

WINTER & SPRING

THEATER ACADEMY



Classes in
Milwaukee &
Mequon!



Life Skills
Through
Stage Skills



REGISTER AT FIRSTSTAGE.ORG



Dear Families,

At First Stage, we believe theater is more than a performance – it's a powerful way for young people to grow. For over 30 years, we have helped students build confidence, spark creativity, and connect with others in meaningful ways.

Our guiding philosophy is simple: we teach **life skills through stage skills**. That means every scene, character, and collaboration is an opportunity to grow in empathy, communication, and resilience. Our professional Teaching Artists create a supportive, inspiring environment where students feel safe to take risks and explore the process of learning through theater.

We hope you can join us in our winter and spring Academy classes!



J.T. BACKES

Academy Director
jtbackes@firststage.org

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



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.



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 Theater Academy is one of the Nation's Largest High-Impact Theater Training Program for Young People



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



DRAGON DREAMLAND & FROZEN TALES

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
MYAC	Dragon	Jan 17 - Feb 21	Sat, 9:00-9:30 AM
MYAC	Dragon	Jan 17 - Feb 21	Sat, 9:45-10:15 AM
MYAC	Frozen	April 11 - May 23 *	Sat, 9:00-9:30 AM
MYAC	Frozen	April 11 - May 23 *	Sat, 9:45-10:15 AM

TUITION: \$225

* No class April 25, 2026



GRADES K4-1

STORY DRAMA

LOVABYE DRAGON

Use your voice, body, and imagination, to immerse yourself in the story of *Lovabye Dragon* and discover that friends can come in all shapes and sizes – even dragons!

ADVENTURES IN ARENDELLE

Use your voice, body, and imagination to journey through snowy forests, enchanted castles, and magical moments – celebrating bravery, friendship, and the power of being yourself.



📍	CLASS	DATES	TIME
MYAC	Lovabye	Jan 17 - Feb 21	Sat, 9:30-10:15 AM
MYAC	Lovabye	Jan 17 - Feb 21	Sat, 10:30-11:15 AM
CUW	Lovabye	Jan 17 - Feb 21	Sat, 9:00-9:45 AM
CUW	Lovabye	Jan 17 - Feb 21	Sat, 10:00-10:45 AM
MYAC	Arendelle	Apr 11 - May 23 *	Sat, 9:30-10:15 AM
MYAC	Arendelle	Apr 11 - May 23 *	Sat, 10:30-11:15 AM
CUW	Arendelle	Apr 11 - May 15	Sat, 9:00-9:45 AM
CUW	Arendelle	Apr 11 - May 15	Sat, 10:00-10:45 AM

TUITION: \$250

* No class April 25, 2026

GRADES 1-2

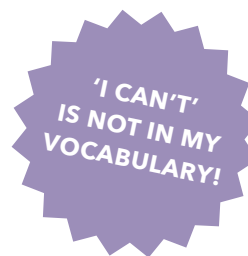
PLAYMAKERS

MEDIEVAL MAGIC

Step into the magical world of *Lovabye Dragon* and help build a story full of wonder and heart – where dragons are gentle, princesses are brave, and friendship saves the day!

OLAF & SVEN'S BIG ADVENTURE

Join Olaf and Sven on their biggest adventure yet! Use your voice, body, and imagination to create silly sidekicks, take on brave journeys, and create magical moments as an ensemble.



📍	CLASS	DATES	TIME
MYAC	Medieval Magic	Jan 13 - Feb 17	Tues, 4:30-5:30 PM
MYAC	Medieval Magic	Jan 17 - Feb 21	Sat, 9:30-10:30 AM
MYAC	Medieval Magic	Jan 17 - Feb 21	Sat, 10:45-11:45 AM
CUW	Medieval Magic	Jan 17 - Feb 21	Sat, 9:45-10:45 AM
MYAC	Olaf & Sven	Apr 7 - May 19 *	Tues, 4:30-5:30 PM
MYAC	Olaf & Sven	Apr 11 - May 23 *	Sat, 9:30-10:30 AM
MYAC	Olaf & Sven	Apr 11 - May 23 *	Sat, 10:45-11:45 AM
CUW	Olaf & Sven	Apr 11 - May 15	Sat, 9:45-10:45 AM

TUITION: \$250

* No class April 21 or April 25, 2026

GRADES 3-4



I TAKE RISKS!

SCENE STUDY

LOVABYE DRAGON

A lonely girl and an even lonelier dragon embark on a grand adventure only to face their greatest challenge. Explore characters, relationships, action, and text while developing overall acting skills and confidence using this heartwarming story.

DISNEY'S FROZEN

Step into the world of *Disney's Frozen* and bring your favorite characters to life! Build acting skills, teamwork, and confidence as you practice working with a scene partner, using expressive voices, and creating magical moments onstage.

MUSICAL THEATER

WICKED

Step into the shoes of Elphaba, Glinda, and other magical characters to explore themes of friendship, identity, and courage. With a focus on ensemble work, this class is perfect for young performers who are ready to defy gravity!

DISNEY'S FROZEN

"Do You Want to Build a Snowman?" or belt out "Let It Go"? Sing, dance, and act your way through the world of *Disney's Frozen*. With fun group numbers and character moments, you will grow your confidence and shine on the snowy stage!



