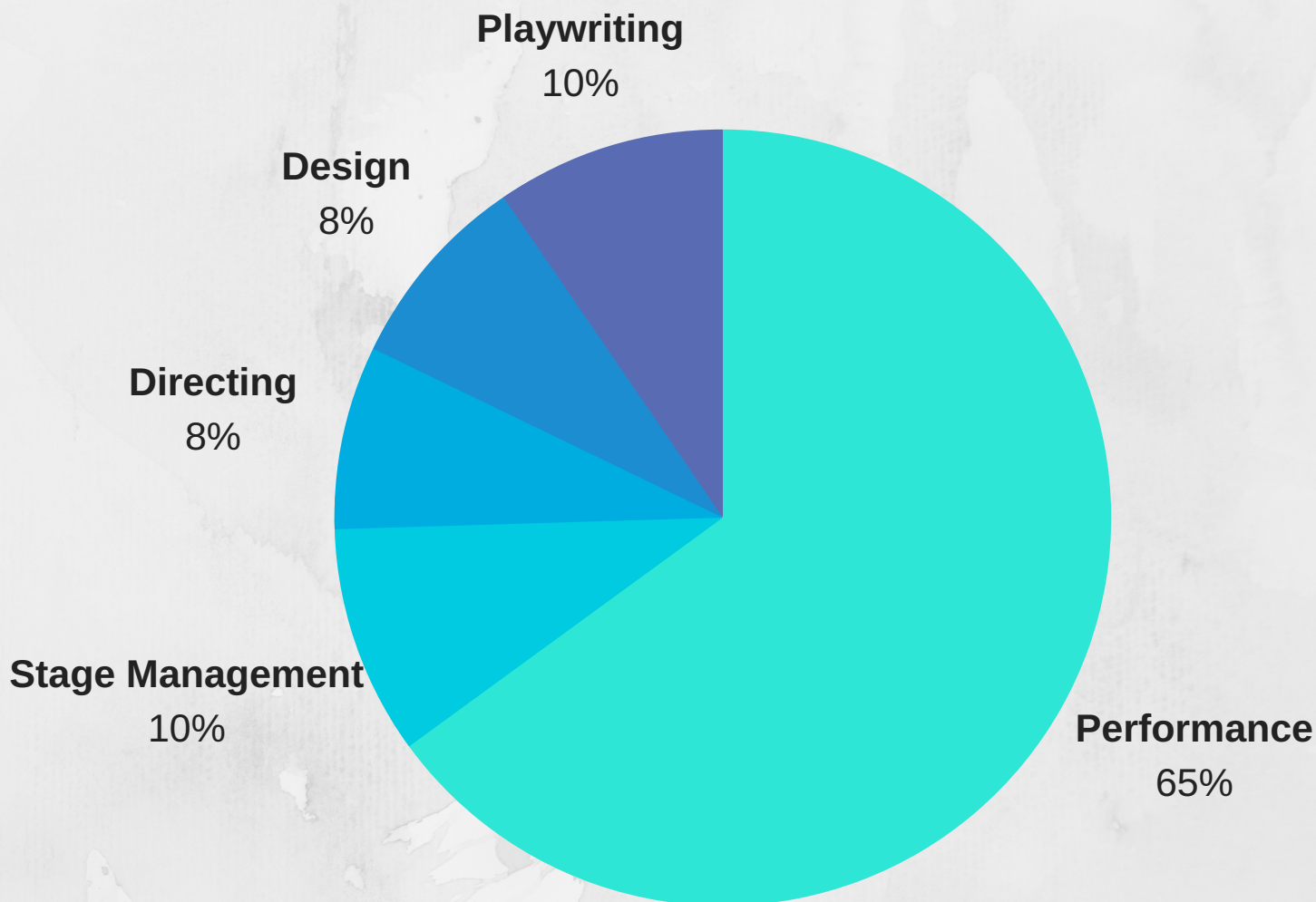
SNAPSHOT OF A SEASON

IN OUR 2017/18 YEAR-ROUND DRAMA CLASSES, WE WELCOMED 148 YOUTH INTO OUR DOORS TO LEARN ABOUT THE CRAFT OF ACTING... AND SOME FUN.



