

FIRST STAGE THEATER ACADEMY

SUMMER
2025

REGISTER
BY APRIL 20
& SAVE!

NEW LOCATIONS!

JUNE 16 – AUGUST 8, 2025

Milwaukee Youth Arts Center

Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts

Oak Creek Performing Arts & Education Center

NEW! Concordia University Wisconsin

NEW! University of Wisconsin-Parkside

NEXT STEPS

AUGUST 11-22, 2025

Milwaukee Youth Arts Center



REGISTER AT [FIRSTSTAGE.ORG](https://firststage.org) | Questions? Contact (414) 267-2970 or academy@firststage.org

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Milwaukee, WI

MILWAUKEE YOUTH ARTS CENTER

The Milwaukee Youth Arts Center (MYAC) is a nationally recognized state-of-the-art educational facility, located at 325 W Walnut Street, Milwaukee, WI 53212 in historic Schlitz Park.

Brookfield, WI

SHARON LYNNE WILSON CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts (SLW) in Brookfield is a beautiful arts and education facility, nestled just 20 minutes west of downtown Milwaukee in Mitchell Park at 3270 Mitchell Park Drive, Brookfield, WI 53045.

Oak Creek, WI

OAK CREEK PERFORMING ARTS & EDUCATION CENTER

The state-of-the-art Oak Creek Performing Arts & Education Center (OPAEC) is located on the east side of the Oak Creek High School Campus at 340 E Puetz Road, Oak Creek, WI 53154.

Mequon, WI

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY WISCONSIN

Located just 20 minutes north of Milwaukee at 12800 N Lake Shore Drive, Mequon, WI 53097, Concordia University Wisconsin (CUW) offers an inspiring setting for learning in a vibrant academic environment.

Kenosha, WI

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-PARKSIDE

Conveniently situated between Milwaukee and Chicago at 900 Wood Road, Kenosha, WI 53141, the University of Wisconsin-Parkside is a vibrant educational facility with state-of-the-art resources in a welcoming environment.

FIRST STAGE THEATER ACADEMY IS THE NATION'S LARGEST HIGH-IMPACT THEATER TRAINING PROGRAM FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



Dear families,

Welcome to Summer Academy 2025! Whether you are joining us for the first time or are a returning student, we are thrilled to have you as part of our community.

At First Stage, we live by our cheer: "I can't is not in my vocabulary. I take risks. I conquer my fears. I am not afraid to lead." These words guide everything we do, reminding us that bravery, curiosity, and leadership are encouraged through the arts. Our motto, "Life Skills Through Stage Skills," isn't just a philosophy – it's at the heart of every class.

Classes led by theater professionals provide a safe and supportive environment where students are encouraged to stretch their imaginations, express themselves, and grow in confidence. Whether it's learning to project your voice, working as part of a team, or embracing the joy of storytelling, our Theater Academy is a place where young people can be celebrated for being themselves.

Together, let's take risks, conquer fears, and not be afraid to lead! We look forward to seeing you this summer!



J.T. BACKES

Academy Director
jtbackes@firststage.org



First Stage is a proud United Performing Arts Fund Member and appreciates the generous support received annually thanks to your UPAF donation.

Photos by Paul Ruffolo

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATIONS

These open house orientations allow new families to learn more about the program structure and policies, ask questions, and get a glimpse into the classroom content!

- Attending orientation is required for new students. A parent or guardian should also attend.
- Please attend orientation at the same location where you are registering for classes.

Milwaukee Youth Arts Center

Thursday, June 5, 5:00-6:30PM

Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts

Tuesday, June 3, 5:00-6:30PM

Oak Creek Performing Arts & Education Center

Wednesday, June 4, 5:00-6:30PM

Concordia University Wisconsin

Wednesday, June 11, 5:00-6:30PM

University of Wisconsin-Parkside

Monday, June 9, 5:00-6:00PM



Scan the QR code to register for New Student Orientation or visit firststage.org/summer-academy

PRESENTATIONS

Every Summer Academy session will culminate in a lively presentation of class work for family and friends. Presentations will be held on the final day of class. Details will be noted in the welcome letter you will receive one week prior to the start of class.

EXTENDED CARE

Extended Care is designed to help busy working parents and guardians. This program offers students an opportunity to participate in games, memorize lines, practice scene work, meet new friends, or just hang out.

Extended Care will be available Monday through Friday at the Milwaukee Youth Arts Center location only.

Grades K-4 Only: 3:00-4:30 PM at \$50 per week

If you would like to enroll your student in Extended Care please select the option on the registration form.



Scan the QR code to register for Extended Care or visit firststage.org/summer-academy



Juan Ramon Andrade Escobedo in PETE THE CAT. First Stage, 2024. Photo by Paul Ruffolo.

ACADEMY CURRICULUM

Our exciting acting curriculum varies in intensity with age, experience, and length of session. Acting is at the core of everything we teach and it takes a lifetime to master.

Story Drama

Bring a storybook to life by exploring motivations, choices, and actions while creating dialogue and improvising scenes.

Playmakers

Use improvisation and theater games to create a story and develop your own theatrical masterpiece.

Scene Study

Dive into a script while you put your acting skills to work bringing the characters on the page to life on the stage.

Voice & Movement

Build strength, flexibility, awareness, and expression through a class devoted to the fundamentals of two of the actor's most important tools.

Musical Theater

Increase your versatility and work on new vocal and dance techniques while exploring the art of telling a story through words, music, and movement.

Acting Theory

Explore character, relationships, action, and text while developing overall acting skills and confidence.

Shakespeare

Examine dynamic language, characters, and plots in scenes and monologues from one of the most influential playwrights in history.

Improvisation

Develop expressiveness, spontaneity, and train your brain to think quickly and with reason through improvisational character and scene work.

Company Class Productions

Work with a professional director to broaden performance skills, deepen knowledge of theater, and produce a show.

Next Steps – Classes for Students on the Autism Spectrum (Grades 3-12)

Explore character, relationships, action, and text while developing overall acting skills and confidence.

STORY DRAMA

GRADES K4-1

One-week half-day sessions at MYAC – Serving new & returning students entering grades K4-1 in Fall 2025

We are so excited to bring some of our favorite stories to life through the exploration of setting, plot, and character choices to develop beginning acting skills.

MARVELOUS MO WILLEMS

Join Pigeon and friends from First Stage’s upcoming show *The Pigeon Gets a Big Time Holiday Extravaganza!* to stretch your imagination as you explore Pigeon’s adventures from the classic Mo Willems books!

