

Resources for Young Adults on Staging, Scriptwriting, and Acting

In this post, we have compiled a list of resources that young adults (or those who work with young adults, whether it be teachers, librarians, or directors) can use to look for information about staging, scriptwriting, and acting. Each resource is freely available online and paired with a brief description as to what the resource provides. Some are videos, others are lesson plans, and most include tips and tricks from those in the biz. We hope these will help your local production be fun AND top notch!

Collection of Various Resources

- [Theatre Folk Free Resources](#) is a collection of resources that includes monologues, multiple-person scenes, performance tips, and resources for acting, playwriting, directing, costuming, and the technical sides of putting on a great show. Intended mainly for theatre classrooms, this provides great resources for educators, but teens can also go through them independently to perfect their art. These resources come in the form of freely available PDFs that anyone can download and use.

Staging Resources

- [It's Not Just a Stage](#) from The Kennedy Center provides a quick and easy “anatomy” of the stage, including stage directions and the names of the different parts of a physical theatre.
- [Working in the Theatre: Lighting Design](#) is a video from American Theatre Wing. In this video featuring Tony Awards winning designers Natasha Katz and Howell Binkley, you'll learn more about what a Lighting Designer does, as well as more about the history, the equipment, and the artistry involved.
- [This blog post from Theatrefolk](#) compares two rehearsal blocking techniques: pre-blocking and in-rehearsal blocking. This post provides descriptions of these two styles, challenges to each, and things to consider when choosing which technique suits your production.
- [Blocking in Theatre: a Guide](#), from Backstage magazine, gives some basics of blocking, including 6 helpful tips for blocking a scene effectively, from the perspective of an experienced theatre director.
- [Blocking 101](#) from Dramatics discusses how directors can use staging to best tell the story and convey the characters, including establishing character relationships, revealing character through movement, creating dynamic stage pictures, and more.
- [Blocking a Play: The Beginner's Guide](#), from Prague Youth Theatre, is a useful set of tips to learn more about how to do staging effectively from the perspective of a director.

Scriptwriting Resources

- [This blog from Theatrefolk](#) discusses a wide range of topics related to playwriting and provides exercises to help hone your craft. Although geared towards teachers, teens can use this resource independently to practice their skills.
- [Script Writing Lessons](#), from Burt's Drama, include a series of lessons in the form of PowerPoints, videos, detailed descriptions, and worksheets that go through the basics of plot structures, writing dialogue, writing for the space your play will take place in, and more.
- [A Guide to Script Writing](#) from Routledge is a comprehensive guide in the form of a blog post that will help teens build the fundamentals needed to turn their ideas into a script, including creating your characters, world-building, getting constructive feedback, and more.
- [Script Magazine](#) is an online magazine intended for scriptwriters and has articles describing what goes on behind the scenes, both in theatre and in film.

Acting Resources

- [This blog post by Dramatrunk](#) provides a list of improv games to use in the classroom to have some fun and get comfortable doing improv. In addition to a list of games to try out, this post includes some tips for how to make the most of your improv and relevant terminology.
- [5 Tips for a Successful Audition video](#) from a Broadway casting director will help you prepare for your next big musical theatre audition, whether it be your next school production, Broadway itself, or elsewhere.
- [How to Memorize Lines](#) is a useful blog post that features tips and techniques intended to help memorize hundreds of lines, including those written in unfamiliar language such as that found in Shakespeare plays.
- [Cold Reading During an Audition](#) is a blog post providing tips on how to prepare for an audition, particularly how to approach the dreaded cold read, wherein you must familiarize yourself with and become a character almost instantly.
- [An Actor's Guide to Tears and Crying on Cue](#) is a worthwhile resource to check out for any aspiring actors out there. It might sound strange to those who are new to theatre, but being able to cry on cue is often a very useful skill. Check out this post to learn more and get some tips for how to make it happen during your next emotional scene.
- [5 Storytelling Improv Games to Improve Actors' Skills](#) is just what it sounds like: a low-stress way to build your acting skills. After all, some skills are best learned through play! Check out this blog post to learn how to practice your skills *and* have fun.

Best of Plays for Young Adults

This section is dedicated to the best of the best in YA theatre, from popular award-winning Broadway shows, to local high school theatre.

Top 10 currently running on Broadway shows: In no Particular Order

- Alice by Heart
- Be More Chill
- Dear Evan Hansen
- Harry Potter and the Cursed Child
- If Pretty Hurts Ugly Must be a Muhf*cka
- Mean Girls
- The Prom
- Puffs; or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic
- We are the Tigers
- Wicked

TheaterMania. "10 Shows Your Teen Is Going to Be So Into." TheaterMania.com - Broadway, Regional and Discount Theater Tickets | News, Reviews, and More | TheaterMania, March 27, 2023. <https://www.theatermania.com/broadway/news/9-shows-for-teens-88274.html/>.

Use the link above to learn more about each Broadway show.

Top 10 YA High School Plays: Most Produced in 2022

1. Clue
2. Puffs
3. A Midsummer Night's Dream
4. Almost, Maine
5. She Kills Monsters
6. 12 Angry Jurors
7. Alice in Wonderland
8. Radium Girls
9. Peter and the Starcatcher
10. Our Town

Top 10 YA High School Musicals: Most Produced in 2022

1. Mamma Mia

2. All Together Now!
3. The Addams Family
4. The SpongeBob Musical
5. Disney's *Beauty and the Best*
6. You're a good man, Charlie Brown
7. Little Shop of Horrors
8. Into the Woods
9. Disney's *The Little Mermaid*
10. Disney's *Newsies*

References

Playbill. "The 10 Most-Produced High School Plays and Musicals of 2021–2022," June 7, 2022.
<https://playbill.com/article/the-10-most-produced-high-school-plays-and-musicals-of-2021-2022>.

Use this link as further resource on finding plays for young adults:

Nick Hern Books. "Plays for Young People (12-18 Years),".
<https://www.nickhernbooks.co.uk/plays-for-young-people-12-18-years>.