



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Seeking youth actors for Summer Season

**(Mercer Island, WA)** – For over 30 years, **Youth Theatre Northwest (YTN)** has served youth from the Puget Sound region with high-quality arts education. YTN produces dynamic theatre for thousands of families, introducing young audiences to the magic of the performing arts while inspiring young actors with the thrill of live performance. Celebrate our amazing legacy and join us for our 33rd season of “theatre by kids for kids!”

YTN is seeking youth actors, grades 2 – 12, for its anticipated 2016 Summerstock Season. Every year, during the summer months, YTN produces three shows on Mercer Island with approximately 50 youth actors. This summer’s productions are the musical **Cats** and the play **Glinda of Oz**. Additionally, YTN’s improvisational comedy group **Chaos Theory** will also perform. Every child that wants to be considered for a role must audition. The program requires tuition but full and partial scholarships are available. Auditions for **Cats** (for actors Grades 5 - 12) will be held Sunday, May 1, from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Auditions for **Glinda of Oz** (for actors Grades 2 – 12) will be held Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Auditions for **Chaos Theory** (for Grades 7 - 12), will be held Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, from 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. For more information or to schedule an audition appointment, visit [YouthTheatre.org](http://YouthTheatre.org) or contact YTN’s Registrar, Stephanie, at 206-232-4145, ext. 100, or by email at [registrar@youththeatre.org](mailto:registrar@youththeatre.org).

The year’s Summerstock opens with the world premiere of **Glinda of Oz**, written by YTN Education Director Kate Swenson. Adapted from the book by celebrated children’s author L. Frank Baum, **Glinda of Oz** pairs the celebrated character of Dorothy with fairy Princess Ozma of Oz and sends them on a magical quest. Rehearsals will begin at the end of June and performances are July 15 – 31 at the Mercer Island High School Performing Arts Center. Youth (grades 2 – 12) are encouraged to audition.

The summer continues with a unique outdoor production of the legendary musical **Cats**. Written by famed composer Andrew Lloyd Weber, **Cats** premiered in 1981 and ran for 21 years in London and 18 years on Broadway. Rehearsals will begin July 25 and the show performs August 12 - 27 in the outdoor courtyard of Mercer Island's Emmanuel Episcopal Church. Youth (grades 5 – 12) are encouraged to audition.

In addition to these shows, YTN is bringing back its wildly popular, improvisational comedy troupe **Chaos Theory**. Under the direction of professional improviser Ben Lidgus, this program builds an ensemble of young people around the fundamentals of improvisation. The result is hilarious unscripted scenes, stories and characters. Prior to the show, performers will be engaged in a two week improvisational training. The culminating show will perform at YTN's Black Box Theatre on July 8 & 9. Youth (grades 7-12) are encouraged to audition.

**About Youth Theatre:** Youth Theatre Northwest (YTN) nurtures the intellectual, artistic, and personal development of children and youth through drama, education, performing opportunities, and live theatre experiences. YTN is both theatre and school, providing a wide range of classes and programs designed to further theatrical learning, initiate creative play, and stimulate intrapersonal development for children and young adults age 3-18. Additionally, YTN offers classes to Puget Sound students and offers outreach programs to schools and libraries throughout the region. Youth Theatre Northwest continues its School Season with **Harriet the Spy** performing May 13 - 29, 2016. For a full Season line-up, visit [YouthTheatre.org](http://YouthTheatre.org).

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