BLUEY’S BIG ADVENTURE

Turn everyday life into an extraordinary adventure with Bluey, Bingo, and more! Students will use their imaginations and Bluey’s books to bring these stories to life.

ADVENTURES IN THE 100 ACRE WOODS

Join Winnie-the-Pooh, Rabbit, Piglet, Eeyore, and more to explore movement and your imagination as you bring to life the classic tales of Christopher Robin and friends.

ALL ABOARD THE MAGIC SCHOOL BUS

Seat belts everyone! Take chances, make mistakes, and get messy with Ms. Frizzle as you embark on a field trip, bringing to life your favorite science adventures.

DRAGONS LOVE TACOS AND PARTIES

What happens if you give a dragon spicy salsa? Find out as you use movement and your imagination to explore *Dragons Love Tacos*, a hilarious tale about new friends and the perfect snack.

FRIENDS FROM EVERY HABITAT

Get your imaginary safari hats and binoculars ready! Enter the world of animals as you dive into new friendships, exploration, and teamwork to bring to life the stories of your favorite animal pals!

ENCHANTED EVER AFTER

Once upon a time in a land far, far, away, there was a magical land of fairytales, beautiful princesses, handsome princes, and dragons! Embark on a journey of creativity to explore this realm, making your own happily ever after.

OUTER SPACE AND THE STARS

Launch into a galaxy of fun! Students will use voice, movement, and their imagination to explore new universes, as they learn about creating stories that are out of this world.

STORY DRAMA – GRADES K4-1 SCHEDULE

AM – 9:00-11:30AM | PM – 12:30-3:00PM

CLASS NAME	DATES	TIME	LOCATION	EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT	TUITION	GRADES
Marvelous Mo Willems	June 16-20 [~]	AM	MYAC	\$180*	\$200	K4-1
Marvelous Mo Willems	June 16-20 [~]	PM	MYAC	\$180*	\$200	K4-1
Bluey’s Big Adventure	June 23-27	AM	MYAC	\$180*	\$200	K4-1
Bluey’s Big Adventure	June 23-27	PM	MYAC	\$180*	\$200	K4-1
100 Acre Woods	June 30-July 3 [*]	AM	MYAC	\$180*	\$200	K4-1
100 Acre Woods	June 30-July 3 [*]	PM	MYAC	\$180*	\$200	K4-1
Magic School Bus	July 7-11	AM	MYAC	\$180*	\$200	K4-1
Magic School Bus	July 7-11	PM	MYAC	\$180*	\$200	K4-1
Dragons Love Tacos	July 14-18	AM	MYAC	\$180*	\$200	K4-1
Dragons Love Tacos	July 14-18	PM	MYAC	\$180*	\$200	K4-1
Every Habitat	July 21-25	AM	MYAC	\$180*	\$200	K4-1
Every Habitat	July 21-25	PM	MYAC	\$180*	\$200	K4-1
Enchanted Ever After	July 28-August 1	AM	MYAC	\$180*	\$200	K4-1
Enchanted Ever After	July 28-August 1	PM	MYAC	\$180*	\$200	K4-1
Outer Space	August 4-8	AM	MYAC	\$180*	\$200	K4-1
Outer Space	August 4-8	PM	MYAC	\$180*	\$200	K4-1

MYAC = Milwaukee Youth Arts Center

[~] No class June 19, in honor of Juneteenth Day ^{*} No class July 4

^{*} Early Bird Discount ends April 20



PLAYMAKERS

GRADES 1-2

One-week half-day sessions at MYAC – Serving new & returning students entering grades 1-2 in Fall 2025

Each session is a new adventure created by the class! Further develop your beginning acting skills as you pull inspiration from these tales and use improvisation techniques to create your own characters and story.

VILLAINS IN DISGUISE

Get your disguises ready! Enter a secret network of supervillains using your voice, body, and imagination to build wickedly fun stories.

MYSTERIES OF THE SMURF FOREST

Can you stop Gargamel? Join the Smurfs on a spectacular adventure exploring friendship and Manhattan as you reimagine the epic adventures to get the Smurfs back to their home.

DOG MAN: BARK OF THE BEAST

Dive into the classic comics! Use your actor skills to bring to life the heroic journeys of Dog Man and friends as they save the city. Work as a team to brainstorm new stories and heroic journeys of unlikely saviors.

CHIEF BOGO'S RECRUITS

Join the Police Academy with Judy Hopps as you reimagine the tales of unlikely friendship. Enter the city of Zootopia as you use teamwork, problem solving skills, and your imagination to dream up new adventures!

GALACTIC GUARDIANS

Could there be alien life in space? Be prepared to find out! Put your imaginations to the test as you work as a team of astronauts discovering secrets and solving problems. Defy gravity and the limits of possibility on Earth!

MARVEL MULTIVERSE MADNESS

Ready to save the universe with your favorite Marvel characters? Dust off your capes and whip out your imagination to create new characters, explore your superhero capabilities, and work as a team to save the world!

DINOSAUR PARK: THE LOST WORLD

Ready to go back in time? Work together to develop the lost world of the dinosaurs and dream up a *Jurassic Park* style adventure. Use your body, voice, and imagination to explore the dangerous dinosaurs.

HEIHEI AND PUA'S ISLAND ANTICS

Join Heihei and Pua for some adventures around the island! Inspired by Disney's hit movie *Moana*, students will use their actor tools of voice, body, and imagination to create stories about friendship and the importance of fun!