SNAPSHOT OF A SEASON

IN 2017/18, WE OFFERED 157 OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN OUR PRODUCTION PROGRAM IN A NUMBER OF ONSTAGE AND OFFSTAGE CAPACITIES



HIGHLIGHTS

- 100% of onstage roles performed by youth
- 4 plays written by professional artists, 7 plays written by youth artists
- our November 2017 mainstage production of Grounded is an original play written entirely by youth playwrights
- 6 of our 7 Cannonball Festival Shows were written by youth playwrights, directed by youth directors, and all 7 were designed, directed, and performed exclusively by youth!

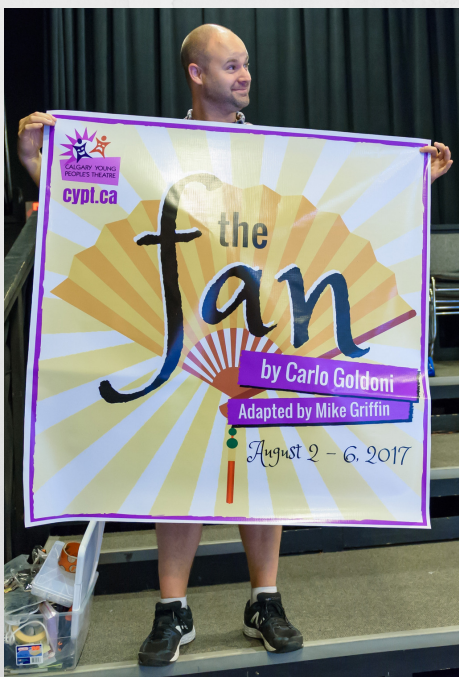
The Fan by Carlo Goldoni

Summer 2017 Production



We said goodbye to some of our graduating students on this performance, including Sophi Murias, pictured right. Don't worry, Sophi went on to study drama at the University of Victoria, and will return to CYPT in the summer of 2018 as a camp instructor!

Our 2017 Summer Teen Intensive this year was Carlo Goldoni's comedy, *The Fan*, adapted and directed by returning CYPT director Mike Griffin, pictured below!



HIGHLIGHTS!

The Fan featured 12 youth performers, 2 youth Assistant Stage Managers, and 1 youth Assistant Director.

Our youngest cast member was 13 year old Anton Matsigura, who played The Duke! The show was applauded for featuring a same-sex romance in a primary story line.

Unity (1918) by Kevin Kerr

October 2017 Production



Unity (1918) marks our first show produced in an alley seating configuration (audience on TWO sides)!



Unity (1918) explores the impact of the 1918 influenza on a small Saskatchewan town.



HIGHLIGHTS!

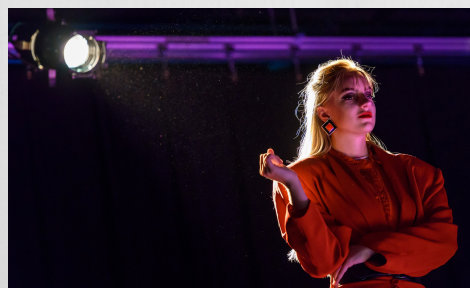
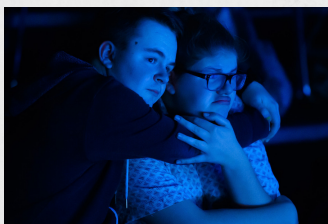
- Unity (1918) featured 10 youth performers, 1 youth Assistant Stage Manager, and 1 youth Assistant Director.
- The set was designed by director Jamie Dunsdon, and consisted of a long wooden boardwalk inspired by her love of "dark prairie aesthetics"
- The show must go on! When an actor suffered an unexpected injury at school, our Assistant Director and former CYPT performer Robert Morrison stepped into the role with less than 20 minutes of preparation! He performed her part for 2 shows before she returned to us. We missed her but were very proud of Robert for his help!
- Lighting designer Ajay Badoni made the set glow from below.
- This was CYPT's first October show and counted as a bonus 5th show in the season!

Grounded by The Outpatient Collective

November 2017 Production



Grounded was Assistant Directed by two former CYPT performers, seen here (below right) holding each other as they try not to cry out of pride for their work!



HIGHLIGHTS!

