

FAQ's about KW Children's Drama Workshop Programs

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Is there an age limit?

KWCDW is open to people ages 3-16 years. The 16 year olds can turn 17 during the season in which they participate.

We offer classes starting at age 3.

We offer workshops starting at age 8.

We offer Stage Fighting Workshops for 10-16 year olds.

We offer Advanced Productions for those 7-16.

We now offer a summer program starting for age 5-16 years.

Do I need previous experience to participate in an Advanced Production?

Most of our classes and workshops do not require previous experience.

Why do I have to pay tuition?

KWCDW is a teaching theatre school. Just like any other business we would not be able to offer our programming without charging tuition.

We are a registered non-profit organization who runs their programs on a cost recovery basis. KWCDW hires staff that have completed educated training in their field of expertise, have worked professionally or are working towards their degree in the theatrical or related arts so your children will get the latest information and quality programming and production experiences. Our staff are very passionate people who put the kids first and often graciously reduce their teaching rates to below their professional regular rates to bring KWCDW top quality programming and to help us keep our rates lower.

KWCDW is a teaching theatre school, our sole focus is not to put on a production after production that is only a portion of what we do. We wish to help each participant develop, hone and build theatrical and life long skills that can be used in and out of the theatre world such as becoming confident speakers in front of peers and crowds; developing spatial awareness/body awareness; developing creative problem solving skills and so on.

Honing and rehearsing these skills are brought together in final presentations for the classes, workshops and Advanced Productions. All these programs cost a substantial amount of money to hire qualified staff, space rental, theatre rental, other production costs (performance rights, legal copies of scripts, costumes/sets/props) etc.

At KWCDW we strive to keep costs affordable for most families.

Receipts are distributed at the request of the participants.

Full refunds will be given up until 1 week prior to a program starting. After this time until the first day of the program a partial refund will be honoured minus an admin fee of \$30. Once a program commences refunds will not be provided unless there is another person to fill your space. Since we run on a cost recovery basis our programs run due to enrollment people committed to participating in. You are expected to honour all post dated cheques.

On line payment is coming but all registrations can be mailed to the KWCDW office 369 Pastern Trail Waterloo, ON N2K 4K7.

Do you offer financial aid?

There are some limited financial assistance options and payment concerns available for each class/workshop offered. During the registration process you can contact our Treasurer directly for a list of community support offices and KWCDW payment options. Once you are registered in a program and pay your minimal commitment fee you will be given information to get access to possible further funding.

We are also looking to build a Bursary program for struggling families who can not afford any financial commitment. Please contact Dee if you are interested in donating to this worthy cause.

What is included in my registration tuition?

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Classes and workshops run on a cost recovery basis. Your fee helps pay for the instructor hired to do the advertised program, insurance, administrative fees, space rental, photocopies if provided for your program, show program if required. Class participants will also receive a KWCDW shirt which will be their costume base for their session end presentations.

Is there a dress code?

Yes and no.

There is not a formal dress code however every registrant will receive a KWCDW t-shirt or have previously purchased Production shirts which can to be worn to rehearsals.

Having a somewhat structured dress code is part of the team environment just like karate, hockey or dance. It brings everyone on the same page, increases focus, reduces fashion comparisons and insures every is dressed ready to move, concentrate and learn.

However participants do need to wear loose comfortable clothing (no jeans or skirt/dresses as they limit movement; unless they are required for the Production in which the Directoral staff will ask them to wear them), non-skid indoor shoes (outdoor shoes will not be permitted) or black jazz shoes. Hair is to be off the face so not to distract or hide the actor. All tops need to be hip bone length and no attire should be revealing in nature.

Anyone not adhering to dress code after receiving a warning will be loaned attire to wear for that rehearsal. If dress code continues to not be adhered to you may be asked to sit out of rehearsals by the Directoral team.

Are there items that are helpful to have?

It is wise to invest in black shoes (oxford style for boys and oxford or flats for girls or proper jazz shoes);

a pair of black straight legged pants (not jeans);

We suggest purchasing your items second hand since kids grow like weeds!

What do I need to bring with me to classes/workshops?

