

Media: Tickets, photos and interviews available upon request
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Local Youth to Learn all Aspects of Theater through Old and New Classics this Summer: *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *High School Musical*, *Sweeney Todd* and more.
With Noble Fool Theatricals Performing Arts Academy**

May 2008, St. Charles, IL – The NFT Performing Arts Academy students are offered a variety of summer classes, including performance camps for *Jesus Christ Superstar*, actor boot camps for *High School Musical* and *Sweeney Todd*, and vocal and dance technique for *Rent* and *Hairspray*, at Pheasant Run Resort (4051 E. Main St., St. Charles, IL; admin telephone 630-443-0438; education telephone 630-364-0550).

In addition to offering performance classes, NFT Performing Arts Academy is offering one-week performance camps throughout the summer to accommodate students' busy schedules. Classes and camps are a great opportunity for kids and teens to have fun and learn something new over the summer. All classes and camps conclude with a free performance for family and friends, allowing the students to show off their new skills.

Classes are taught by experienced teachers, directors, actors and musicians in the Chicagoland area. The instructors specialize in challenging and developing each student's talents no matter what level they are at when they enter. All aspiring actors are encouraged to try a theater class for the first time or brush up their existing skills. A variety of classes and camps are available for students ages 3 to 18.

"Combined with our partnership with the surrounding park districts and our returning students, we've received a strong community response to our summer offerings. In fact, some of our classes are completely full! We always welcome new students, so if you're interested in taking a class sign up soon to guarantee a spot. We're offering the most youth theater programs in the area, so there's something for everyone," said Tracy Whiteside, Educational Manager at Noble Fool.

While some summer camps and classes have already filled up, applications are still being accepted for the following classes:

TEEN MUSICAL PERFORMANCE CAMP: "JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR"

Ages: 13 to 18

Rehearsals: Daily 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Dates: June 16 through June 19

Tech/Dress Rehearsal: Friday, June 20, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Performance: Saturday, June 21 at 11:00 am (Main Stage)

Tuition \$350

Directed by Tracy Whiteside

Performers in this group will memorize lines, songs and choreography for this ½ hour show performed for family and friends. Students develop their artistic voice, both individually and within an ensemble.

This winner of 5 Tony Awards including Best Original Score includes songs such as *Superstar* and *I Don't Know How To Love Him*.

TWEENS MUSICAL JUNE PERFORMANCE CAMP: “WICKED”

Ages: 9 to 12

Rehearsals: Daily 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Dates: June 9 through June 13

Tech/Dress Rehearsal: Friday, June 13: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Performance: Saturday, June 14 at 11:00 am

Tuition \$350

Directed by Tracy Whiteside

These performers will memorize lines, songs and choreography for a ½ hour condensed version of a classic show performed for family and friends. Classes are conducted by a theatre professional.

“Wicked” holds the record for the highest weekly box office gross in Broadway history! Winner of 3 Tony Awards including Best Musical and Best Original Score, best known songs include “Popular”, “Defying Gravity” and “For Good.”

TWEENS PLAY PERFORMANCE CLASS: “ARABIAN KNIGHTS”

Ages: 9 to 12

Rehearsals: Saturdays, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Dates: July 5 through August 2

Tech/Dress Rehearsal: Saturday, August 9: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Performance: Saturdays, August 16 and Sunday August 17 at 3:00 pm (Studio Stage)

Tuition \$185

Directed by Tracy Whiteside

These performers will memorize lines and blocking for a ½ hour condensed version of a classic show performed for family and friends. No singing or dancing.

TOTS MUSICAL PERFORMANCE CLASS: “MARY POPPINS”

Ages: 3 to 5

Rehearsals: Saturdays, 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Dates: July 5 through August 2

Showcase: Sunday, August 3 at 1:00 pm (Studio Stage)

Tuition \$125

Directed by Tracy Whiteside

These performers will memorize lines, songs and simple choreography for a 15-minute age-appropriate condensed version of a classic show performed for family and friends. Kids do not need to be able to read to participate. Parents are welcome to stay during the class.

This well-known and loved musical includes songs such as *Supercalifragilistic*, *Chim Chim Cher-ee* and *A Spoonful Of Sugar*.

TEEN MUSICAL PERFORMANCE CAMP: "AIDA"

Ages: 13 to 18

Rehearsals: Daily 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Dates: July 7 through July 10

Tech/Dress Rehearsal: Friday, July 11: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Performance: Saturday, July 12 at 11:00 am (Main Stage)

Tuition \$350

Directed by Tracy Whiteside

Performers in this group will memorize lines, songs and choreography for this ½ hour show performed for family and friends. Students develop their artistic voice, both individually and within an ensemble.

"Aida" won 4 Tony Awards including Best Original Musical Score and a Grammy for Best Musical Show Album. Familiar songs include *Written In The Stars* and *A Step Too Far*.