PLAYMAKERS – GRADES 1-2 SCHEDULE

AM – 9:00-11:30AM | PM – 12:30-3:00PM

**Families may choose to sign up for both an AM and PM Playmakers in the same week for a full day of class. Students taking both sessions will have a staff-supervised lunch break.*

CLASS NAME	DATES	TIME	LOCATION	EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT	TUITION	GRADES
Villains in Disguise	June 16-20 [~]	AM	MYAC	\$180*	\$200	1-2
Smurf Forest	June 16-20 [~]	PM	MYAC	\$180*	\$200	1-2
Smurf Forest	June 23-27	AM	MYAC	\$180*	\$200	1-2
Villains in Disguise	June 23-27	PM	MYAC	\$180*	\$200	1-2
Dog Man	June 30-July 3 [*]	AM	MYAC	\$180*	\$200	1-2
Chief Bogo's Recruits	June 30-July 3 [*]	PM	MYAC	\$180*	\$200	1-2
Chief Bogo's Recruits	July 7-11	AM	MYAC	\$180*	\$200	1-2
Dog Man	July 7-11	PM	MYAC	\$180*	\$200	1-2
Galactic Guardians	July 14-18	AM	MYAC	\$180*	\$200	1-2
Marvel Multiverse	July 14-18	PM	MYAC	\$180*	\$200	1-2
Marvel Multiverse	July 21-25	AM	MYAC	\$180*	\$200	1-2
Galactic Guardians	July 21-25	PM	MYAC	\$180*	\$200	1-2
Dinosaur Park	July 28-August 1	AM	MYAC	\$180*	\$200	1-2
Heihei and Pua's Island Antics	July 28-August 1	PM	MYAC	\$180*	\$200	1-2
Heihei and Pua's Island Antics	August 4-8	AM	MYAC	\$180*	\$200	1-2
Dinosaur Park	August 4-8	PM	MYAC	\$180*	\$200	1-2

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^{*} Early Bird Discount ends April 20



Sawyer Felkey in THE DINOSAUR PLAY. First Stage, 2025. Photo by Paul Ruffolo.



GRADES 3-4

One-week & two-week sessions at MYAC – Serving new & returning students entering grades 3-4 in Fall 2025

CURRICULUM

BEGINNING OF DAY

Each Academy day begins with all grades 3-4 groups gathering together to prepare, share goals, and encourage each other to do our best.

MUSICAL THEATER

Increase your versatility and work on new vocal and dance techniques while exploring the art of storytelling through words, music, and movement.

SCENE STUDY

Dive into a script while you put your acting skills to work bringing the characters on the page to life on the stage.

VOICE & SPEECH

Build strength, flexibility, awareness, and expression through a class devoted to the fundamentals of one of the actor's most important tools.

END OF DAY

Each Academy day concludes with a gathering to reflect and acknowledge the effort of fellow students.

GRADES 3-4 SCHEDULE

9:00AM-3:00PM

CLASS NAME	DATES	TIME	LOCATION	EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT	TUITION	GRADES
One-week session	June 16-20 ~	9AM-3PM	MYAC	\$305*	\$325	3-4
One-week session	June 23-27	9AM-3PM	MYAC	\$305*	\$325	3-4
One-week session	June 30-July 3 *	9AM-3PM	MYAC	\$305*	\$325	3-4
One-week session	July 7-11	9AM-3PM	MYAC	\$305*	\$325	3-4
One-week session	July 14-18	9AM-3PM	MYAC	\$305*	\$325	3-4
One-week session	July 21-25	9AM-3PM	MYAC	\$305*	\$325	3-4
One-week session	July 28-August 1	9AM-3PM	MYAC	\$305*	\$325	3-4
One-week session	August 4-8	9AM-3PM	MYAC	\$305*	\$325	3-4
Two-week session	June 16-27 ~	9AM-3PM	MYAC	\$455*	\$475	3-4
Two-week session	June 30-July 11 *	9AM-3PM	MYAC	\$455*	\$475	3-4
Two-week session	July 14-25	9AM-3PM	MYAC	\$455*	\$475	3-4
Two-week session	July 28-August 8	9AM-3PM	MYAC	\$455*	\$475	3-4

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* Early Bird Discount ends April 20

ACCESS FOR ALL

Elevate your child's theater skills with **Academy Scholarships** covering a portion of your tuition. Eligibility is determined through a combination of financial assessment, an interview, and your personal story. Dive into a world of creativity with a limit of one scholarship per student per seasonal session. Apply for **First Stage's Access for All Passport Program** – designed so everyone, regardless of financial constraints, can experience the impact of theater education.

This program was made possible by a grant from the Anonymous Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation.



Scan the QR code to learn more and apply or visit firststage.org.



GRADES 5-12

Two-week, three-week, & four-week sessions at MYAC – Serving new & returning students entering grades 5-12 in Fall 2025 (Classes will be divided based on grade)

CURRICULUM

BEGINNING OF DAY

Each Academy day begins with all grades 5-12 groups gathering together to prepare, share goals, and encourage each other to do our best.

ACTING THEORY

Explore characters, relationships, action, and text while developing overall acting skills and confidence.

IMPROVISATION

Develop expressiveness, spontaneity, and train your brain to think quickly and with reason through improvisational character and scene work.

MUSICAL THEATER

Increase your versatility and work on new vocal and dance techniques while exploring the art of telling a story through words, music, and movement.

SHAKESPEARE

Examine dynamic language, characters, and plots in scenes and monologues from one of the most influential playwrights in history.

VOICE & MOVEMENT

The use of speaking techniques increases relaxation, resonance, articulation, and projection. By using movement techniques, students will enhance balance, agility, stage presence, awareness, and focus.

END OF DAY

Each Academy day concludes with a gathering to reflect and acknowledge the effort of fellow students.

GRADES 5-12 SCHEDULE

9:00AM-4:15PM

CLASS NAME	DATES	TIME	LOCATION	EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT	TUITION	GRADES
Two-week session	June 16-27 [~]	9AM-4:15PM	MYAC	\$555*	\$575	5-12
Two-week session	June 30-July 11 [*]	9AM-4:15PM	MYAC	\$555*	\$575	5-12
Two-week session	July 14-25	9AM-4:15PM	MYAC	\$555*	\$575	5-12
Two-week session	July 28-August 8	9AM-4:15PM	MYAC	\$555*	\$575	5-12
Three-week session	June 23-July 11 [*]	9AM-4:15PM	MYAC	\$680*	\$700	5-8
Three-week session	July 21-August 8	9AM-4:15PM	MYAC	\$680*	\$700	5-8
Four-week session	June 16-July 11 ^{~*}	9AM-4:15PM	MYAC	\$780*	\$800	7-12
Four-week session	July 14-August 8	9AM-4:15PM	MYAC	\$780*	\$800	7-12

MYAC = Milwaukee Youth Arts Center

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SUMMER ACADEMY INTERNSHIPS

Have you taken a First Stage Theater Academy class before? Do you see yourself as a mentor? Do you want to put your office skills to the test? Are you in 8th grade or higher? If you answered yes to all of these questions, the First Stage Theater Academy Internship program is for you!

CLASSROOM INTERNS: Interns serve as role models, guides, mentors, and teacher's assistants. Once classes begin, teachers and students count on our interns and look forward to working with them each day.

