

Young Pleasance Edinburgh Residential 2020

Celebrating its 25th Anniversary



Registered Charity No. 1050944 Company
Registered in England No. 3130433



What is the Young Pleasance Edinburgh Residential?

Young Pleasance is the Pleasance Theatre's young company of on-stage and off-stage roles. Each year Young Pleasance build an ensemble with participants aged 16 to 21 who create an original theatre production with a large ensemble cast and high production values. This is rehearsed over ten days at Pleasance London and then runs for two weeks at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, the largest arts festival in the world! The Edinburgh Residential gives young performers and backstage crew a professional theatre experience before and during the Fringe. Running since 1995, the company has launched the careers of many performers, writers, directors and technicians. In 2020 Young Pleasance celebrates its 25th anniversary!

The creative team treat the company as professional theatre makers throughout the residential period. Whilst mentoring the company within their roles, they expect the young members to rise to the challenge of developing a show in ten days, being supportive and responsive to the creative process and working as an ensemble. The intensive rehearsal period and demanding, fast-paced nature of being at the Fringe gives the young company the same training and experience as any other theatre company performing at the festival.

'One of the best experiences I've ever had!'

**Young Pleasance
Company Member, 2019**



What can you expect?

- Roles for versatile performers with vocal and physical skills, as well as backstage roles which vary based on the interests of the individual, including stage management, lighting, sound, and costume.
- Scattered activity from March-June, including several days of R&D development over the Easter holidays, costume fittings, and a promotional photo shoot for the production.
- An intensive 10-day rehearsal period at the end of July at Pleasance London creating a brand new theatrical production with a large cast (approx 25 July - 3 August).
- 3 weeks in Edinburgh rehearsing and performing the production as part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe (approx 3 - 23 August).
- Accommodation, travel and food are provided while in Edinburgh. Pleasance Theatre heavily subsidises the costs of all participants of Young Pleasance however we ask for a participation fee of £925 (with means-tested bursaries available).
- Each participant will receive a Pleasance Performers Pass providing them with free entry to Pleasance productions and entitling them to discount at vendors at Pleasance Courtyard, Pleasance Dome, Pleasance EICC and various outlets around Edinburgh.
- An exciting experience creating a brand-new show, experiencing the largest arts festival in the world, and being part of an amazing company of young people - we can guarantee that you will be both exhausted and exhilarated by the end!

'You feel like you're part of something so much bigger than anything you've ever experienced before!'

**Young Pleasance
company member, 2015**

How can I get involved?

Check that you are eligible:

- Aged 16-21 in August 2020
- Available on 4 January & 19 January 2020 for auditions/interviews
- Available 6 - 8 April for Script and Movement Development at Easter
- Available from approx 25 July to 23 August 2020 for rehearsals and performances in London and Edinburgh

Fill out an application form by 10am on Wednesday 11 December 2019.

You will be contacted and offered audition/interview for 4 January or 19 January between 10.30am and 5pm. Successful young people will be contacted following auditions/interviews



What show will we be doing?

In 2020 Young Pleasance will be 25 years young. This production will celebrate and mark this milestone, creating a new production around the theme of 'forever young - the company that never grows up'.

In classic Young Pleasance style the production will be a large scale ensemble piece, dynamic and original with high production values. The production will be inspired by themes in Oscar Wilde's novel *Dorian Gray*, combined with looking at the youth of today, gender, relationships and Generation Z. The show will combine different performance styles including realism, verbatim and physical theatre; it will be energetic, relevant, fun and confrontational - a modern and anarchic celebration of being young and living in the moment.

Press response to Young Pleasance over the years:

“Stunning cast, fantastic ensemble work and perfect comic timing, YP give a stand-out show, this company do it better than the professionals”
British Theatre Guide
★★★★★

“A visual treat from the get-go; a five-star opening set, and one stunning turn of costumes after another”
The Scotsman ★★★★★

“Flawless, bursting with energy”
Theatre Weekly ★★★★★



FAQ

Do I need to be available on both January audition dates?

For performers, we will be holding initial auditions on 4 Jan and call-backs on 19, but please indicate on your application when you are available and we will do our best. For production roles, only one interview will be necessary, and will be held the weekend of the 19 Jan.

How long will the workshop audition/interview take?

Each group audition should take roughly 2 hours. Interviews for production roles will be no longer than 30mins.

Do I need to prepare anything?

You do not need to prepare anything in advance but be ready to take part in an ensemble workshop, which will include improvisation and character development as well as script reading and movement. For production roles, be prepared to talk about what you can bring to the role and what you would like to get out of the experience.

Am I eligible for a bursary?

Bursaries are limited and therefore are means tested. To apply for a bursary you must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Young person referred by a teacher at a secondary school/college local to the Pleasance in Islington
- Young person aged 18 plus in full time education
- Parent/carer/young person residing in local authority housing, receiving income support and/or registered disabled and receiving ESA, DLA or PIP Please indicate on your application if you would like to apply for a bursary.

If you are offered a place, we will then send you further information.

How much free time would I have in Edinburgh? Will I get to see other shows?

We expect all company members to act professionally and prioritise the production. Throughout the run the company will be required to attend company meetings, flyer for the show and assist with the get-in and get-out daily. After the first performance and outside of this time, the company will be able to see other shows and experience the Fringe.

More questions?

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