

YOUNG PLEASANCE

at the Edinburgh Fringe 2024



• PLEASANCE •
THEATRIC TRUST

WHAT IS THE YOUNG PLEASANCE AT THE EDINBURGH FRINGE?

Young Pleasance is the Pleasance Theatre's award-winning young company of on-stage and off-stage roles. Each year Young Pleasance build an ensemble with participants aged 16 to 21 who create an original theatre production with high production values.

This is rehearsed over two weeks at Pleasance London and then runs for two weeks at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, the largest arts festival in the world!

The Young Pleasance at Edinburgh Festival opportunity gives young performers and backstage crew a professional theatre experience before and during the Fringe.

Running since 1995, the company has launched the careers of many performers, writers, directors and technicians. The creative team treat the company as professional theatre makers throughout. Whilst mentoring the company within their roles, they expect the young members to rise to the challenge of developing a show, being supportive and responsive to the creative process and working as an ensemble.

The intensive rehearsal period and demanding, fast-paced nature of being at the Fringe gives the young company the same training and experience as any other theatre company performing at the festival.

“You feel like you’re part of something so much bigger than anything you’ve ever experienced before!”

Young Pleasance Company Member
2019



WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

- Roles for versatile performers with vocal and physical skills, as well as backstage roles which vary based on the interests of the individual, including stage management, lighting, sound, and costume.
- Scattered activity from March-June, including several days of R&D development over the Easter holidays, costume fittings, and a promotional photo shoot for the production.
- An intensive two week rehearsal period at the end of July at Pleasance London, creating the theatrical production with a large cast (20th - 29th July)
- 2 weeks in Edinburgh teching and performing the production as part of the Edinburgh Fringe (30th July - 13th August).
- Accommodation, travel and food are provided in Edinburgh. Pleasance Theatre heavily subsidises the costs of all participants of Young Pleasance however we ask for a participation fee of £995. Means-tested bursaries are available.
- Each participant will receive a Young Pleasance hoodie and a Pleasance Performers Pass providing them with free entry to Pleasance productions and entitling them to discount at vendors at Pleasance Courtyard, Pleasance Dome, Pleasance EICC and various outlets around Edinburgh.
- An exciting experience creating a brand-new show, experiencing the largest arts festival in the world, and being part of an amazing company of young people - we can guarantee that you will be both exhausted and exhilarated by the end!

“One of the best experiences I’ve ever had!”

Young Pleasance Company Member
2023



HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Check that you are eligible:

- Aged 16-21 in August 2024
- Available during the day on Saturday the 27th January for workshop auditions/ interviews at Pleasance London.
- Available for 5 days in mid-April for Script and Movement Development at Easter (8th - 12th April)
- Available from 20th July - 13th August for rehearsals and performances in London and Edinburgh

Fill in your application form by 10am, Thursday 4th January 2024

Go to pleasance.co.uk/yp to apply

After the deadline everyone will be contacted and offered a place in our fun workshop audition (or informal chat if it's for backstage roles) on the 27th January.

Successful young people will be contacted following auditions/interviews.



WHAT SHOW WILL WE BE DOING?

The working title for the production this year is ***Alice Diamond and the Forty Thieves***, inspired by the true story of The Forty Elephants, an all female crime syndicate that took over London between the late 1900s and 1950s.

This movement-heavy spectacle will have influences of music hall and celebrate voices that have often been forgotten about.

In classic Young Pleasance style the production will be a large scale ensemble piece, dynamic and original with high production values. With their trademark physical-visual style, Young Pleasance will explore the stories of the Forty Thieves and all those they met along the way.

PRESS RESPONSE TO YOUNG PLEASANCE OVER THE YEARS:

★★★★★

“Stunning cast, fantastic ensemble work and perfect comic timing, YP give a stand-out show, this company do it better than the professionals”

British Theatre Guide

★★★★★

“A visual treat from the get-go; a five-star opening set, and one stunning turn of costumes after another”

The Scotsman

★★★★★

“Flawless, bursting with energy”

Theatre Weekly



FAQ

How long will the workshop audition/ interview take?

The group audition should take roughly 2 hours with recalls afterwards. Interviews for production roles will be no longer than 30mins.

Do I need to prepare anything?

You do not need to prepare anything in advance but be ready to take part in an ensemble workshop, which will include improvisation and character development as well as script reading and movement.

For production roles, be prepared to talk about what you can bring to the role and what you would like to get out of the experience.

Am I eligible for a bursary?

The bursaries on offer are means tested. To apply for a bursary we like to consider one or more of the following criteria:

- Young person referred by a teacher at a secondary school/college local to the Pleasance in London or Edinburgh.
- Young person aged 18 plus in full time education
- Parent/carer/young person residing in local authority housing, receiving income support and/or registered disabled and receiving ESA, DLA or PIP

Please indicate on your application if you would like to apply for a bursary.

If you are offered a place, we will then send you further information.

How much free time would I have in Edinburgh? Will I get to see other shows?

We expect all company members to act professionally and prioritise the production. Throughout the run the company will be required to attend company meetings, flyer for the show and assist with the get-in and get-out daily. After the first performance and outside of this time, the company will be able to see other shows and experience the Fringe.

MORE QUESTIONS?

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