

FALL SESSION

THEATER ACADEMY

Life Skills
Through
Stage Skills


Classes in
Milwaukee,
Brookfield,
& Mequon!



REGISTER AT FIRSTSTAGE.ORG





FALL THEATER ACADEMY

Dear Families,

Theater training is more than learning skills to perform on a stage; it's a transformative journey that equips you with life skills, where creativity becomes your compass, empathy your script, and resilience your standing ovation. For more than 30 years, the classes within the First Stage Theater Academy meet students where they are and offer an experience unlike any other.

Our philosophy is teaching **life skills through stage skills** throughout all our course offerings. Our Professional Teaching Artists create a safe, positive learning environment that allows students to **take risks and conquer fears** all while being fully supported.

We believe that theater training for young people is where the imagination takes the spotlight, has the power to ignite minds, touch hearts, and change the world.

We hope you can join us throughout the school year! We look forward to seeing you!



J.T. BACKES

Academy Director
jtbackes@firststage.org

Locations	4
Ages 3-5 + Adult. . .	5
Grades K4-1	6
Grades 1-2.	7
Intensives.	8
Grades 3-4	10
Grades 5-12	13
Next Steps	14
FAQ.	15

Photos by Paul Ruffolo



FALL THEATER ACADEMY

**First Stage Theater Academy is the Nation's Largest
High-Impact Theater Training Program for Young People**



Milwaukee, WI

MILWAUKEE YOUTH ARTS CENTER (MYAC)

The Milwaukee Youth Arts Center (MYAC) is a nationally recognized state-of-the-art educational facility, located at 325 W Walnut Street, Milwaukee, WI 53212 in historic Schlitz Park.



Brookfield, WI

SHARON LYNNE WILSON CENTER FOR THE ARTS (SLW)

The Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts (SLW) in Brookfield is a beautiful arts and education facility, nestled just 20 minutes west of downtown Milwaukee in Mitchell Park at 3270 Mitchell Park Drive, Brookfield, WI 53045.



Mequon, WI

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY WISCONSIN (CUW)

Concordia University Wisconsin (CUW) offers an inspiring setting for learning in a vibrant academic environment, located just 20 minutes north of Milwaukee at 12800 N Lake Shore Drive, Mequon, WI 53097.



First Stage is a proud United Performing Arts Fund Member and appreciates the generous support received annually thanks to your UPAF donation.

AGES 3-5 + ADULT

YOU & ME

NEW!



MOTHER GHOST: NURSERY RHYMES FOR LITTLE MONSTERS

Young people love using their imaginations to explore the world around them, and they love the special interactions that exist with a guardian. Share unique experiences and wonderful moments through creative drama by participating in a class with your favorite young person.

Note: An adult, Parent, or Guardian must accompany student to all You & Me classes.

📍	CLASS	DATES	TIME
SLW	You & Me	Sep 20 – Oct 25	Sat, 9:00–9:30 AM
MYAC	You & Me	Oct 4 – Nov 8	Sat, 9:00–9:30 AM
MYAC	You & Me	Oct 4 – Nov 8	Sat, 9:45–10:15 AM

TUITION: ~~\$225~~ \$205*

* Early Bird Discount ends July 7





GRADES K4-1

STORY DRAMA

PUMPKIN PATCH OF POSSIBILITY!

All of us are unique, just like pumpkins! Students will use their imagination and voice to explore the importance of being ourselves and supporting each other like good friends in a patch.

	CLASS	DATES	TIME
SLW	Story Drama	Sep 20 - Oct 25	Sat, 9:00-9:45 AM
SLW	Story Drama	Sep 20 - Oct 25	Sat, 10:00-10:45 AM
MYAC	Story Drama	Oct 4 - Nov 8	Sat, 9:30-10:15 AM
MYAC	Story Drama	Oct 4 - Nov 8	Sat, 10:30-11:15 AM
CUW	Story Drama	Oct 4 - Nov 8	Sat, 9:00-9:45 AM
CUW	Story Drama	Oct 4 - Nov 8	Sat, 10:00-10:45 AM

TUITION: ~~\$250~~ **\$230***

** Early Bird Discount ends July 7*



GRADES 1-2

PLAYMAKERS

MONSTER MAYHEM

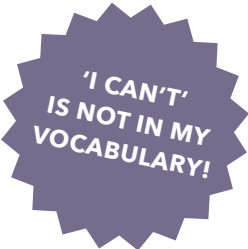
Monsters are so much more than just scary things under your bed! Use your body, voice, and imagination to build hauntingly fun stories.



