



Watford Palace Young Company Welcome Pack



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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

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What is the Watford Palace Young Company?

The Watford Palace Young Company (WPYC) meets weekly during term time and consists of 3 professionally-led youth theatre groups split by age.

Groups work on a variety of projects, with opportunities to access rarely-seen back of house areas. All WPYC groups offer performances for friends and family at the end of the term.

**"Before I came to WPYC
I was really shy but now I
am more confident"
PYT 7-11s Member**



5 Reasons to join the Watford Palace Young Company

1. Friendly and experienced theatre facilitators.
2. No auditions!
3. The opportunity to perform on a professional theatre stage, studio, or during prominent outdoor festivals.
4. Access to the facilities of a working theatre.
5. A fun place where you can express your feelings, expand your skills, and make new friends.



**"I enjoyed meeting
new people and
gaining new skills"**
WPYC 11-14s Member

How to join?



**Email Take Part to arrange
a taster session for the
beginning of each term**



Attend the taster session



**Become a member of the
Watford Palace Young
Company**

"Thank you for providing this youth theatre group. Everyone really enjoys it, and it gives them valuable experience.

Many thanks to Gemma and Megan"

WPYC 11-14s Parent

WPYC 7-11s

Meeting Saturdays during term time, 9:45AM - 11:30AM,
WPYC 7-11s focuses on confidence building,
developing communication skills, and
nurturing imagination through
storytelling and drama games.



**"I like bragging to my
friends at school that I am
part of WPYC"
WPYC 7-11s Member**

WPYC II-14s

The second of our professionally-led groups meets Saturdays during term time, between 11:45AM - 1:30PM.

WPYC II-14s work to develop creativity, core drama, and theatre-making skills in a fun, supportive environment.

Members develop their confidence, self-expression, and teamwork.

**"I have improved my creativity
across writing skills, wide
range of acting skills and more
stage knowledge"**

WPYC II-14s Member



WPYC 14-16s

Our 14-16s group meets on Tuesdays during term time,
6:30PM - 8:30PM.

WPYC 14-16s is a creative and social space
for young people to develop skills in
theatre, filmmaking, and outdoors arts.

The group work with professional creatives,
gaining the benefit of their knowledge
and expertise.

**"They love being part
of this group"**

WPYC14-16s Parent



Meet the Team



Megan Breen
Youth Theatre Assistant



Gemma-Marie Everest
Youth Theatre Leader



AD Dada
Youth Theatre Assistant



Samantha Ford
Head of Community Engagement



James Williams
Associate Director



Ines Ferreira
Take Part Administrator

"Thank you to the team for providing young people a platform to develop their skills and build their personality"
WPYC 11-14s
Parent

"The staff are amazing! Made them feel comfortable and part of the group"
WPYC 7-11s
Parent



Costs

Free taster sessions are offered to anyone new who wants to join WPYC. Taster sessions are typically the first or second session of the term. Following the session if you'd like to join us for the remainder of the term, you'll be invited to book online.

Existing members can book and pay online prior to the start of each new term.

The cost of each term is as follows:

£80 - Standard fee

£60 - Reduced fee (for those who would find it helpful at this time)

£100 - Pay-It-Forward fee (for those able to pay a bit extra)

"I make new friends from other schools and places and gaining new skills"
WPYC 14-16s Member

Term Dates 2023/24

WPYC 7-11s (9:45AM-11:30AM)

Autumn

Saturday 23rd September 2023 - Saturday 2nd December 2023

(no session on Saturday 28th October 2023)

Sharing Session: Saturday 2nd December 2023

Spring

Saturday 13th January 2024 - Saturday 23rd March 2024

(no session on Saturday 24th February 2024)

Sharing Session: Saturday 23rd March 2024

Summer

Saturday 20th April 2024 - Saturday 6th July 2024

(no sessions Saturday 25th May 2024 and Saturday 1st June 2024)

Sharing Session: TBC

WPYC 11-14s (11:45AM-1:30PM)

Autumn

Saturday 23rd September 2023 - Saturday 2nd December 2023

(no session on Saturday 28th October 2023)

Sharing Session: Saturday 2nd December 2023

Spring

Saturday 13th January 2024 - Saturday 23rd March 2024

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Sharing Session: Saturday 23rd March 2024

Summer

Saturday 20th April 2024 - Saturday 6th July 2024

(no sessions Saturday 25th May 2024 and Saturday 1st June 2024)

Sharing Session: TBC

WPYC 14-16s (6:30PM-8:30PM)

Autumn

Tuesday 19th September 2023 - Tuesday 28th November 2023

(no session Tuesday 24th October 2023)

Sharing Session: Tuesday 28th November 2023

Spring

Tuesday 9th January 2024 - Tuesday 19th March 2024

(no session on Tuesday 20th February 2024)

Sharing Session: Tuesday 19th March 2024

Summer

Tuesday 16th April 2024 - Tuesday 2nd July 2024

(no sessions Tuesday 21st May 2024 and Tuesday 28th May 2024)

Sharing Session: TBC

Attendance Policy

Being in a session

The Watford Palace Young Company is for people who are keen to develop their interest in drama and performance and to have fun. Our facilitators plan each session in advance for the term. Unexpected absences make planning difficult.

