

Charlotte Performing Arts Center

~ PRESS RELEASE ~

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Charlotte Performing Arts Center continues to find success with its Arts for Youth programs

The wonder and joy of witnessing a child experiencing live theatre is priceless. The memories make a lasting impact on their lives and help foster an appreciation for the arts that lasts well into adulthood. The Charlotte Performing Arts Center aims to continue to foster that love of the arts through its Arts for Youth program.

The Arts for Youth program was created in 2008 to bring live professional, curriculum based children's theatre to the performing arts center for school day performances. Since its inception, the program has seen nearly 20,000 students from area schools attend live theatrical productions. Each year the program offers two age appropriate, curriculum based, live performances for schools to attend. Sponsorships help keep ticket prices low and affordable to all schools.

Due to the success of the Arts for Youth program, in 2015 it was expanded to include the Onstage Experience. The Arts for Youth Onstage Experience gives area youth an opportunity to perform in their own scripted show, either a play or musical. With budget cuts affecting the availability of dramatic arts programs at the middle school level, the need for an onstage experience program was important to enhance and strengthen the drama program as students progress into high school. Each school year the program has seen an increase in the number of students participating with 2018-2019 having the highest number yet. In February, 64 students in grades 4-8 will present Disney's *The Jungle Book Kids* onstage at the Charlotte Performing Arts Center as part of this year's Arts for Youth Onstage Experience.

The Onstage Experience program also gives valuable leadership and mentoring experience to Charlotte High School students that assist with the productions. They often have an opportunity to work one on one with students developing their theatrical skills. On occasion, they are asked to take on more responsibility in the form of choreography or directing specific scenes. Their participation in the program is vital to its success.

Performances of *Disney's The Jungle Book Kids* are February 1 & 2 at 7:00 pm. For more information, contact the CPAC Box Office at 517-541-5690 or visit our website at www.charlotteperformingartscenter.com.

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