	CLASS	DATES	TIME
SLW	Playmakers	Sep 20 - Oct 25	Sat, 9:45-10:45 AM
MYAC	Playmakers	Sep 30 - Nov 4	Tues, 4:30-5:30 PM
MYAC	Playmakers	Oct 4 - Nov 8	Sat, 9:30-10:30 AM
MYAC	Playmakers	Oct 4 - Nov 8	Sat, 10:45-11:45 AM
CUW	Playmakers	Oct 4 - Nov 8	Sat, 9:45-10:45 AM

TUITION: ~~\$250~~ \$230*

* Early Bird Discount ends July 7



AUDITIONS

SCHOOL YEAR INTENSIVES



Audition for one of our School Year Intensive programs! Extended contact hours and progressive curriculum in these multi-session classes empower each student to maximize their artistic skills as well as emphasize commitment, responsibility, critical thinking, and personal expression.

School Year Intensives run September 2025 – May 2026 and include Young Actors Studio, Advanced Musical Theater, Advanced Improvisation, and Production Design. **Auditions are August 18-22, 2:30-4:30 PM.**

Contact the Academy office at (414) 267-2970 for more information.

YOUNG ACTORS STUDIO (Grades 5-9)

NEW!

Be part of something new! We are excited to announce **Young Actors Studio**, a brand-new school year intensive designed for passionate, dedicated young performers in grades 5-9.

Replacing our former Advanced Musical Theater and Advanced Acting classes, this reimagined program combines the strengths of both into an immersive experience. Students will receive focused training in acting, dance, and voice, rotating through each area of the curriculum weekly to build strong, versatile performance skills.

Modeled after our award-winning Young Company program, **Young Actors Studio** provides younger performers with a similarly high-caliber, holistic training experience. The program emphasizes more than just technique—through a structured rotation model, students will gain well-rounded performance training while deepening their artistic growth.

ADVANCED MUSICAL THEATER (Grades 9-12)

Advanced Musical Theater is an audition-based school year intensive for students interested in acquiring and growing the skills of a musical theater performer. The goal of these classes is to advance in the areas of singing, dancing, and acting, as well as tangible skills vital to being a musical theater performer: audition process, audition materials, reading music, and understanding the business of being a performer.

ADVANCED IMPROVISATION (Grades 7-12)

Advanced Improvisation, also known as **Organized Chaos**, is an audition-based school year intensive for students interested in diving further into the craft of long form improvisation. The goal of these classes is to grow stronger storytellers, stronger characters, and make in the moment choices without a script. Students will then have a chance to present these skills with an end of the year performance.

PRODUCTION DESIGN (Grades 7-12)

Production & Design is an application-based school year intensive for students interested in diving further into the craft of theater design. Through this intensive, students will gain hands-on knowledge of what goes into being a professional designer. The goal of these classes is to explore all of the behind-the-scenes elements that bring a production to life, including set, lightning, props, sound, and more!



**Scan the QR code to
sign up for your School
Year Intensive audition!**



GRADES 3-4

SCENE STUDY

THE PIGEON GETS A BIG TIME HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA!

When Mo Willems' characters get together for the holidays, it's bound to be the biggest extravaganza ever! Explore characters, relationships, action, and text while developing overall acting skills and confidence using this brand-new script.

MUSICAL THEATER

BROADWAY'S DISNEY HITS

From the castle to the stage, this musical theater class will feature songs from beloved Disney classics that made their way to Broadway! Sing, dance, and act your heart out as you bring the magic of Disney to life.

I TAKE
RISKS!



GRADES 3-4 SCHEDULE

📍	CLASS	DATES	TIME
SLW	Scene Study	Sep 20 – Oct 25	Sat, 9:45-10:45 AM
SLW	Musical Theater	Sep 20 – Oct 25	Sat, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM
MYAC	Scene Study	Sep 30 – Nov 4	Tues, 4:30-5:30 PM
MYAC	Musical Theater	Sep 30 – Nov 4	Tues, 4:30-5:30 PM
MYAC	Musical Theater	Oct 4 – Nov 8	Sat, 10:00-11:00 AM
MYAC	Scene Study	Oct 4 – Nov 8	Sat, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM
MYAC	Musical Theater	Oct 4 – Nov 8	Sat, 11:30-12:30 AM
MYAC	Scene Study	Oct 4 – Nov 8	Sat, 12:30-1:30 PM
CUW	Scene Study	Oct 4 – Nov 8	Sat, 9:45-10:45 AM
CUW	Musical Theater	Oct 4 – Nov 8	Sat, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM

TUITION: ~~\$275~~ \$255*

* Early Bird Discount ends July 7



GRADES 5-12

ACTING

Dive into mysterious characters, creepy scenes, and ghostly drama as we explore the story behind our upcoming show ***Goosebumps: Phantom of the Auditorium***! Explore characters, relationships, action, and text while developing overall acting skills and confidence.

MUSICAL THEATER

Take the stage with **Live from Broadway!**, a high-energy musical theater class featuring songs from today's hottest Broadway hits! Sing, dance, and act your heart out as you bring the magic of modern musicals to life.

IMPROVISATION

Develop expressiveness, spontaneity, and train your brain to think quickly and with reason through improvisational character and scene work.