1. If you have to miss a session we expect you to email us, preferably in advance. This means we will not worry about you and can plan a session around your absence.
2. If your attendance proves to be unreliable over more than one session (this includes persistent lateness or late pick ups), the staff may use their discretion to remove you from the group and offer your place to someone else on the waiting list.
3. We regret that no payments or fees can be returned once the term has begun.

Before committing to the term, you and your parents should weigh up how much time you need for your studies, your job, your family and social life, and then decide if you really can make the commitment.

Behaviour Policy

We want you to enjoy your time with us and to feel safe and welcome at WPYC. To help you get the most from your experience, we have some expectations of your behaviour and promises about what you can expect from us.

What you can expect from us

- To be treated with respect.
- To help you, answer your questions, and provide support when needed.
- To listen to you.
- To share and celebrate your commitment and enthusiasm.

What we expect from you

- To treat our staff and other WPYC members with respect.
- To be on time, or let us know if you are running late.
- To engage with us and the activities we offer.
- To try your hardest.

Behaviour Policy

What you should not tolerate

- Being bullied.
- Being threatened or being made to do something you do not want to do.

If either of these happen, please talk to someone in the Take Part team. We can't promise to keep all of your problems secret as sometimes we might have to inform someone else, but we will do our best to respect your confidence.

What we will not tolerate

- Aggressive, threatening, or bullying behaviour.
- Violence of any kind.
- Being in possession of or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Vandalism.
- Stealing.

Behaviour Policy Procedures

We want everyone in WPYC to feel respected, safe, and valued where everyone is supportive and kind to one another. Where behaviour falls short of the standards expected, we will take the following action:

Minor or first-time incidents

For minor or first-time incidents, our staff or volunteers will remind you about the expectations we have of each other and ask you to change your behaviour. This gives you the chance to think and to plan how you could behave differently, with support from staff and/or volunteers.

More serious or further incidents

If your behaviour is more serious or does not improve, you will be given a formal warning by the facilitator running your activity. You may also be asked to sit out of the activity until it is safe for you to resume. The facilitator will make a record about what happened and inform your parents or carers if it is appropriate. They will also talk with you about what happened and agree what support you need to improve your behaviour in the future. We might also decide to take further steps, such as restricting you from taking part in some activities.

Major incidents or persistent bad behaviour

If the support we have put in place isn't helping you to change your behaviour or there is a major breach of our behaviour policy, we might need to give you a final warning. Again, this will be recorded and we'll inform your parent(s)/carer(s) as appropriate.

At this point, we might need to discuss other services that might be better able to give you the support you need.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need any experience?

No! You simply need to have an interest in theatre and drama.

Where do the sessions take place?

Sessions take place in the Rehearsal Studio at Watford Palace Theatre, however, there may be times when sessions will be off-site.

How do I stay informed?

Once you have received your membership pack you are officially a member of the Palace Youth Theatre. You will be kept on our database and will always be informed. Remember to keep your contact details up to date!

Should I bring anything?

You should wear comfy clothing, and as each session usually has a short break, bring a drink and a snack. (PLEASE NO SNACKS WITH NUTS)

Where do I sign up?

To sign up to the WPYC, email us on takepart@watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk, and we will invite you to a taster session.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do the taster sessions work?

It is simply a regular WPYC session that you can attend to help you decide if you like the class before committing to paying the term's fees. Once signed up for a taster session, you should fill in and send us a membership and photo consent form at least 24 hours in advance.

How does the waiting list work?

If any of our groups are full, we'll add you to a waiting list. We'll contact you by email or phone, inviting you to a taster session as soon as a place becomes available.

What happens when I am too old for WPYC?

There are plenty of opportunities at Watford Palace Theatre after you turn 16 years old. You will be able to apply to join our Palace Young Company 16+ programme or masterclasses and workshops or take part in other events for young people like Hertfordshire Film Festival or the People's Palace Company.

Do you give us information regarding auditions for theatre, film and TV or other opportunities?

Organisations sometimes email us about exciting opportunities they have, which we may decide to pass on to relevant groups. These opportunities will not necessarily be endorsed by WPT and we advise you to do your own research before applying.

Frequently Asked Questions

My child behaves much older/younger than their age, can they go into a different group?

We recommend your young person stays in a group with others their own age. However, our groups all overlap by one year to allow for a small amount of flexibility when wanting to stay in a group with friends.

What is Hertfordshire Film Festival?

Hertfordshire Film Festival is an annual opportunity to create a film and see it showcased on the big screen at Watford Palace Theatre, alongside talks with leading film and TV industry experts for ages 11-17 and 18-25. <https://www.hertsfilmfest.co.uk/>

What if I cannot afford the WPYC fee?

We believe that finances should never be a barrier to taking part in the arts, and so we offer bursary places to young people from low-income families. If you want to find out if you qualify for a bursary please get in touch with the Take Part Team via email: takepart@watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk.

How to contact us

You can contact us by:

- Phone: 07508 796403 (during session times) or 01923 225 671 (10am-4pm Mon-Fri)
- Email: takepart@watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk
- Post: Take Part Team, Watford Palace Theatre, 20 Clarendon Road, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD17 1JZ

Please note that we can be very busy; if we are out of the office please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can.

You can also find out information on Watford

Palace Theatre website:

www.watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk

   @WATFORDPALACE