SCENE STUDY

📍	CLASS	DATES	TIME
MYAC	Lovabye Dragon	Jan 13 - Feb 17	Tues, 4:30-5:30 PM
MYAC	Lovabye Dragon	Jan 17 - Feb 21	Sat, 12:00-1:00 PM
CUW	Lovabye Dragon	Jan 17 - Feb 21	Sat, 9:45-10:45 AM
MYAC	Disney's Frozen	Apr 7 - May 19 *	Tues, 4:30-5:30 PM
MYAC	Disney's Frozen	Apr 11 - May 23 *	Sat, 12:00-1:00 PM
CUW	Disney's Frozen	Apr 11 - May 15	Sat, 9:45-10:45 AM

MUSICAL THEATER

MYAC	Wicked	Jan 13 - Feb 17	Tues, 4:30-5:30 PM
MYAC	Wicked	Jan 17 - Feb 21	Sat, 1:00-2:00 PM
MYAC	Disney's Frozen	Apr 7 - May 19 *	Tues, 4:30-5:30 PM
MYAC	Disney's Frozen	Apr 11 - May 23 *	Sat, 1:00-2:00 PM

TUITION: \$275

* No class April 21 or April 25, 2026



GRADES 5-8

ACTING

PETER PAN & WENDY

Fly into the magical world of Neverland! From daring sword fights to a ticking crocodile, explore bold characters, exciting scenes, and heartfelt moments while building acting skills, confidence, and connection.

DISNEY'S FROZEN

Dive deeper into the world of *Disney's Frozen* through character-driven scene work and storytelling! Explore your favorite characters while building performance skills, ensemble connection, and stage presence.

MUSICAL THEATER

THE SONGS OF STEPHEN SCHWARTZ

From *Wicked* to *Pippin* to *Enchanted*, Stephen Schwartz's songs are packed with heart, power, and magic! Develop vocal technique, character work, and storytelling skills while exploring energy, emotion, and imagination.

CONTEMPORARY MUSICAL THEATER HITS!

From *Hamilton* to *Waitress* to *Six*, this high-energy class will have students diving into powerful songs, dynamic choreography, and character-driven scenes from modern Broadway favorites.

IMPROVISATION

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



GRADES 5-8 SCHEDULE

📍	CLASS	DATES	TIME
MYAC	Peter Pan	Jan 13 - Feb 17	Tues, 4:30-5:30 PM
MYAC	Peter Pan	Jan 17 - Feb 21	Sat, 12:00-1:00 PM
CUW	Peter Pan	Jan 17 - Feb 21	Sat, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM
MYAC	Schwartz	Jan 17 - Feb 21	Sat, 1:00-2:00 PM
MYAC	Improvisation	Jan 17 - Feb 21	Sat, 12:30-1:30 PM
MYAC	Frozen	Apr 7 - May 19 *	Tues, 4:30-5:30 PM
MYAC	Frozen	Apr 11 - May 23 *	Sat, 10:00-11:00 AM
CUW	Frozen	Apr 11 - May 15	Sat, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM
MYAC	Contemporary	Apr 11 - May 23 *	Sat, 1:00-2:00 PM
MYAC	Improvisation	Apr 11 - May 23 *	Sat, 10:30-11:30 AM

TUITION: \$275

* No class April 21 or April 25, 2026





I AM NOT
AFRAID TO
LEAD!

GRADES 5-12

STAGE COMBAT

Learn the fundamental techniques of creating realistic-looking stunts, falls, and fights in a safe and controlled classroom.

ACTING FOR THE CAMERA

Lights, camera, action! Learn to bring characters to life in front of the lens while exploring subtle expression, active listening, and the differences between stage and screen.

COSTUME DESIGN

From sketchbook to stage! In this hands-on class, Costume Creation & Character Design, you will explore the art of developing original costumes, and how clothing helps bring characters to life.

📍	CLASS	DATES	TIME
MYAC	Stage Combat	Jan 17 - Feb 21	Sat, 1:30-2:30 PM
MYAC	Camera Acting	Jan 17 - Feb 21	Sat, 12:30-1:30 PM
MYAC	Stage Combat	Apr 11 - May 23 *	Sat, 1:30-2:30 PM
MYAC	Costume Design	Apr 11 - May 23 *	Sat, 12:30-1:30 PM

TUITION: \$275

* No class April 25, 2026

GRADES 3-12

NEXT STEPS PROGRAM



Designed for neurodivergent students, 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.

Class Sizes: Our classroom model includes teams of lead teachers, special education professionals, and teaching assistants with an approx. 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	Jan 17 - Feb 21	Sat, 10:30-11:30 AM
MYAC	Next Steps	Apr 11 - May 23 *	Sat, 10:30-11:30 AM

TUITION: \$325

* No class April 25, 2026



GRADES 5-9

ACADEMY PRODUCTION LAB

We are thrilled to bring back the Academy Production Lab, a one-of-a-kind program designed for students to immerse themselves in both performance and production. This exciting new initiative allows students to gain hands-on experience as actors, designers, assistant directors, or stage managers, working together to bring a show to life!



SCAN TO SIGN UP FOR YOUR AUDITION & INTERVIEW!

This year's adventure will be **The Neverending Story (Atreyu and the Great Quest)** by David S. Craig, based on the beloved novel by Michael Ende. The story follows Bastian, a lonely boy, who discovers a mysterious book that draws him into the magical land of Fantastica. With its rich characters, high stakes, and themes of courage, this timeless tale offers an unforgettable adventure for performers and audiences.



AUDITIONS

REHEARSALS

PERFORMANCES

MYAC October 21-30, 2025 April 7 - May 7, 2026 May 8 -17, 2026

TUITION: \$850

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.
325 W. Walnut St.
Milwaukee, WI 53212

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Milwaukee, WI
Permit No. 5780



**REGISTER
FOR WINTER
& SPRING!**