OFFICE INTERNS: An intern may serve as an assistant in the Academy Office, answering the telephone, taking attendance, light customer service, making copies, filing paperwork, compiling data, delivering messages, etc.

Students may earn tuition credit while serving as an intern. For an application, visit www.firststage.org or contact J.T. Backes at jtbackes@firststage.org or (414) 267-2970



MUSICAL THEATER
COMPANY CLASS

PIPPIN

Book by Roger Hirson
Music & Lyrics
by Stephen Schwartz

CONTEMPORARY
COMPANY CLASS

WINTER BREAK

By Joe Calarco

CLASSICAL
COMPANY CLASS

Romeo & Juliet

By William Shakespeare

GRADES 9-12

COMPANY CLASS

Four-week sessions at MYAC – Serving returning students entering grades 9-12 in Fall 2025

Company Classes will work with a professional director for four weeks to broaden performance skills, deepen knowledge of theater, and produce a show.

As a member of Company Class you will be expected to:

- Serve as a role model of teamwork and positive energy for all other students.
- Support and encourage each other to do your best.
- Take on the additional challenge of both class work and rehearsal.
- Attend all public performances.
- Carry the Company Class legacy of leadership, energy, discipline, focus, and joy.

SIGN UP FOR AN AUDITION

- Scan the QR code below or visit firststage.org/company-class to find our SignUpGenius link and sign up for a spot.
- Auditions will be in February and March. Visit our website for more information.
- If you would like us to hold a spot in a different class should you not be accepted, please make note on the registration form.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

- A memorized monologue of 1-2 minutes in length, classical or contemporary, based on which class is your first choice.
- If you want to be considered for a musical, you will also need to prepare 32 bars of a musical theater song, which you will sing a capella.



Scan the QR code to sign up for a Company Class audition or visit firststage.org/company-class

Company Class cast in A COMEDY OF ERRORS. First Stage, 2024. Photo by Paul Ruffolo.



MUSICAL THEATER COMPANY CLASS: PIPPIN

From the creator of *Wicked*, Stephen Schwartz, comes an unforgettable story. Heir to the Frankish throne, the young prince Pippin is in search of the secret to true happiness and fulfillment. Pippin finds that happiness lies not in extraordinary endeavors, but rather in the unextraordinary moments that happen every day.

CONTEMPORARY COMPANY CLASS: WINTER BREAK

On the first night of winter break, nineteen teenagers, some who know each other, some who don't, wrestle with friendships, breakups, loss, graduating, and finding their place in the world.

CLASSICAL COMPANY CLASS: ROMEO & JULIET

In this classic romantic tragedy, an age-old vendetta between two powerful families erupts into bloodshed. A group of masked Montagues risk further conflict by gatecrashing a Capulet party. A young lovesick Romeo Montague falls instantly in love with Juliet Capulet, who is due to marry her father's choice, the Count Paris.

COMPANY CLASS SCHEDULE

9:00AM-4:15PM

CLASS NAME	DATES	TIME	EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT	TUITION	GRADES	PUBLIC PERFORMANCES
Musical Theater	June 16-July 13 ^{~*}	9AM-4:15PM	\$830*	\$850	9-12	July 11, 12, & 13
Classical	June 30-July 27 [*]	9AM-4:15PM	\$830*	\$850	9-12	July 25, 26, & 27
Contemporary	July 14-August 10	9AM-4:15PM	\$830*	\$850	9-12	August 8, 9, & 10

Please note: students must have previously participated in any Theater Academy class (summer or school year) to audition for Company Class at MYAC.

[~] No class June 19, in honor of Juneteenth Day ^{*} No class July 4 ^{*} Early Bird Discount ends April 20

NEXT STEPS THEATER TRAINING DESIGNED FOR STUDENTS ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM

One-week & two-week sessions at MYAC – Serving new and returning students entering grades 3-12 in Fall 2025

Designed for students on the autism spectrum, Next Steps classes help students take their next steps as an artist and a person. First Stage creates a safe space for all students to express themselves and develop as individuals without judgment or fear of failure. Guided by our philosophy of teaching “Life Skills Through Stage Skills,” students will experience the joy of theater arts each day with a team of teaching artists and special education professionals.

Class Sizes: 8 students; our classroom model includes teams of lead teachers, special education professionals, and teaching assistants with approximately a 2:1 student to teacher ratio. Family aides may accompany a student to class as necessary and agreed upon between the family and First Stage.

Next Steps specific registration form required – to register, contact nextsteps@firststage.org or call (414) 267-2970.

CURRICULUM

BEGINNING OF DAY

Each Academy day begins with a gathering to prepare, share goals, and encourage each other to do our best.

ACTING THEORY

Explore character, relationships, action, and text while developing overall acting skills and confidence.

MUSICAL THEATER

Increase your versatility and work on new vocal and dance techniques while exploring the art of telling a story through words, music, and movement.

END OF DAY

Each Academy day concludes with a gathering to reflect and acknowledge the hard work of fellow students.

NEXT STEPS SCHEDULE

9:00AM-12:00PM

DESCRIPTION	DATES	TIME	LOCATION	EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT	TUITION	GRADES
One-week session	August 11-15	9AM-12PM	MYAC	\$305*	\$325	3-12
One-week session	August 18-22	9AM-12PM	MYAC	\$305*	\$325	3-12
Two-week session	August 11-22	9AM-12PM	MYAC	\$555*	\$575	3-12

* Early Bird Discount ends April 20



Photo by Mya Giuliani

INTRODUCING

YOUNG ACTORS STUDIO

Be part of something new! We're excited to introduce **Young Actors Studio**, a yearlong intensive program for students in **grades 5-9** designed for dedicated young performers ready for the next level to train in acting, dance, and voice. Through a structured rotation, students will experience all three disciplines, building well-rounded performance skills while deepening their artistic growth.

Auditions for **Young Actors Studio** will be held after the Summer Academy day, giving students an opportunity to secure their spot for the September 2025 - May 2026 season. This program replaces two former offerings (Advanced Acting and Advanced Musical Theater for grades 5-8), streamlining our training to create a more comprehensive and immersive experience.

Details and permission forms will be distributed during summer sessions.

Other School Year Intensive Programs include:

- **Production Design** (Grades 7-12)
- **Advanced Musical Theater** (Grades 9-12)
- **Organized Chaos, Advanced Improvisation** (Grades 7-12)

Contact the Academy office at (414) 267-2970 for more information on these programs.

