

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ):**

### **Why is MTYP offering camps in person this summer?**

MTYP's summer programs meet a need in the community for arts education, summer fun, and safe, dependable child care. Whatever your reasons for wanting to go to camp, we believe in our mission to provide quality programming. If you feel that an in-person camp isn't for you, you can still continue to learn about theatre and make new friends through summer theatre courses online.

### **What will MTYP do to keep students and staff safe?**

We are following protocols recommended by Provincial and Federal Health officials, and will conduct an ongoing risk assessment throughout the summer. Our actions include daily symptom screening of staff and students, modified design of shared spaces, physical distancing rules, disinfecting of surfaces, and reduced numbers of students in our building (two groups of 8 for a total of 16 campers). Please read the document titled *On-Site Camps at MTYP- Please Read This Before You Register* for more information.

### **Is it responsible to run an in-person camp when there is a risk of spreading COVID-19?**

We promise to do everything we can to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 through strict physical distancing and disinfecting measures, but the responsibility to be safe is one we share with parents and students. We are in this together, and depend on the support and cooperation of our campers and families to maintain an environment that is as safe as possible.

We believe that it is responsible to find ways to provide a valuable service to the community in difficult times. We cannot eliminate risk from our programs, but seek to reduce it to a level that our community finds acceptable through careful procedures.

### **Why do the age restrictions for online classes exclude children 6 and under?**

The World Health Organization recommends no more than one hour of screen time for children under 5. MTYP has determined that a high level of concentration is demanded of a child taking an online class, and that for a daily class, we can offer an optimal experience for students age 7 and up.

Children age 4-6 and their parents or caregivers may enjoy one of our one-time online workshops offered in June and July.

### **Why do the age restrictions for on-site camps exclude children 8 and under?**

Maintaining safe physical distances to protect one another from transmission of the COVID-19 virus will be challenging. A high level of cooperation and compliance will be demanded of students and parents. The need to focus attention over extended periods of time and to self-regulate behaviour may be difficult for younger children. We believe that the cognitive and social demands of on-site camp this summer are a good match for students age 9 and up.

### **Will there be any additional behavioural expectations of my child for on-site camps?**

All children are welcome to try camp as they are, but every child will face additional challenges under the new conditions of camp this year.

There will be more pressure placed on all children at camp to comply with verbal instructions from staff. We will have difficulty ensuring a safe environment for staff and campers if we face behaviours like:

- leaving the room without permission.
- not respecting physical distancing rules.
- not complying with verbal instructions.
- engaging in rough play or physical conflicts with staff or other students.

Campers with heightened emotional needs or behaviour issues may have more difficulty at camp, and we anticipate that some behaviours that are manageable during typical conditions may unfortunately become cause for removal from camp during pandemic conditions.

Please try to anticipate what your child's experience will be like if they require extra supervision or close contact, and bear with us as we try our best.

### **What if my child requires an aide?**

MTYP remains committed to removing barriers to participation. When deciding whether camp will be a good experience for your child under conditions of physical distancing and risk reduction, consider the following:

- an aide for your child will likely not maintain physical distance from your child, but must maintain strict physical distance from other staff and campers.

-in the absence of an aide, your child must abide by physical distancing rules and will not have the benefit of close communication, including hugs, handholding, reassuring touch, physical assistance, or restraint.

If you think your child can manage these conditions, we would love to see them at camp. If you don't think your child will thrive in the camp environment, we encourage you to look at our online class offerings.

### **What will daily screening be like? Will I get a refund if my child gets sick during camp?**

Parents or caregivers will be expected to take their child's temperature and check for cold or flu-like symptoms every morning before bringing them to MTYP. If any symptoms present themselves, please do not bring your child to camp.

In addition, children will be screened for symptoms upon arrival and records will be maintained. We will not take temperatures at camp.

Decisions to refuse entry to camp will be confirmed by the acting Camp Director or Senior Management at MTYP.

If your child becomes ill at camp, we will require you to come and pick them up right away.

### **What is the refund policy? Are there discounts available?**

Campers may receive a refund before the start of camp, minus the non-refundable registration fee.

The non-refundable registration fee is \$20 for summer camps held on-site at 2 Forks Market Road. Any child signing up for more than one camp receives a \$25 discount for every additional camp. This benefit is not transferable to a sibling.

For online programs, there is still a registration fee included in the course fee, and an additional course discount available for any child enrolling in more than one online class. For one-week programs offered online the non-refundable fee and the additional course discount are both \$15. The additional course discount is not transferable to a sibling. Refunds are not given if your child is removed from an online program once it has begun.

Fees paid for one-time online workshops are non-refundable.

If your child becomes ill, decides to drop out of an on-site camp before the last day of camp, or is asked to leave on-site camp for any reason, we will offer, at our discretion, one of the following:

1. a full credit for a camp later in the summer

2. a pro-rated, partial refund (minus the non-refundable registration fee and the value of camp attended up to the date of withdrawal or removal)
3. a choice between the two

If a child is removed from camp or drops out on the last day, no refund or credit will be offered.

### **What if I want my child to only attend a half day of camp?**

This summer is a special case, and we will accommodate requests for children who only wish to attend a half day of camp. The price remains the same as for a full day of camp.

### **Will there be a performance at the end of a summer camp?**

There will be no public performances at the end of each week's on-site camp.

Movie Magic camps will create a finished movie, to be posted on Vimeo within two weeks of the end of camp.

Each class may decide, with their instructor, to work towards a special experience that is *not a play* at the end of the week, but this is not an expectation placed on the instructor or the students. Instead, summer students and campers will focus on the fun and value of learning about theatre without the pressure of an end-of-week performance.

### **What are online classes? What can I expect?**

An MTYP online class is full of opportunities to use your imagination, get into character, and learn the art of live theatre.

Our online courses for the summer of 2020 are typically Monday to Friday, 60-90 minutes per day, depending on the age level of the students. This leaves you plenty of time for outdoor summer fun. Over 5 sessions, you and your class will play drama games, get to know each other, and work on creative projects together.

Some activities you may experience in an online class include check-ins, movement and voice exercises, improv, storytelling and character creation. In a musical theatre class you will sing, dance and act. We may ask you to do some creative work on your own outside of the class time (memorizing lines, writing a character sketch, creating your own costumes or artwork, or practicing choreography, for example).

Students are sent an email containing an invitation and a link to join a meeting on the video conferencing service "Zoom." We suggest downloading this free service a few days before your first class. When you click to join the meeting you'll find yourself in the "waiting room," and the

teacher will invite you into the “classroom” once they confirm who you are, and once they’re ready to begin the class.

If you’re new to doing classes online, don’t worry! Part of the experience is learning how to use online communication tools, and the teacher will guide you through the basic tools you’ll need to use.

Please read the *MTYP Online Code of Conduct Agreement* before registering for an online course.

### **What about performances in online classes?**

A final performance is not an expectation placed on the instructor or students. Online courses are conducted in a much-reduced amount of time, and our goal is to have fun being creative while learning theatre skills and making new friends. No pressure!

For the summer of 2020, we will not be permitting any recording or broadcasting of activities taking place in online classes. However, it’s an easy thing for the class to invite parents or caregivers to “sit in” on the final day to observe a special part of the course. The instructor will plan, with their class, how to celebrate the end of week.

### **What is happening in Fall?**

We hope to offer a full roster of fall programming, to be announced later in June, with the option to move classes online if physical distancing restrictions are in place that limit our ability to offer classes in person.

Please stay tuned for an upcoming announcement.