

Horizon Stage Youth Outreach Mission Statement

Currently, Youth Outreach at Horizon Stage includes:

- Family programming during the professional season
- Workshops
- Summer camps
- School shows
- Scholarships to attend arts-related camps/workshops
- On-stage opportunities with touring acts during the professional season
- Front-of-house and backstage volunteer opportunities

We believe that youth outreach through Horizon Stage is vital because:

- Youth need assistance finding opportunities to connect with live performances
- Lifelong arts appreciation begins early
- Parents do not always have the time or information necessary to foster these opportunities
- Due to budgets and school division priorities and policies, schools are increasingly challenged trying to provide opportunities for youth to engage in live performance

We believe that youth outreach creates opportunities:

- To learn arts appreciation
- To begin or further conversations about important, and sometimes difficult, topics
- To see themselves represented
- To contribute to their community through participation
- To practice listening and focussing skills
- To learn about history and other cultures
- To work with and learn from arts professionals
- To explore new methods of communication and self-expression

We believe there to be many benefits of participating in, or being part of an audience for live performing arts, including:

- Creative thinking
- Seeing the world in a new way
- Improved empathy
- Increased emotional intelligence
- Finding a safe place for new ideas

And specifically:

As an audience member:

- Family bonding
- Making arts attendance accessible
- Making it part of their normal lives, not just a special event

As a participant:

- Increased academic performance
- Increased artistic ability
- Increased sense of self-worth
- Resume building
- Networking opportunities