* Please note: All students must audition to participate in School Year Intensive programs.

STORY DRAMA

GRADES K4-1

One-week half-day sessions at SLW – Serving new & returning students entering grades K4-1 in Fall 2025

We are so excited to bring some of our favorite stories to life through the exploration of setting, plot, and character choices to develop beginning acting skills.

ENCHANTED EVER AFTER

Once upon a time in a land far, far, away, there was a magical land of fairytales, beautiful princesses, handsome princes, and dragons! Embark on a journey of creativity to explore this realm making your own happily ever after.

OUTER SPACE AND THE STARS

Launch into a galaxy of fun! Students will use voice, movement, and their imagination to explore new universes, as they learn about creating stories that are out of this world.



PLAYMAKERS

GRADES 1-2

One-week half-day sessions at SLW – Serving new & returning students entering grades 1-2 in Fall 2025

Each session is a new adventure created by the class! Further develop your beginning acting skills as you pull inspiration from these tales and use improvisation techniques to create your own characters and story.

DINOSAUR PARK: THE LOST WORLD

Ready to go back in time? Work together to develop the lost world of the dinosaurs and dream up a *Jurassic Park* style adventure. Use your body, voice, and imagination to explore the dangerous dinosaurs.

HEIHEI AND PUA'S ISLAND ANTICS

Join Heihei and Pua for some adventures around the island! Inspired by Disney's hit movie *Moana*, students will use their actor tools of voice, body, and imagination to create stories about friendship and the importance of fun!

Valentina Vega in ELEPHANT & PIGGIE'S "WE ARE IN A PLAY!". First Stage, 2024. Photo by Paul Ruffolo.

STORY DRAMA – GRADES K4-1 SCHEDULE

AM – 9:00-11:30AM | PM – 12:30-3:00PM

CLASS NAME	DATES	TIME	LOCATION	EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT	TUITION	GRADES
Enchanted Ever After	July 28-August 1	AM	SLW	\$180*	\$200	K4-1
Enchanted Ever After	July 28-August 1	PM	SLW	\$180*	\$200	K4-1
Outer Space	August 4-8	AM	SLW	\$180*	\$200	K4-1
Outer Space	August 4-8	PM	SLW	\$180*	\$200	K4-1

PLAYMAKERS – GRADES 1-2 SCHEDULE

AM – 9:00-11:30AM | PM – 12:30-3:00PM

**Families may choose to sign up for both an AM and PM Playmakers in the same week for a full day of class. Students taking both sessions will have a staff-supervised lunch break.*

CLASS NAME	DATES	TIME	LOCATION	EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT	TUITION	GRADES
Dinosaur Park	July 28-August 1	AM	SLW	\$180*	\$200	1-2
Heihei and Pua's Island Antics	July 28-August 1	PM	SLW	\$180*	\$200	1-2
Heihei and Pua's Island Antics	August 4-8	AM	SLW	\$180*	\$200	1-2
Dinosaur Park	August 4-8	PM	SLW	\$180*	\$200	1-2

SLW = Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts
 * Early Bird Discount ends April 20

GRADES 3-4

One-week sessions at SLW – Serving new & returning students entering grades 3-4 in Fall 2025

CURRICULUM

BEGINNING OF DAY

Each Academy day begins with all grades 3-4 groups gathering together to prepare, share goals, and encourage each other to do our best.

MUSICAL THEATER

Increase your versatility and work on new vocal and dance techniques while exploring the art of storytelling through words, music, and movement.

SCENE STUDY

Dive into a script while you put your acting skills to work bringing the characters on the page to life on the stage.

VOICE & SPEECH

Build strength, flexibility, awareness, and expression through a class devoted to the fundamentals of one of the actor's most important tools.

END OF DAY

Each Academy day concludes with a gathering to reflect and acknowledge the effort of fellow students.



GRADES 3-4 SCHEDULE

9:00AM-3:00PM

CLASS NAME	DATES	TIME	LOCATION	EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT	TUITION	GRADES
One-week session	July 28-August 1	9AM-3PM	SLW	\$305*	\$325	3-4
One-week session	August 4-8	9AM-3PM	SLW	\$305*	\$325	3-4

SLW = Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts

* Early Bird Discount ends April 20

GRADES 5-12

Two-week sessions at SLW – Serving new & returning students entering grades 5-12 in Fall 2025 (Classes will be divided based on grade)

CURRICULUM

BEGINNING OF DAY

Each Academy day begins with all grades 5-12 groups gathering together to prepare, share goals, and encourage each other to do our best.

ACTING THEORY

Explore characters, relationships, action, and text while developing overall acting skills and confidence.

IMPROVISATION

Develop expressiveness, spontaneity, and train your brain to think quickly and with reason through improvisational character and scene work.

MUSICAL THEATER

Increase your versatility and work on new vocal and dance techniques while exploring the art of telling a story through words, music, and movement.

SHAKESPEARE

Examine dynamic language, characters, and plots in scenes and monologues from one of the most influential playwrights in history.

END OF DAY

Each Academy day concludes with a gathering to reflect and acknowledge the effort of fellow students.



GRADES 5-12 SCHEDULE

9:00AM-3:00PM

CLASS NAME	DATES	TIME	LOCATION	EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT	TUITION	GRADES
Two-week session	July 7-18	9AM-3PM	SLW	\$555*	\$575	5-12

SLW = Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts

* Early Bird Discount ends April 20

STORY DRAMA

GRADES K4-1

One-week half-day sessions at OPAEC – Serving new & returning students entering grades K4-1 in Fall 2025

We are so excited to bring some of our favorite stories to life through the exploration of setting, plot, and character choices to develop beginning acting skills.

MARVELOUS MO WILLEMS

Join Pigeon and friends from First Stage’s upcoming show *The Pigeon Gets a Big Time Holiday Extravaganza!* to stretch your imagination as you explore Pigeon’s adventures from the classic Mo Willems books!

BLUEY’S BIG ADVENTURE

Turn everyday life into an extraordinary adventure with Bluey, Bingo, and more! Students will use their imaginations and Bluey’s books to bring these stories to life.

ADVENTURES IN THE 100 ACRE WOODS

Join Winnie-the-Pooh, Rabbit, Piglet, Eeyore, and more to explore movement and your imagination as you bring to life the classic tales of Christopher Robin and friends.

OUTER SPACE AND THE STARS

Launch into a galaxy of fun! Students will use voice, movement, and their imagination to explore new universes, as they learn about creating stories that are out of this world.