IMPROV: COMEDY

Ages: 13 to 18

Classes: Tuesdays, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Dates: July 8– August 12, 2008

Showcase: Tuesday, August 12 at 8:00 pm

Location: Baker Community Center, St. Charles

Tuition: \$175

Instructor: Douglas Porter

Love to laugh? Do people say, "You're so funny... YOU SHOULD BE A COMEDIAN!" This class is all about laughter, sketches, standup and funny characters. Students develop and perform original sketch comedies while developing their own style and learning comic timing. Participants will also have the opportunity to try out stand up in a safe and supportive environment.

THEATRE DANCE AND MOVEMENT TECHNIQUE CAMP: "HAIRSPRAY" AND "RENT"

Combine with Singing Technique for the complete experience!

Ages 5 to 12: 10:00 am to 12:00 pm Daily

Ages 13 to 18: 1:00 to 3:00 pm Daily

Dates: July 14 through July 18

Showcase: Saturday, July 19 at 12:00 pm Studio Stage (combined with Singing Technique Camp)

Tuition: \$125

Instructor: Kate Schultz

Connect your body to your acting, and learn to use movement as a way of creating a character. This class will focus on performance skills such as facial expression, connection to music and audience appeal while developing basic theater dance technique. Students will learn choreography to songs from *Hairspray* and *Rent*.

SINGING TECHNIQUE CAMP: "HAIRSPRAY" AND "RENT"

Combine with Theatre Dance and Movement Technique for the complete experience!

Ages 5 to 12: 1:00 to 3:00 pm Daily

Ages 13 to 18: 10:00 am to 12:00 pm Daily

Dates: July 14 through July 18

Showcase: Saturday, July 19 at 1:00 pm Studio Stage (combined with Theatre Dance Camp)

Tuition: \$125

Instructor: Ken Jones

If you love musical theatre and want to improve your auditioning skills, this is the class for you. Emphasis will be on auditioning for musical theatre as you prepare for an exciting Showcase. Participants will learn the fundamentals of proper singing technique. Learn what to sing in what situation, and how to sing it.

This class includes songs from *Rent* and *Hairspray*.

KIDS MUSICAL PERFORMANCE CAMP: "PETER PAN"

Ages: 5 to 8

Rehearsals: Daily 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Dates: July 21 through July 24

Tech/Dress Rehearsal: Friday, July 25: 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Performance: Saturday, July 26 at 10:00 am (Studio Stage)

Tuition \$185

Directed by Tracy Whiteside

These performers will memorize lines, songs and choreography for a 15-minute condensed version of a classic show performed for family and friends. Kids do not need to be able to read to participate.

This well-known and loved musical includes songs such as *You Can Fly!* and *Never Smile at a Crocodile*.

KIDS PLAY PERFORMANCE CAMP: "TARZAN"

Ages: 5 to 8

Rehearsals: Daily 1:00 to 4:00 pm
Dates: July 21 through July 24
Tech/Dress Rehearsal: Friday, July 25: 1:00 to 4:00 pm

Performance: Saturday, July 26 at 11:30 am (Studio Stage)
Tuition \$185

Directed by Tracy Whiteside

These performers will memorize lines and blocking for a 15-minute condensed version of a classic show performed for family and friends. Kids do not need to be able to read to participate. No singing or dancing.

ACTOR BOOT CAMP "HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL" AND "SWEENEY TODD"

Ages 5 to 12: 10:00 am to 12:00 pm Daily
Ages 13 to 18: 1:00 to 3:00 pm Daily
Dates: August 4 through August 8, 2008

Showcase: Last hour of class on Friday
Tuition: \$125

Instructor: Tracy Whiteside

Each day we will focus on a different aspect of acting skills: Monologues, Audition Technique, Improv, TV Commercials and Scenes. Participation will increase self-confidence and boost self-esteem. Family and friends are invited to a Showcase where participants demonstrate what they've learned. Scenes from High School Musical and Sweeney Todd will be used. No singing or dancing.

TWEENS MUSICAL PERFORMANCE CAMP: "LES MISERABLES"

Ages: 9 to 12
Rehearsals: Daily 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Dates: August 11 through August 14, 2008
Tech/Dress Rehearsal: Friday, August 15: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Performance: Saturday, August 16 at 5:00 pm (Main Stage)
Tuition \$350

Directed by Tracy Whiteside

These performers will memorize lines, songs and choreography for a ½ hour condensed version of a classic show performed for family and friends.

Winner of 8 Tony Awards including Best Musical and Best Original Score, songs include *Castle On A Cloud*, *On My Own* and *Master Of The House*.

The NFT Performing Arts Academy opened its doors to classes and youth productions for the community in the fall of 2006, including classes on improvisation, scene-study, and auditions, as well as the critic-acclaimed Youth Ensemble program. The academy features some of the Chicago area's most respected teachers, directors, actors and musicians. Classes are for adults, children and business professionals looking to learn from the people who are working at what they love do.

For more information on the NFT Performing Arts Academy or to enroll, visit www.noblefool.org/education, call 630-364-0550, or email education@noblefool.org. Noble Fool Theatricals at Pheasant Run Resort is located at 4051 E. Main St., St. Charles, IL. Additional theater information may be obtained at www.noblefool.org.

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