- Grounded featured 24 youth performers, 2 youth Assistant Stage Managers, and 2 youth Assistant Directors, making one of our largest rehearsal teams ever!
- The show took place in the 1980s, so the kids had to do some historical research!
- The Outpatient Collective of CYPT alumni consisted of 10 writers, one of our biggest Outpatient Collectives yet!
- Parker Feenstra (left) played an evil headmistress to both comedic and thrilling effect!

Peter Pan by J.M. Barrie

March 2018 Production



HIGHLIGHTS!

- Peter Pan featured 18 youth performers, 2 youth Assistant Stage Manager, and 1 youth Assistant Director.
- The show was co-directed by Christian Goutsis and Brianna Johnston, both of whom have a special relationship with Peter Pan and CYPT. Christian starred as Peter when he was kid himself, under the direction of CYPT founder Brian Dorscht. And Brianna (pictured left) is herself a CYPT alumna, who acted in shows when she was a kid...directed by Christian!
- Tinkerbell was played by a chorus of actors, each with a tiny light on their finger which seemed to magically dart about the theatre!
- Most of the two-week run SOLD OUT before the show even opened!

Coming up next....

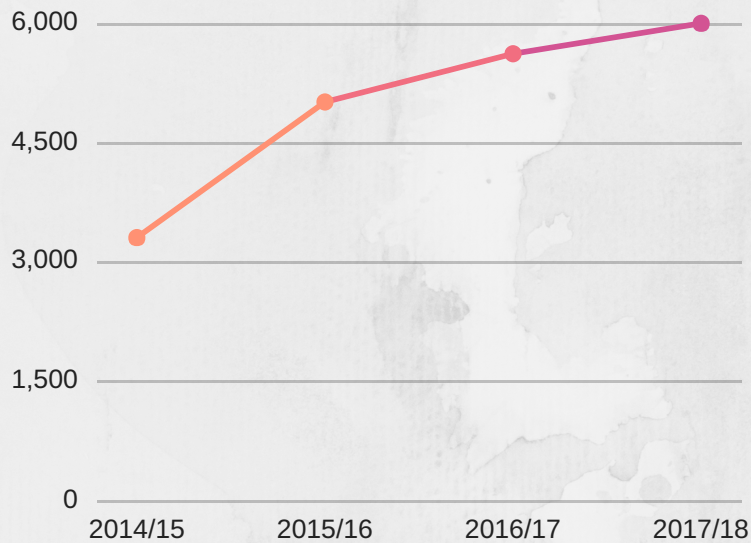


Our Library Tour production and our Cannonball Festival shows are in rehearsal right now! Come on out May 2 - 5 to see what kind of magic our kids are capable of!

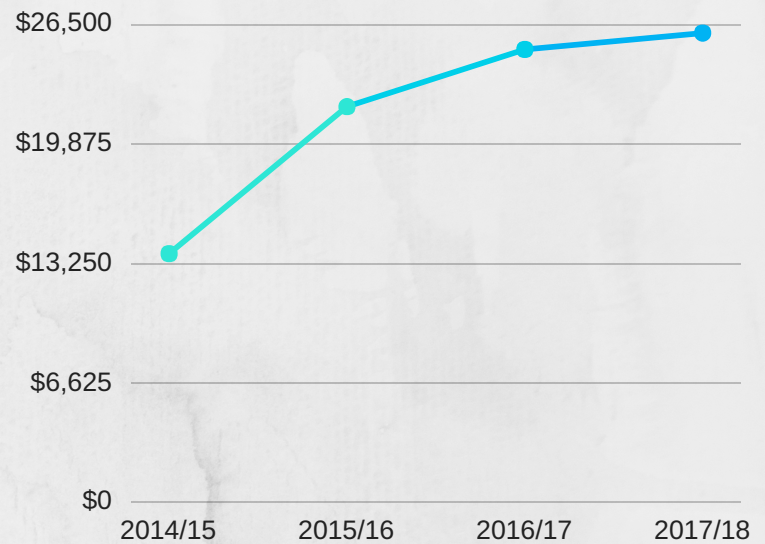
CANNONBALL POSTER ART ABOVE BY CYPT PERFORMER BAILEY LOHMANN.

