



Artists in School Program



Quest Theatre envisions a galaxy where theatre is valued as an essential part of growing up.

At Quest we know that theatre is not only fun, but also can bring an added range of extraordinary benefits for young people. Our expertise lies in facilitating young people's creative process, drawing out contributions from everyone, and working together to make something amazing. All our instructors are professional or emerging artists in the Alberta theatre scene who love to share their passion of theatre with young people.

Ballpark Costs

There are many factors that go into the cost of our Artists in School Program. The below base price has been listed for estimation purposes. Please call our office at 403-264-8575 to get an accurate quote for the particulars of your school.

Base Price for the 2022/2023 season*

- Up to 3 artists for the creation of 9 scenes or less with 9 classes or less.
- Based on classes of 30 students or less
- Based on a 4- or 5-day week
- Includes set, lights, sound system, and select prop pieces and some costume pieces.
- Base investment: \$7500-\$9500 (we do not charge GST).

*Receive a digital booklet of Essential Drama Games for the Classroom



Although we do travel all over Alberta to deliver in-person programs, **Online** options are available of our Story, or Shakespeare based programs (see descriptions below). These are an excellent option for rural schools in Alberta or other schools outside our province.

If your school cannot afford our Artists in School Program, we have a **Priority Funding List** of schools that we try to match donors to. Nominate a school [using this form](#). Funding is also available through a grant from The Alberta Foundation for the Arts, deadline is May 1, 2023.

The Benefits of Developmental Drama

Using developmental drama as a teaching/learning medium has important long-term impact on the depth of student understanding and retention. Further, drama can develop social skills, foster collaboration, build confidence, cultivate emotional intelligence, inspire an appreciation of culture, encourage community and team work, improve communication skills, promote empathy, stimulate imagination, enhance creativity, strengthen language and physical skill development, improve self-control, synthesize knowledge and understanding, spark inquiry, illuminate different perspectives, broaden social discourse, and teach respect, to name a few!

General Activities

- A Program Leader will be assigned to your school and will prepare your week. They will create a schedule/timetable, assign workspaces, assign instructors to classes, and confirm themes, scenes or stories for your school.
- The Quest Team will arrive Monday for an early morning meeting with your staff that contains important information that helps the week run smoothly.
- Artists meet with each class once, or in many cases twice, a day for between 35 and 50 minutes.



- Instructors will conduct warm-ups, play theatre games, improvise, brainstorm, and/or solicit material to theatricalize a story or facilitate the creation of an original piece for performance.
- Although Quest comes with a few select production pieces (large pieces of fabric, a few costumes, etc.) Students are encouraged to find, make or borrow costumes and props. If students perform in plain clothes – that's ok too!

NO ONE WILL BE ASKED TO MAKE, SEW, OR BUY ANYTHING.

- Quest's set, lighting system, and sound system will be set up on the gymnasium floor. We require your gym for the entire week to rehearse with students and set up and work with technical equipment.
- Technical rehearsals and performance will happen near the end of the week. Options for afternoon or evening performances will be discussed.
- The team strikes the set and equipment typically within a 90-minute window at the end of the performance.
- Performances for each class are between 3 – 5 minutes depending on the size of the school.
- The program content can be delivered in a 4-day week for the same cost.

Different Types

Creation

Classes create theatre originating from a virtue prompt such as kindness, courage, responsibility, love, truth etc. These creations can easily incorporate school or class themes, (such as the 7 Sacred Teachings) or content the class is already working on. Our artists walk students through the creative process of theatre-making using imaginative play, improvisation, storyboarding, rehearsal, and performance. Share with us what you want to explore, and we can make it happen.



Story

Students' springboard their creations off well-loved picture books. The stories in our collection contain great narratives, good messages, and room for re-interpretation. Students create their own version of the story, adding characters, new dialogue, and using their imaginations to expand and embody the story.

Our Canadian collection includes titles such as Robert Munsch's *Paperbag Princess*, Melanie Watts'

Scaredy Squirrel, Kyo Maclear's *Mr. Flux*, as well as three local traditional Blackfoot stories, lead by local Indigenous team members, when available.

Because of frequent requests, we offer a Christmas collection during the holiday season. Titles include *Snowmen at Night* by Caralyn Buehner, *Santa Duck* by David Milgrim, *The Lump of Coal* by Daniel Handler, and *The Latke Who Couldn't Stop Screaming* by Lemony Snicket.

Shakespeare

Our Artists in School program began with a Shakespeare week in 1993. Our teams from the professional theatre community love to introduce Shakespeare to young people through our abridged versions of his best loved and most accessible plays. Schools may choose from these classics: *Midsummers Night Dream*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth*, *Hamlet* or *Twelfth Night*. A fun introduction to the poetic genius of Shakespeare.

What Parents are Saying

"Our kids were really excited about their performances this week! Thank you for recognizing not every child finds theatre easy, and for engaging them based on their comfort and ability! Great job! :)"
Parent from Ormsby Elementary

"Amazing job! Can't believe that was put together in a week. Two thumbs up!"
Parent from Annie L. Gaetz

"So much laughter and fun! ... Thank you for your time, effort, and commitment to bring the life and love of theatre and the arts to schools and children. <3"
Parent from West Dalhousie



"Sometimes it is challenging to allow a child or a class to lead creation when the mature artist within us knows how to make a scene "better" or "more effective" for an audience. We have to keep in mind that giving up control and getting behind a child's idea goes further in developing their love of creativity and their sense of self, than pleasing a parent with a sensational

performance. Holding true to this value challenges our sense of achievement, but creativity is like a muscle that needs development, encouragement, and celebration to find itself.”

Artistic Director Nikki Loach

To book any of our programs call us at 403-264-8575 ext. 2,
email admin@questtheatre.org, or visit our website at
www.questtheatre.org