

**EDUCATION CONTACT**

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marketing@HersheyAreaPlayhouse.com***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****HERSHEY AREA PLAYHOUSE THEATRE ACADEMY
ANNOUNCES FALL 2009 ACTING CLASSES AND
THEATRE ACADEMY PLAYERS**

HERSHEY, Pennsylvania — August 7, 2009 — Hershey Area Playhouse Theatre Academy is now taking registrations for its Fall 2009 acting classes and Theatre Academy Players program. Cory Wilkerson will again lead the educational programming, which is designed for students currently in first through twelfth grades. Classes start September 12, and early bird registration with discounted fees is open until September 1.

Our teachers are gearing up to welcome back our students and welcome new students to our acting class sessions. According to Cory Wilkerson, "In this repeatable series we try to have something for everyone, combining favorite games and skill-builders with new material to make every semester different." She goes on to say "this semester we are excited to announce a partnership with the Country Meadows retirement community of Hershey that will team teen actors with senior partners to honor their life stories as an original play. This is sure to be an exciting opportunity for those students interested in acting, playwriting and performance."

A detailed breakdown of the Fall 2009 programs are as follows:

Creative Dramatics 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Grades K – 2: 10 Classes

This class teaches acting through creative dramatics, exposing the children to their own creative and artistic possibilities – building communication, confidence and self-expression in a non-threatening atmosphere. New material each semester makes this class a repeatable skill builder.

Saturdays 9.12.09 – 11.14.09

\$95.00 early bird

\$105.00 after 9.1.08

Acting it Up 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Grades 3 – 4: 10 Classes

This fast paced mixture of theatre games, storytelling and creative movement encourages kids to learn to create a character and stretches imaginations. Students will learn basic voice and movement skills in order to perform a role. The Winter Session builds on skills learned in the fall and culminates in an open house performance. New material each semester makes this class a repeatable skill builder.

Saturdays 9.12.09 – 11.14.09

\$95.00 early bird

\$105.00 after 9.1.08

Young Actors 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Grades 5 – 6: 10 Classes

This class uses a combination of scripted and improvised material to teach acting with a focus on performance skills but an emphasis on fun. Fall session includes an emphasis on audition skills specifically designed to teach middle school-aged students skillful use of voice and movement for the stage. The Winter Session builds on skills learned in the fall and culminates in an open house performance. New material each semester makes this class a repeatable skill builder.

Saturdays 9.12.09 – 11.14.09

\$95.00 early bird

\$105.00 after 9.1.08

Theatre Academy Players: *Honoring the Gifts*

For years plays have been written to celebrate the human experience – in this unique program, students learn to write plays from first person accounts as they celebrate the stories of the residents of Country Meadow Retirement Community. Join us as we honor the gift of stories of a life well lived.

Open to experienced actors by audition and/or permission of the instructor. Auditions by appointment

4:00 pm – 5:30 pm Saturday Afternoons

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Tuesday Evenings

Grades 7 – 12; 18 Classes

For the serious student of acting looking for something more than the everyday. Students must have prior acting experience and either audition for the class or have permission of the instructor. The Fall session will focus on play-writing skills and monologue performance. In this unique experience, enrolled students will be paired with a senior resident of the Country Meadows Retirement Community and taught to capture and record oral histories. Working in the studio, the students will then turn these stories into theatre by creating their own original play. The resulting piece will be performed for the public as a Reader's Theatre similar to the recent Playhouse production of *Love Letters*, including full staging, lights, sound and period costumes.

Saturdays 9.12.09 – 11.14.09

NO CLASS 10.31.09

Tuesdays 9.15.09 – 11.10.09

Dress Rehearsals Wednesday 11.11.09 and Thursday 11.12.09

Performances on 11.13.09 and 11.14.09

Tuition Early Bird Special: \$260.00

\$295.00 after 9.1.09

NOTE: Students will be required to spend time outside of scheduled class times recording oral histories and memorizing their lines.

Classes will be held at Hershey Area Playhouse at Country Meadows, located on Sand Hill Road at Cherry Drive in Hershey, PA. Visit HersheyAreaPlayhouse.com for more information and to download a registration form. Contact Randall Cline, Director of Education at 717.497.2315 or TheatreAcademy@HersheyAreaPlayhouse.com if you have questions about the Fall 2009 Theatre Academy programs.

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Hershey Area Playhouse (HersheyAreaPlayhouse.com) is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to providing residents of the community with an opportunity to participate in the creation and production of a theatrical experience. Since its inception in 1999, Hershey Area Playhouse has staged 33 productions at numerous venues around the Hershey area. In April 2007, the Playhouse opened its new permanent home, Hershey Area Playhouse at Country Meadows.