FOUR YEARS OF GROWTH AND STABILITY

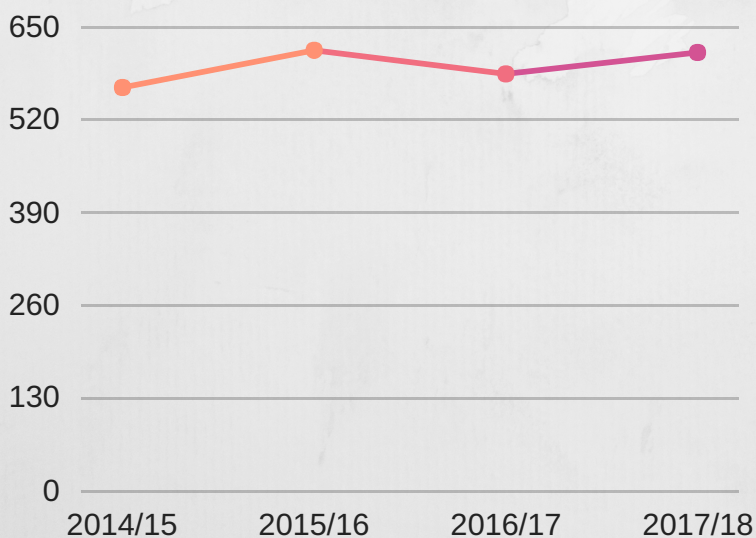
PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE



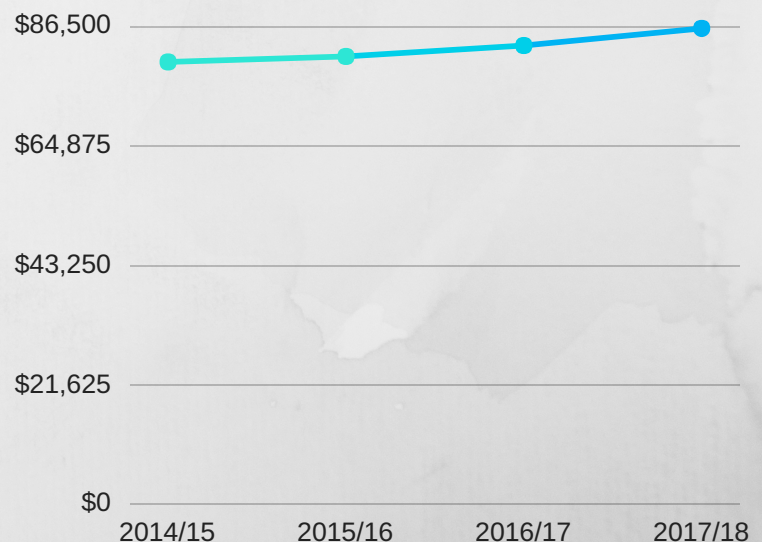
BOX OFFICE REVENUE



YOUTH ENROLLED IN PROGRAMS



CAMP REVENUE



*2017/18 figures are estimates at this time





Alberta
Foundation
for the Arts



CALGARY
PUBLIC
LIBRARY



West Village Theatre



LITTLE ROCK
The All In Printer





Quotes from the kids!

“I don’t regret many things, but waiting so long to work with the wonderful people of CYPT is for sure one of them. It’s easily one of the best experiences of my life.”

-Branden Sugden

“Sometimes following your path means getting lost , going backwards, forging ahead, burning your own trail and eventually making your way home. Calgary Young People’s Theatre is that home.”

~Kyle Kubicek

“During the course of my pre-teen years I looked for a place I could fit in. I found that place, its called CYPT.”

-Kayla McArthur

excerpt: MacKenzie's bio (written by MacKenzie Ireland, age 18)

...When she auditioned in August of last year, nerves oozed from her pores, yet almost instantly through the auditions and the start of rehearsals she was accepted and brought full force into this amazing group of people. The endless amounts of laughter and creation have made her heart full and smile wide. CYPT is one of the most special and important places she has ever encountered. The love, respect, and adoration she has for CYPT is eternal and she cannot thank everyone enough for that.

excerpt: Aurora's bio (written by Aurora Becker, age 18)

...She would like to thank her parents for their amazing support during shows and dealing with her post-show emptiness, and Jamie, Kristin and Gillian for being strong, encouraging role models in her life. Aurora still looks back on her first audition, that provided her entrance to an amazing community of friends and cast members, several of whom will have lifelong impact. She would like to point out that CYPT has been a role model in itself, giving support to anyone involved and by creating memories Aurora will carry for the rest of her life.

excerpt: Abby's bio (written by Abby Weeks, age 19)

...There is nothing that has been more influential on Abby's childhood than CYPT. The loving people, the amazing friends, the wonderful experiences and challenges, the intriguing characters. There aren't words to thank the family at CYPT for being so supportive and showing Abby exactly what she wanted to do with her life, for showing her a home away from home. However, if there were, they would be something along the lines of Thank You, so very much.

