

General Expectations, Commitment, Behaviour Contract and Volunteering

Please read the following information carefully. We have had a lot of new members over the last couple of years and feel we need to circulate new general information about the expectations and commitment that HYT entails.

Attendance and Commitment

Please remember that the adults in charge of each section of HYT are unpaid volunteers with a wealth of knowledge in theatre, who give hours of time to make HYT a success. Leaders are often helped by one or more assistants and may bring in other adults for specific workshops. There are always at least two adults present in the building at every meeting.

HYT is a youth theatre rather than a theatre workshop group. By this we mean that most of the time we are in “show mode” whereby we are working towards a fully staged musical. These productions require absolute commitment from everyone involved in all areas of the theatre but none more so than the youth members themselves. We have a proud tradition of staging high-quality productions, to achieve this takes a lot of time and effort in rehearsals, if we have people missing it makes this process very difficult and often disadvantages other members of HYT. As such, ***please ensure your child attends all meetings that they are required at.*** There are many volunteers involved in putting a production on and we all need to work together to achieve the best we can. If your child cannot attend a rehearsal/meeting it is essential that **they phone or message one of the leaders and let them know of the reason for absence. Please note we will not accept absence notices on the Facebook HYT page or passed on by other members. You must contact one of the leaders directly with the reason for absence. Facebook is a great tool for us to share information, but we need a personal record of who we expect to be missing for safety reasons.** We do expect a member missing to have a reasonable reason for absence such as illness or unavoidable emergencies. We accept that at times there will be exceptions, e.g., a family holiday; but please inform us of pre-booked events as early as possible so we can plan accordingly. ***Please note that 3 missed rehearsals without what we consider “good reason” will forfeit your place and we reserve the right to enact this with immediate effect.***

There are further expectations in the HYT contract (enclosed) **please read, sign and return the slip at the bottom of the HYT contract, retain this letter and the contract for future reference.**

Rehearsal Notification

When we are in the process of rehearsing towards a show we will create and share rehearsal schedules. The nature of theatre means that whilst we try to keep to them as much as possible at times, we will need to edit them, this can include who needs to be present. We will always publish these on our Facebook group. If you or a parent are not part of the group please search and request to join ‘HYT@Todmorden Hippodrome – members group’ entering the required details when prompted. We also suggest you turn on notifications for the group to ensure you get the required updates.

Reporting Concerns

Whilst we hope that your time at HYT is enjoyable we know that things sometimes go wrong. As such we have a procedure for dealing with problems. If a youth theatre member or a parent/guardian have a concern about anything at HYT then we ask that you talk to one of the leaders either in

person or over the phone. We're all approachable and we're sure that any concerns can be dealt with appropriately. Should you have a concern regarding a leader then you can contact the President of TAODS.

Social Media

We would also ask that if you upload photos or videos taken at HYT to any social media platforms you have verbal permission from other members who are also included. If a member asks that you delete a video or photo that includes them, for any reason, then we would expect you to do so. We expect members to use common sense and not to upload anything that may cause upset or distress to anyone else involved in HYT, the wider theatre or any associated persons. Also, it is very important that you do not upload any show content. The publicity team will use this footage from time to time but we do not expect members to release show content before the paying audience gets to see it! After the show you are free to upload your backstage photos etc...

Plea for volunteers!

Finally, the Hippodrome runs and survives entirely on the good will and hard work of our volunteers. We are constantly in need of further help and support. The Hippodrome is a fantastic place to be and we always want to welcome newcomers into our Hip family. Therefore, any support that you or other family members and friends may be able to offer would be very welcome indeed. There are many areas of the theatre you can become involved in such as:

- Wardrobe – helping to create our wonderful in-house costumes. You don't need to be a master seamstress or tailor!
- Set Building/Back Stage – At the theatre we're proud to create our own sets for our productions but this is a large undertaking. We are always on the lookout for more help. You don't need to be an expert carpenter! Anyone with some basic DIY or even an interest in learning and developing these skills will be very welcome.

Both our wardrobe and set build teams meet on the same evenings as HYT (Monday and Thursday 7.30 – 9.30pm). On Thursday's the Prop's Room bar is also open for members so you can have a well-deserved drink afterwards too! If you're willing to get involved, please feel free to speak with Martin who can put you in touch with the right person.

Other areas of the theatre where help is often required are:

- Technical (light and sound)
- Set painting
- Props
- Publicity
- Front of House (Ushering, Bar, Coffee stalls, sweet stalls etc...)

This list is by no means exhaustive but hopefully gives you an idea of ways in which you can also get involved and support the theatre and your child.

Many Thanks,

HYT Team

Contact Numbers

Helen: 07903912747
Martin: 07736310655
Alex: 07881527472