



177 State Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604

Tickets: 866-811-4111 • Information: (203) 333-3666 • [www.playhouseonthegreen.org](http://www.playhouseonthegreen.org)

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Contact: Matt Schicker  
203-333-3666, [matt@playhouseonthegreen.org](mailto:matt@playhouseonthegreen.org)

**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **PLAYHOUSE ON THE GREEN ANNOUNCES SPRING ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

**“Playhouse Greenhouse” program continues Playhouse partnership with RYASAP.**

**Open House on January 21 from 4:30PM-7PM includes FREE mini-classes.**

Bridgeport, CT— Playhouse on the Green, a not-for-profit theater company in downtown Bridgeport, is proud to announce its Spring 2009 arts education programs: ***Playhouse Greenhouse*** and ***\$5 Drop-In Voice and Dance Classes***.

Starting Tuesday, January 27, 2009, *Playhouse Greenhouse*, Playhouse on the Green’s joint arts education program with **RYASAP** (an urban/suburban youth and community development coalition serving the Greater Bridgeport region), which began in late October/early November 2008, will begin its Spring Semester of class offerings. *Playhouse Greenhouse* has acting, dancing, and singing classes for children ages 6-18. The *\$5 Drop-In Voice and Dance Classes* are geared to adults 18 and older. All classes are open to people of all skill levels, no previous experience required.

All courses will begin the week of January 27 & 28, 2009 and run weekly through June 17, 2009, with the following days off: February 17 & 18 (winter break) and April 14 & 15 (spring recess). Sneakers and loose, comfortable clothing recommended for all courses.

**An Open House takes place on Wednesday, January 21 from 4:30PM-7PM.** Individuals and families can register for classes, meet the teaching artists, tour the theater, and get more information. FREE mini-classes will take place for any guests who wish to get a taste of the class offerings.

Producing Artistic Director Matt Schicker says “*Playhouse Greenhouse* offers the very best in acting, dance, and voice training for the Greater Bridgeport Community at an affordable cost. The professional teaching artists from Fairfield and New Haven Counties, as well as New York City, that lead our classes here at the Playhouse are experts at teaching your children and young adults valuable skills while making the exercises and games entertaining and high-energy. Part of our mission as a not-for-profit is to provide quality arts education opportunities to people of all ages; the \$5 Drop-In Voice and Dance Classes fulfill that goal, and we have more exciting plans in the works for the Fall 2009 Semester, including an acting program for Senior Citizens.” **Alisson Wood** of New Haven is Playhouse on the Green’s Education Programs Director.

Information about class fees and registration information can be found on-line at <http://playhouseonthegreen.org/category/programs-classes>.

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**“Playhouse Greenhouse” Acting Classes:**

**Level I:** Students will learn the basics of acting in a fun & creative environment. Recommended for students ages 6-8 years old.

**Level II:** Students will study everything from auditions to basic scenes, with an emphasis on intermediate acting technique. Recommended for students ages 9-13, or by instructor evaluation.

**Level III:** This course will introduce students to the experience of creating & understanding characters, monologues & scenes, through a focus on relationships, culminating with a performance in June. Recommended for high school students ages 14-18 years old, or by instructor evaluation.

**“Playhouse Greenhouse” Musical Theater Dance Classes:**

**Level I:** Students will explore basic theatrical dance technique— everything from hip hop to ballet— in a creative, safe atmosphere full of enthusiasm & fun. Recommended for students ages 6-8 years old.

**Level II:** Building on a ballet & jazz foundation, students will apply their technique to dance styles seen in classic & current Broadway shows. Recommended for students ages 9-13 years old, or by instructor evaluation.

**Level III:** This advanced dance course will push your technique to the next level. Influenced by iconic Broadway style movements, this course will be sure to prepare you for auditions and the dance floor. Recommended for students ages 14-18 years old, or by instructor evaluation.

**“Playhouse Greenhouse” Voice Classes:**

It is the philosophy of “Playhouse Greenhouse” that singing starts with the fundamentals through an exploration of a variety of musical theater genres & styles. All students will work on pitch & rhythm while finding their singing voice in group songs.

**Level I:** Students will work on basic vocal skills & techniques through fun games & songs. Recommended for students ages 6-8 years old.

**Level II:** This course will introduce students to music reading and adding projection & stage presence. Solos and duets will begin. Recommended for students 9-13 years old, or by instructor evaluation.

**Level III:** This advanced course will feature specific introduction to anatomy & physiology of singing and the voice, exploring vocal registers, characterization & interpretation within songs, and specific performance & audition techniques. Recommended for students ages 14-18 years old, or by instructor evaluation.

**\$5 Drop-In Voice & Dance Classes:**

Intended for adults (18 years and older) only, Playhouse on the Green’s \$5 Drop-In Classes are the perfect way for busy adults to participate theater arts education. No advance sign-up is required; please arrive 5 minutes before class.

**\$5 Drop-In Voice Class - 6:15PM-7PM Tuesdays**

**\$5 Drop-In Dance Class - 6:15PM-7PM Wednesdays**

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**Playhouse on the Green** is a 54-year-old 501(c)(3) not-for-profit theater company in residence at a beautiful 228-seat jewel-box theater in the heart of downtown Bridgeport, Connecticut. Playhouse on the Green's mission is to enrich Bridgeport's cultural life by providing an eclectic variety of live stage entertainment and arts education programs at an affordable cost, as well as providing opportunities for area artists. Among these programs are its mainstage season of plays and musicals; "Playhouse Greenhouse" and "Project Broadway", its arts education programs for kids and teens; a Sunday evening series of music and comedy; and the "Page to Stage New Play Reading Series", which brings the new work of Connecticut playwrights to the stage. More information can be found at [www.playhouseonthegreen.org](http://www.playhouseonthegreen.org).

**RYASAP** mission is *to build healthier and safer communities free of the harm of substance abuse, crime and violence*. Since its inception in 1985, RYASAP has worked to build the capacity of youth and adults, utilizing an asset-based youth and community development approach that seeks to identify and mobilize the talents, skills and resources of citizens, associations and institutions in the community. Through RYASAP's YouthSPEAK group, students from area high schools implement a pro-active agenda or youth-created, youth-driven activities in an effort to increase understanding and awareness between diverse young people and to promote positive community change. The group's goal is to involve more young people as leaders in local and state initiatives, and to design and implement projects aimed to address social issues affecting teens in their communities through education and community involvement.

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