Parker's Bio

(written by Parker Feenstra, age 17)

Parker started with CYPT at the wee age of 15 and has somehow managed to work her way to 17 without any major problems (yet). Parker is often asked how the heck she has done EIGHT shows with this wonderful, amazing, beautiful company and to that she would respond a solid; "I have no idea." In the past three years Parker has had the pleasure of having basically no life outside of theatre and is very grateful for that. She has been given the opportunity to grow, not only as an actor but also as a person whom she is proud of. Everyday she sees the impact this company has had on her life and everyday she smiles and says a small thank you. Knowing the small impact she will have on this world, she is so grateful to know that she will be a part of the history of CYPT because, no matter how long it lasts, it will always be a treasured and beautiful place. Just thinking that she got to be a part of that for even a short period of time is so magical. Parker has made friends that have influenced her more than she could ever imagine and she has met mentors that will continue to inspire her long after she leaves.

She couldn't put into words how much this company means to the kids who go through it. It has taught her more than a school ever could and she has learned to love and cherish everything as long as you have it. Though she is leaving and it makes her the saddest she has ever been, she will be forever in debt to the group of amazing women who will continue to inspire and protect the kids who will become the new CYPT regulars and then leave and feel just as sad as we all are now.

Parker began her CYPT journey with seeing The Lost Prince where, she cried (shocker) and said to herself; "I want to do that." She had never really considered theatre as something that you could do outside of school but once she knew that, there was no stopping her. At her first audition with CYPT she walked in and shook Jamie Dunsdon's hand. With that one handshake her life would be forever changed. Richard III, Atlantis, Words for Tomorrow, War of the Worlds Project, Macbeth, This is Not a Love Story, The Fan and Grounded. You may say to yourself, huh, that's like every show from the past three years and you would be correct. Through one way or another Parker has somehow convinced everyone that she is competent enough to act, write, stage manage and direct.

Parker in Grounded, 2017. (Photo by Rob Galbraith)

Parker would whole-heartedly like to say thank you to everyone at CYPT for making these past three years the absolute best of her life. She will never be able to tell everyone here how much they mean to her and how genuinely happy they have made her. She would not be here without them and she never says it enough but she loves you guys.

She is so glad she found this place and she promises, she will not be leaving as she came

What can I tell you about Calgary Young People's Theatre? First off, I must say, I think it's magic. They have this unwavering ability to make every person who happens to have an encounter with them feel so special and wanted. At this point in a kid's life, they tell you to find your people and no matter who you are, with CYPT, you've found them.

I have been working with Calgary Young People's Theatre for about three and a half years now and I can honestly say they have made my high school experience so much better. Through them I have had the opportunity to experience every aspect of theatre and they have pushed me to become a more rounded and confident performer. Before discovering the wonderful world that is CYPT, I had only ever thought about the actual acting side of theatre. I never imagined I would get the chance to direct, write, stage-manage or design a show, because at the time, I didn't even know that was an option.

When kids are introduced to CYPT they are given every opportunity to explore and succeed. Creativity and drive is never squashed or turned down. They always ask what they can do to help all these bizarre drama students be their best. I have never felt so supported and encouraged in any situation. Through all their programs, whether it may be; camps, workshops, main stage productions or the Cannonball Festival, every kid is cheered on with such intensity I don't know how they don't run out of cheer. If you ever feel out of place or lost, there is always someone to give you a simple complement, listen to a weird Shakespeare theory or even just give you a really good hug.