PLAYMAKERS

GRADES 1-2

One-week half-day sessions at OPAEC – Serving new & returning students entering grades 1-2 in Fall 2025

Each session is a new adventure created by the class! Further develop your beginning acting skills as you pull inspiration from these tales and use improvisation techniques to create your own characters and story.

DOG MAN: BARK OF THE BEAST

Dive into the classic comics! Use your actor skills to bring to life the heroic journeys of Dog Man and friends as they save the city. Work as a team to brainstorm new stories and heroic journeys of unlikely saviors.

CHIEF BOGO’S RECRUITS

Join the Police Academy with Judy Hopps as you reimagine the tales of unlikely friendship. Enter the city of Zootopia as you use teamwork, problem solving skills, and your imagination to dream up new adventures!

GALACTIC GUARDIANS

Could there be alien life in space? Be prepared to find out! Put your imaginations to the test as you work as a team of astronauts discovering secrets and solving problems. Defy gravity and the limits of possibility on Earth!

MARVEL MULTIVERSE MADNESS

Ready to save the universe with your favorite Marvel characters? Dust off your capes and whip out your imagination to create new characters, explore your superhero capabilities, and work as a team to save the world!

STORY DRAMA – GRADES K4-1 SCHEDULE

AM – 9:00-11:30AM | PM – 12:30-3:00PM

CLASS NAME	DATES	TIME	LOCATION	EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT	TUITION	GRADES
Marvelous Mo Willems	June 30-July 3 *	AM	OPAEC	\$180*	\$200	K4-1
Marvelous Mo Willems	June 30-July 3 *	PM	OPAEC	\$180*	\$200	K4-1
Bluey’s Big Adventure	July 7-11	AM	OPAEC	\$180*	\$200	K4-1
Bluey’s Big Adventure	July 7-11	PM	OPAEC	\$180*	\$200	K4-1
100 Acre Woods	July 14-18	AM	OPAEC	\$180*	\$200	K4-1
100 Acre Woods	July 14-18	PM	OPAEC	\$180*	\$200	K4-1
Outer Space	July 21-25	AM	OPAEC	\$180*	\$200	K4-1
Outer Space	July 21-25	PM	OPAEC	\$180*	\$200	K4-1

PLAYMAKERS – GRADES 1-2 SCHEDULE

AM – 9:00-11:30AM | PM – 12:30-3:00PM

**Families may choose to sign up for both an AM and PM Playmakers in the same week for a full day of class. Students taking both sessions will have a staff-supervised lunch break.*

CLASS NAME	DATES	TIME	LOCATION	EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT	TUITION	GRADES
Dog Man	June 30-July 3 *	AM	OPAEC	\$180*	\$200	1-2
Chief Bogo’s Recruits	June 30-July 3 *	PM	OPAEC	\$180*	\$200	1-2
Chief Bogo’s Recruits	July 7-11	AM	OPAEC	\$180*	\$200	1-2
Dog Man	July 7-11	PM	OPAEC	\$180*	\$200	1-2
Galactic Guardians	July 14-18	AM	OPAEC	\$180*	\$200	1-2
Marvel Multiverse	July 14-18	PM	OPAEC	\$180*	\$200	1-2
Marvel Multiverse	July 21-25	AM	OPAEC	\$180*	\$200	1-2
Galactic Guardians	July 21-25	PM	OPAEC	\$180*	\$200	1-2

OPAEC = Oak Creek Performing Arts & Education Center
 * No class July 4 * Early Bird Discount ends April 20

GRADES 3-4

One-week & two-week sessions at OPAEC – Serving new & returning students entering grades 3-4 in Fall 2025

CURRICULUM

BEGINNING OF DAY

Each Academy day begins with all grades 3-4 groups gathering together to prepare, share goals, and encourage each other to do our best.

MUSICAL THEATER

Increase your versatility and work on new vocal and dance techniques while exploring the art of storytelling through words, music, and movement.

SCENE STUDY

Dive into a script while you put your acting skills to work bringing the characters on the page to life on the stage.

VOICE & SPEECH

Build strength, flexibility, awareness, and expression through a class devoted to the fundamentals of one of the actor's most important tools.

END OF DAY

Each Academy day concludes with a gathering to reflect and acknowledge the effort of fellow students.

GRADES 5-12

Two-week sessions at OPAEC – Serving new & returning students entering grades 5-12 in Fall 2025 (Classes will be divided based on grade)

CURRICULUM

BEGINNING OF DAY

Each Academy day begins with all grades 5-12 groups gathering together to prepare, share goals, and encourage each other to do our best.

ACTING THEORY

Explore characters, relationships, action, and text while developing overall acting skills and confidence.

IMPROVISATION

Develop expressiveness, spontaneity, and train your brain to think quickly and with reason through improvisational character and scene work.

MUSICAL THEATER

Increase your versatility and work on new vocal and dance techniques while exploring the art of telling a story through words, music, and movement.

SHAKESPEARE

Examine dynamic language, characters, and plots in scenes and monologues from one of the most influential playwrights in history.

END OF DAY

Each Academy day concludes with a gathering to reflect and acknowledge the effort of fellow students.

GRADES 3-4 SCHEDULE

9:00AM-3:00PM

CLASS NAME	DATES	TIME	LOCATION	EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT	TUITION	GRADES
One-week session	June 30-July 3 *	9AM-3PM	OPAEC	\$305*	\$325	3-4
One-week session	July 7-11	9AM-3PM	OPAEC	\$305*	\$325	3-4
One-week session	July 14-18	9AM-3PM	OPAEC	\$305*	\$325	3-4
One-week session	July 21-25	9AM-3PM	OPAEC	\$305*	\$325	3-4
Two-week session	June 30-July 11	9AM-3PM	OPAEC	\$455*	\$475	3-4
Two-week session	July 14-25	9AM-3PM	OPAEC	\$455*	\$475	3-4

GRADES 5-12 SCHEDULE

9:00AM-3:00PM

CLASS NAME	DATES	TIME	LOCATION	EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT	TUITION	GRADES
Two-week session	June 30-July 11 *	9AM-3PM	OPAEC	\$555*	\$575	5-12
Two-week session	July 14-25	9AM-3PM	OPAEC	\$555*	\$575	5-12

OPAEC = Oak Creek Performing Arts & Education Center

* No class July 4

* Early Bird Discount ends April 20



GRADES 3-4

One-week & two-week sessions at CUW – Serving new & returning students entering grades 3-4 in the Fall 2025

CURRICULUM

BEGINNING OF DAY

Each Academy day begins with all grades 3-4 groups gathering together to prepare, share goals, and encourage each other to do our best.