STAGE COMBAT

Stage combat is the art of creating realistic-looking stunts, falls, and fights – safely! Students of all experience levels will be able to learn fundamental stage combat techniques with hands-on lessons in a safe and controlled classroom, all while gaining trust in each other and their own physicality.

PUPPETRY

Bring characters to life in this hands-on class – **Bringing Puppets to Life** – where your imagination takes center stage! From shadow puppets to hand puppets, you'll learn how to move, voice, and perform with all types of puppets.

GRADES 5-12 SCHEDULE

📍	CLASS	DATES	TIME
MYAC	Acting	Sep 30 - Nov 4	Tues, 4:30-5:30 PM
MYAC	Acting	Oct 4 - Nov 8	Sat, 12:00-1:00 PM
MYAC	Acting	Oct 4 - Nov 8	Sat, 1:15-2:15 PM
MYAC	Musical Theater	Oct 4 - Nov 8	Sat, 10:30-11:30 AM
MYAC	Musical Theater	Oct 4 - Nov 8	Sat, 2:30-3:30 PM
MYAC	Improvisation	Oct 4 - Nov 8	Sat, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM
MYAC	Improvisation	Oct 4 - Nov 8	Sat, 12:30-1:30 PM
MYAC	Stage Combat	Oct 4 - Nov 8	Sat, 1:00-2:00 PM
MYAC	Puppetry	Oct 4 - Nov 8	Sat, 2:00-3:00 PM

TUITION: ~~\$275~~ \$255*

** Early Bird Discount ends July 7*

**I AM NOT
AFRAID TO
LEAD!**



GRADES 3-12

NEXT STEPS PROGRAM



Designed for students on the autism spectrum, Next Steps classes help students take their “next steps” as an artist and a person. First Stage creates a safe space for all students to express themselves and develop as individuals without judgment or fear of failure. Guided by our philosophy of teaching life skills through stage skills, students will experience the joy of theater arts each day with a team of teaching artists and special education professionals.

Class Sizes: Our classroom model includes teams of lead teachers, special education professionals, and teaching assistants with approximately a 2:1 student to teacher ratio. Family aides may accompany a student to class as necessary and agreed upon between the family and First Stage.

Next Steps Curriculum: Explore character, relationships, action and text while developing overall acting skills and confidence.

Special registration form required – to register, contact nextsteps@firststage.org or call (414) 267-2941.

📍	CLASS	DATES	TIME
MYAC	Next Steps	Oct 4 - Nov 8	Sat, 10:30-11:30 AM

TUITION: ~~\$325~~ \$305*

** Early Bird Discount ends July 7*

FAQ

How do I register for First Stage Theater Academy?

All registrations are processed on a first-come, first-served basis, accepted by mail, fax, or online at www.firststage.org. Please register as early as possible, as space fills quickly. Please complete all information on your registration form to ensure your registration is processed as soon as possible.

Will I receive a confirmation of my registration?

Confirmations are sent for the class(es) for which you have registered via email. Please read your confirmation thoroughly when you receive it. This confirmation will also list any remaining balance, which is due one week prior to the first day of the session.

Is there a waitlist for classes that are full?

Waitlists are established for classes that have reached the enrollment limit. Students on waitlists may be called for enrollment should a cancellation occur. While we cannot predict when or if a cancellation would occur, we encourage you to be added to our waitlists, which are created on a first-come, first-served basis.

What does my tuition include, and when is my tuition due?

Tuition includes all materials and one Academy t-shirt per student. A \$75 minimum deposit for School Year Academy classes is required with your registration. Upon paying the deposit the remaining balance will be set up on an automatic payment plan. Balances must be paid in full prior to the first class date, failure to pay tuition will result in your students removal from the class. You may change the credit card payment method or submit full payment via cash or check at any time.

Do you offer refunds?

There is a \$25 administrative fee for all refunds. Full refunds (minus the fee) are available until their class begins. No refunds or tuition credits are given after the first day of class. The deposit and any tuition paid will be forfeited if a student cancels after the session has begun.

What if my child needs to miss a class?

Due to the nature of the program, we are unable to offer make up classes. Please use good judgment about bringing your student to First Stage Theater Academy. If your student is sick or contagious, please keep them home. Parents or guardians of students who become ill during the day will be promptly notified and are expected to arrange to pick up their student immediately. Please contact the Academy office at attendance@firststage.org if you know in advance that your student will be absent. First Stage Theater Academy also reserves the right to send children home due to inappropriate or disrespectful behavior. There will be no refunds or credits given for missed classes.

Can my child switch a class?

If families find that they have a scheduling conflict or other emergency circumstance and need to switch their course selection, please contact the Academy office to request a change. Students will not be moved from their assigned group after the first day of class. Please be aware that switching class is contingent upon space availability in the desired class.



First Stage Milwaukee, Inc.
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Milwaukee, WI 53212

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**REGISTER
BY JULY 7
& SAVE!**