Three years ago when I auditioned for the 2015 summer production of Richard III, I never thought I would be making the best decision I have ever made. Since then I have had the opportunity to work with so many inspiring and driven artists that I would've never imagined meeting. Though none of them hold a candle to the three women who make the CYPT world go round. Kristin Eveleigh, Jamie Dunsdon and Gillian Webster are the most powerful forces that you will ever meet. I have had the absolute pleasure to work with them all in some capacity and I can honestly say that I have never found people so passionate about youth. They care about every aspect of our lives. They become our mentors and inspirations but most importantly they become our friends. They teach all of the kids who make their way through CYPT that if you really believe in something, fight like hell to keep it going. Personally through them I have learned compassion, work ethic, dedication and absolute love.

There is no way I can put on a piece of paper what Calgary Young People's Theatre means to the individuals that are a part of it. Everyone who has the pleasure to be a part of it in any way knows that this is a special place. There's no getting around it. If you're here, you're family. People have had their own unique experiences with CYPT, but I can tell you that mine is something that I will never be able to forget or repay.

If I could sum up my feelings towards CYPT in one word it would be; grateful. They have given me the confidence to find and pursue my passion. I can honestly say that without CYPT I would not be who I am today and I can never say thank you enough. This place is magic. Pure magic.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Parker Feenstra". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'P'.

Parker Feenstra

To whom it may concern,

My name is Abigail Weeks and I am in my 3rd year of a BA in Drama at the University of Alberta. I am writing to speak to you about Calgary Young People's Theatre.

I have been involved with CYPT since I was four years old. My brothers and I grew up with them, and the time I have spent with the company makes up some of the best moments of my life. I did eleven years of their summer day camps and it was the thing I looked forward to the most every summer vacation, even more so than my own birthday! In 2012 my older brother did one of their mainstage productions and I was hooked.

I auditioned for their 2013/2014 season and fell in love with theatre all over again. This was a time in my life where I was considering forgetting my dream of acting, but the immense support and love that flows through all Calgary Young People's Theatre programs and productions is so overwhelming that it made it impossible for me to leave acting behind.

I've seen the way that lives have been changed by the folks at this company throughout my whole life, in myself and in others. Youth and adults alike are forever changed by CYPT. I came to university for drama because of the encouragement and support of the people at Calgary Young People's Theatre.

They treat kids like real people, and the chances that kids are given through CYPT are immeasurable. They have branched out into so many aspects of theatre so that now kids don't just get to act, they get to write and direct, they get to stage manage, they learn about all of it. It's what started me wanting to write plays along with acting. There is no minimum or maximum with Calgary Young People's Theatre, it can be your fun after school activity or your guide on your way to your dreams and beyond. Nothing makes me happier than to know that the company is always growing and coming up with new ideas to give kids more opportunities.

Last summer I got the chance to work with the same summer camps that I grew up with. It became clearer than ever before that everything they do at Calgary Young People's Theatre is for the kids. On top of that, the support I received as a staff member was so incredibly heart warming. There isn't a single person I know that I would not suggest this company to, their humanity and creativity helped to shape me as a person and I am so proud that they continue to touch so many lives every day, year after year.

Cheers,
Abigail Weeks

February 16, 2018

To Whom it May Concern,

Our family has been involved with CYPT for over 10 years and our three kids have enjoyed participating in a variety of camps, classes and productions put on by CYPT. We have always been impressed with the quality of programs they offer but even more than that, we are so pleased that our kids have found a place in the CYPT family where they feel accepted, have great mentors and have formed strong friendships.

We have always been so impressed with how accepting the CYPT community has been of all the kids who participate in their programs. When our kids are part of camp or a performance, they learn the value of accepting others and always feel they are accepted unconditionally by the CYPT team. In addition, not only has it brought our own kids closer together because of their shared onstage experience, it has also created lasting bonds with the friends they make during the production runs.

We have seen our two daughter's confidence soar when given the opportunity to be part of the amazing onstage productions with the other kids. When our son was struggling with high school he found a safe and supportive place in CYPT and had the opportunity to be successful and proud of his accomplishments. I can't imagine how he would have gotten through those high school years without the support he received there.

In addition to the opportunities provided to our kids we also love the performances that CYPT puts on. Every year they have a great line up and we see all the performances, even the ones our kids are not in! The performances are very professionally done and we are continually amazed at the quality of productions they put on. One of our favorite things to see is how all the CYPT kids come together to watch and support their fellow actors.

We are so appreciative of the staff at CYPT for the opportunities they have provided our kids. They bring out the best in our kids and we are grateful to have such positive adult role models for our kids to look up to.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Finstad and Larry Welsh