MUSICAL THEATER

Increase your versatility and work on new vocal and dance techniques while exploring the art of storytelling through words, music, and movement.

SCENE STUDY

Dive into a script while you put your acting skills to work bringing the characters on the page to life on the stage.

VOICE & SPEECH

Build strength, flexibility, awareness, and expression through a class devoted to the fundamentals of one of the actor’s most important tools.

END OF DAY

Each Academy day concludes with a gather to reflect and acknowledge the effort of fellow students.

GRADES 5-12

Two-week sessions at CUW – Serving new & returning students entering grades 5-12 in Fall 2025 (Classes will be divided based on grade)

CURRICULUM

BEGINNING OF DAY

Each Academy day begins with all grades 5-12 groups gathering together to prepare, share goals, and encourage each other to do our best.

ACTING THEORY

Explore characters, relationships, action, and text while developing overall acting skills and confidence.

IMPROVISATION

Develop expressiveness, spontaneity, and train your brain to think quickly and with reason through improvisational character and scene work.

MUSICAL THEATER

Increase your versatility and work on new vocal and dance techniques while exploring the art of telling a story through words, music, and movement.

SHAKESPEARE

Examine dynamic language, characters, and plots in scenes and monologues from one of the most influential playwrights in history.

END OF DAY

Each Academy day concludes with a gathering to reflect and acknowledge the effort of fellow students.

GRADES 3-4 SCHEDULE

9:00AM-3:00PM

CLASS NAME	DATES	TIME	LOCATION	EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT	TUITION	GRADES
One-week session	July 21-25	9AM-3PM	CUW	\$305*	\$325	3-4
One-week session	July 28-August 1	9AM-3PM	CUW	\$305*	\$325	3-4
Two-week session	July 21-August 1	9AM-3PM	CUW	\$305*	\$325	3-4

GRADES 5-12 SCHEDULE

9:00AM-3:00PM

CLASS NAME	DATES	TIME	LOCATION	EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT	TUITION	GRADES
Two-week session	July 21-August 1	9AM-3PM	CUW	\$555*	\$575	5-12

CUW = Concordia University Wisconsin

* Early Bird Discount ends April 20



Please print clearly and duplicate this form to enroll more than one child in a family.
Any omitted information below will delay registration and jeopardize your chances to enroll in the class before it fills up.

GRADES 9-12

COMPANY CLASS

Four-week sessions at UWP – Serving new & returning students entering grades 9-12 in Fall 2025

Company Classes will work with a professional director for four weeks to broaden performance skills, deepen knowledge of theater, and produce a show.

As a member of Company Class you will be expected to:

- Serve as a role model of teamwork and positive energy for all other students.
- Support and encourage each other to do your best.
- Take on the additional challenge of both class work and rehearsal.
- Attend all public performances.
- Carry the Company Class legacy of leadership, energy, discipline, focus, and joy.

SIGN UP FOR AN AUDITION

- Scan the QR code to the left or visit firststage.org/company-class to find our SignUpGenius link and sign up for a spot.
- Auditions will be in February and March. Visit our website for more information.
- If you would like us to hold a spot in a different class should you not be accepted, please make note on the registration form.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

- A memorized classical monologue of 1-2 minutes in length.

CLASSICAL COMPANY CLASS (UW-PARKSIDE)
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

By William Shakespeare

Set in Athens, four lovers – Hermia, Lysander, Demetrius, and Helena – become entangled in a magical forest ruled by the feuding fairy king Oberon and queen Titania. Oberon's mischievous servant Puck uses a love potion to manipulate their affections, causing chaos and confusion among the lovers.



Scan the QR code to sign up for a Company Class audition or visit firststage.org/company-class

COMPANY CLASS SCHEDULE

9:00AM-4:15PM

CLASS NAME	DATES	TIME	EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT	TUITION	GRADES	PUBLIC PERFORMANCES
Classical (UWP)	June 30-July 27 *	9AM-4:15PM	\$830*	\$850	9-12	July 25, 26, & 27

UWP = University of Wisconsin – Parkside
* No class July 4 * Early Bird Discount ends April 20

COMPLETE YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION

Student's Name (First) _____ (M.I.) _____ (Last) _____
 Home Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Parent/Guardian Name _____
 Home Phone (____) _____ Work/Cell Phone (____) _____ E-mail _____

NEW STUDENTS This is my child's first Academy class of any kind. Yes No
 • If you answered "yes," you are required to attend an in-person New Student Orientation at the location where you are registering (see page 4 for dates and times).

ACADEMY T-SHIRTS*
 Size (select one): Youth XS Youth S Youth M Youth L Adult S Adult M Adult L Adult XL Adult XXL Adult XXXL
 * Every student will receive one First Stage Theater Academy t-shirt free with tuition cost on the first day of class. This t-shirt must be worn while attending all Theater Academy classes. Additional t-shirts may be purchased below.

CLASS SELECTION Please list your class selection(s) by class name, dates, location, and tuition amount:

Class Name	Dates	Location	Tuition Amount

TUITION
 Class tuition total + \$ _____
 Please accept my tax deductible donation to the ACADEMY SCHOLARSHIP FUND + \$ _____
Order for extra Academy t-shirt(s) (Optional)

Qty.	Price	Size(s)	Total (Qty. x Price)
_____	\$10	_____	\$ _____

 GRAND TOTAL + \$ _____

- Full payment provided Automatic payment schedule requested (\$75 deposit required)

Tuition must be paid in full on date of receipt, unless signing up for automatic payment. If signing up for automatic payment, a deposit of \$75 PER CLASS is due to hold your student's spot. Registrations without deposit will be forfeited as the requested class reaches capacity.

SELECT PAYMENT METHOD:

- MasterCard
- Visa
- Discover
- American Express
- Personal Check

Name

Signature

Card#
 Expiration Date ____/____

ALL REMAINING BALANCES ARE DUE BY FRIDAY, MAY 23, 2025.
 Any registrations submitted after May 23, 2025 will need to be paid in full at the time of registration.