For those attending longer than 1.5 hours in one night bring a NUT FREE snacks/meals (nut food products will be confiscated by staff due to potential life threatening allergies within the group and within the school in which we rehearse)

Lots of water (labeled) other drinks can leave a sticky mess if spilled. Our bodies are largely water so please send that as the replenishing liquid & there are not fountains in the school

Your script/class notes

Proper attire

An enthusiastic positive attitude

A sharpened pencil or two for making notes in your script (this is the actors responsibility to stay on top of the work taught to them)

How long are classes/workshops?

CLASSES

Run anywhere from 45 minutes – 2 hours. Our year runs from September-April. Moving up levels is at the discretion of the instructor/Artistic Director. Everyone will move up at their own pace. This also allows those with limited time to pick and choose when they study in our programs, do our Advanced Productions etc.

WORKSHOPS

Usually run for a morning or full day session. Intensive workshops may run over 4 consecutive or non-consecutive weekends for a ½ -full day.

Do you offer classes for people who need to get experience to be able to participate in one of your productions or for people who wish to continue honing their skills?

Yes in September '08 we started up our drama classes again which are available to anyone interested and are open to 3-16 year olds.

Our summers offer an intensive 4th Production for older actors 11-16 years and summer camps for 5-8 and 9-12 year olds. The camps will be age appropriate and will feature guest artists outside of KWCDW staff.

We also produce 3 full scale productions a year and host intensive workshops with a variety of professionals in the field on Stage Combat, Dance, How to Audition, Improv etc. We are always looking for new workshops to host to help all children have the opportunity to try and explore the theatrical arts please send us your wish list.

Thank you for your interest in KWCDW and its staff likes to make themselves approachable to our participants and their families comments/concerns/feedback. In the theatre world there is a general hierarchy to follow when addressing information. Instructors / Directors are busy people inside and out of rehearsals however they do wish to put the participants first. If you need to address them you have their contact information. Please send them an email or phone them to set up a meeting to discuss things ahead of time so they can plan to arrive early or stay late at a rehearsal.

The general order of things for classes/workshops is as follows:

1. In general if it is about the overall production go to the Instructor first. They are the one who have created the vision and should have the answers. If it is specific to a Instructor or/Team member go to them first. Hopefully your questions will be answered in a suitable way. If not, then please address:
2. The Artistic Director. The AD is the one responsible for the overall vision of the group. They participate in the hiring of the team and if there are issues that can not or are not resolved at the Director level then the AD will attempt to resolve them.
3. The final place to bring your concerns after trying the above two is to the Volunteer Board of Directors Chair.

Where do you find your various Directors/Instructors and how are they qualified?

It is important to the Board of Directors and Artistic Director that KWCDW provides its participants with qualified and experienced people to coordinate our Productions, classes and workshops. Some were/are professional actors, others have gone to University and others have had years of community experience.

Every Director and Instructor works differently in their own unique way which will broaden your child's experience in developing skills working with a variety of people from different backgrounds and techniques. It will teach them flexibility in learning how to work for and take direction from people which is a skill they will need well beyond their KWCDW years in which ever career they choose.

Approached with an open mind it will help them become more diverse in their own skills and stretch themselves in more ways as each Director/Instructor will have their own thing they like to pull out of their participants. Everyone will have their preferences for different things but it is the grand variety of experiences brought forth to the children and youth of the region that is ultimately a vital element.

Our various Directors/Instructors come from a huge background of different experiences and qualifications. The most important thing for KWCDW is that we have knowledgeable Directors/Instructors in their field that have a keen interest in the theatrical arts, the local community and most importantly a sincere interest and passion for working with children and youth.

All of our Director candidates are interviewed by our Artistic Director and Board of Directors who must vote and agree to hire them. Each potential Director is required to provide a written vision of the Production/class and a general plan of how they will plan their rehearsal/class schedules in which they have applied have an up to date first aid certificate (or in the process of getting one) and a clean Police Records Check before being brought onto our team.

As our new website is constructed we plan to have a photo and biography of each staff person working with your child(ren) so you can discover for yourself the plethora of talent, knowledge and experience our directors bring to KWCDW.