

Palace Theater After-School Program “Under the Big Top: Stagecraft and Storytelling”



The twelve-session after-school workshop series, ***Under the Big Top: Stagecraft and Storytelling*** is an interactive language arts, music and theater appreciation program facilitated by professional teaching artists and guest speakers.

Through creative expression, theater games, and critical analysis, students will explore the themes, characters, and music of the musical *Water For Elephants*, examining concepts of memory, chosen/found families and communities, and storytelling – while encouraging students to develop their own narratives as a way of creating connections. They will also learn about the Great Depression, Connecticut’s own P.T. Barnum, and life as a circus performer.

***Under the Big Top* is a grant-funded program sponsored by the American Savings Foundation and supported by The Next Street.** 30 spots are available for interested middle and high school students (Grades 6-12). Participation is free and includes a complimentary ticket to the January 9th performance of *Water For Elephants* at the Palace Theater.

All workshops will take place from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. except as noted. All sessions will be in person at the Palace Theater.

Monday, November 16	Introduction & Workshop
Wednesday, November 18	Workshop
Monday, November 23	Backstage Tour
Monday, November 30	Workshop
Monday, December 7	Workshop
Wednesday, December 9	Workshop
Monday, December 14	Workshop
Wednesday, December 16	Workshop
Monday, December 21	Workshop
Monday, January 4	Workshop
Saturday, January 9	Performance and Meet & Greet: <i>Water For Elephants</i> – approx. 1:00 – 5:30 p.m.
Monday, January 11	Workshop and Project Preparation
Wednesday, January 13	Final Project Presentations & Family Party

In case of inclement weather, this program follows the Waterbury Public Schools early dismissal/closing protocol.

Students can expect to:

- Study the themes, music, and background of *Water For Elephants*
- Meet with guest speakers and artists from various fields
- Examine concepts of memory, family, and storytelling
- Work on homework and assignments and enjoy a provided snack at each in-person session
- Create a final project, which they will present at the last class

By registering for this program, you agree with and commit to the following Program Policies:

- Workshops begin promptly at 3:00 p.m. and end at 5:00 p.m. Students are welcome to arrive at the Palace Theater Box Office as early as 2:45 p.m.
- If you are running late and cannot arrive on time, come as soon as possible, and check in quietly.
- If you cannot attend one of the workshop dates, please contact Peggy Terhune via email (terhune@palacetheaterct.org) or phone (203.346.2014 – OK to text).
- Attendance will be taken during every workshop; late arrivals/early departures will be tracked. **Students with less than 75% attendance may not be given the opportunity to attend the performances or other events.**
- Please be respectful and attentive during all activities, to guest speakers, teaching artists, and fellow students.
- Students are advised to listen to any directions about upcoming classes, as well as projects and homework exercises that are required for the following workshop.
- At the end of each workshop, please return your folders and clean up your area (water bottles, trash, etc.).
- Students who attend the performance must stay for the entire duration of the performance.
- Students who do not abide by the program policies, who are unwilling to participate in the workshop activities, or who are disrespectful to their peers or teaching artists may be removed from the program at the discretion of the teaching artists or the Palace Theater Staff.

If you are interested in registering for this educational opportunity, please complete the following form and submit it to:

Palace Theater, Attn: Peggy Terhune
100 East Main Street, Waterbury, CT 06702
Or contact Peggy Terhune at terhune@palacetheaterct.org or 203.346.2014

REGISTRATION FORM DUE BY: November 4, 2026
(We will accept late registrations if space allows)

Student Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

School Name: _____ Grade: _____

Parent or Guardian Name: _____

Parent Email: _____

Parent Cell Phone: _____

Student Email: _____

Student Cell Phone: _____

Please note any allergies: _____

I have read the Program Policies and give permission for my child to participate in the Palace Theater's ***Under the Big Top: Stagecraft and Storytelling***.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

My child's photograph may be released for use on the Palace Theater and/or American Savings Foundation websites, social media, or other forms of media.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____