HOW TO REGISTER

1. Mail registration form to: First Stage Theater Academy, 325 W. Walnut St. Milwaukee, WI 53212
2. Fax registration form to: (414) 267-2930
3. **Visit firststage.org or scan the QR code to register online today!**

FIRST STAGE THEATER ACADEMY REGISTRATION FORM – SUMMER 2025

Pronouns: He She They Other _____ Student's Ethnicity: _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____
(Optional, grant reporting purposes only)

MPS Student Yes No Grade in Fall of 2025 _____ School in Fall of 2025 _____

First Stage occasionally takes photos and/or video of our Theater Academy classes for promotional use.

Check here if you give First Stage permission to use photos and/or videos of your child in promotional materials.

Student has permission to: ride bus bicycle drive walk

Are you signing up with a friend? Yes No Name of Friend _____

EMERGENCY & MEDICAL INFORMATION

Please provide Emergency Contact information for **someone other than parent/guardian**.

Emergency Contact Name (First) _____ (Last) _____

Emergency Contact Relation to Child _____

Emergency Phone _____ Type _____

Emergency Phone (alternate) _____ Type _____

Check here if you give First Stage staff permission to provide your child with the following medications without contacting a parent or guardian – Tums/Antacid, Ibuprofen/Advil/Tylenol, or Cough Drops. Please indicate the desired dosage below.

If your student has any medical conditions we should be aware of, please disclose them below. Please also list any potential emotional or special needs so that we can best serve your student. Our staff will keep the information confidential and will be better prepared to make the session more enjoyable for your student.

MUST BE SIGNED TO PARTICIPATE

As a condition to my child's participation in the First Stage Theater Academy, I hereby release and hold harmless First Stage Theater Academy, First Stage Milwaukee, Inc., the Milwaukee Youth Arts Center, Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts, Oak Creek Performing Arts & Education Center, Concordia University Wisconsin, and University of Wisconsin-Parkside, and all of their respective owners, employees, agents and representatives, from and against all claims, damages and other liabilities whatsoever, including but not limited to personal injury, illness, or property damage, which relate in any way to my child's participation in the First Stage Theater Academy.

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____

Date _____



HOW TO REGISTER

1. Mail registration form to: First Stage Theater Academy, 325 W. Walnut St. Milwaukee, WI 53212
2. Fax registration form to: (414) 267-2930
3. **Visit firststage.org or scan the QR code to register online today!**

Questions? Call (414) 267-2970 or email academy@firststage.org

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I register for First Stage Theater Academy?

All registrations are processed on a first-come, first-served basis, accepted by mail, fax, or online at firststage.org. Please register as early as possible, as space fills quickly. Please complete all information on your registration form to ensure your registration is processed as soon as possible.

Will I receive a confirmation of my registration?

Confirmations are sent via email for the class(es) for which you have registered. Please read your confirmation thoroughly when you receive it.

Is there a waitlist for classes that are full?

Waitlists are established for classes that have reached the enrollment limit. Students on waitlists may be called for enrollment should a cancellation occur. While we cannot predict when or if a cancellation would occur, we encourage you to be added to our waitlists, which are created on a first-come, first-served basis.

What does my tuition include and when is my tuition due?

Tuition includes all materials and one Academy t-shirt per student. A \$75 minimum deposit for Summer Academy is required with your registration. Any remaining balances will be deducted automatically on Friday, May 23, 2025, unless you are on an automatic payment schedule for the balance. Automatic payment schedules must be scheduled with our office staff, failure to make scheduled payments may result in removal from your students class. You may change the credit card payment method or submit full payment via cash or check at any time. Any registrations made after May 23, 2025 will require full payment at the time of registration or the scheduling of an automatic payment plan. All balances must be paid in full before your student's class begins.

Do you offer refunds?

There is a \$25 administrative fee for all refunds. Full refunds (minus the fee) are available until the Friday before your respective class begins. No refunds or tuition credits are given after the first day of your class. The deposit and any tuition paid will be forfeited if a student cancels after the session has begun.

What if my child needs to miss a class?

Due to the nature of the program, we are unable to offer make up classes. Please use good judgment about bringing your student to First Stage Theater Academy. If your student is sick or contagious, please keep them home. Parents of students who become ill during the day will be promptly notified and are expected to arrange to pick up their student immediately. Please email attendance@firststage.org if you know in advance that your student will be absent. First Stage Theater Academy also reserves the right to send children home due to inappropriate or disrespectful behavior.

Can my child switch a class?

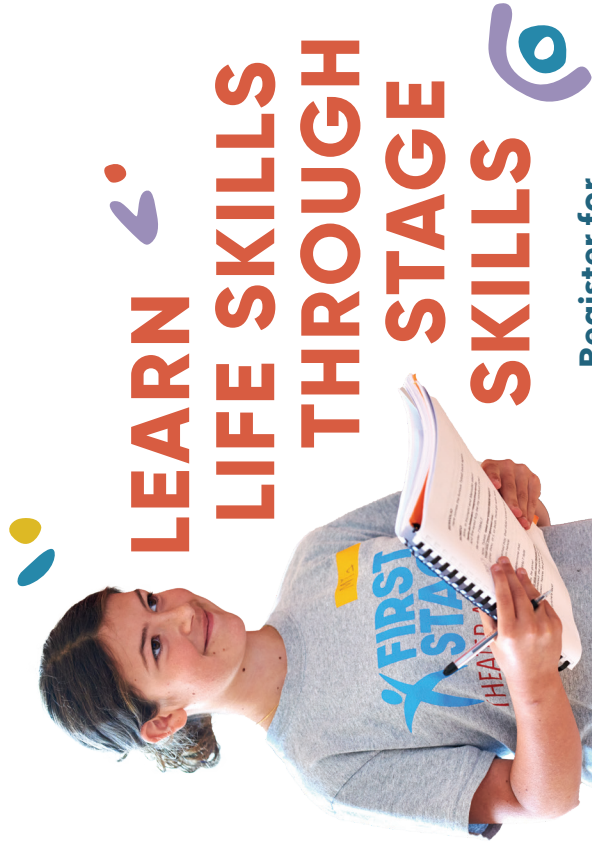
If families find that they have a scheduling conflict or other emergency circumstance and need to switch their course selection, please contact the Academy office to request a change. Students will not be moved from their assigned group after the first day of class. Please be aware that switching class is contingent upon space availability in the desired class.





First Stage Milwaukee, Inc.
325 W. Walnut St.
Milwaukee, WI 53212

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Milwaukee, WI
Permit No. 5780



**Register for
Summer Academy
at firststage.org!**