

## LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE OFFERS FUN, INTERACTIVE ONLINE EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS, FAMILIES AND EDUCATORS THIS SUMMER

### *PLAYHOUSE COMMISSIONS SERIES OF FIVE-MINUTE PLAYS FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES*

### *POPULAR SUMMER YP@LJP PROGRAMS RETURN IN VIRTUAL FORMAT*

La Jolla, CA – La Jolla Playhouse is offering a variety of [online education programs](#) for all ages this summer. These interactive and imaginative programs offer fun at-home learning opportunities and resources for students, educators and families.

“Our Education staff has created a fantastic series of virtual offerings this summer, from our Lab Experience, where students meet over Zoom to devise an original theatre piece, to a series of commissioned, downloadable five-minute plays by a number of wonderful playwrights, including several alumni of our POP Tour. Even though we’re not able to gather in person, these programs can provide a safe space for creativity and dialogue for students of all ages,” said **Christopher Ashley**, the Rich Family Artistic Director of La Jolla Playhouse.

The Playhouse has commissioned eight playwrights from across the country to create a series of short plays for young audiences for its new [Family Play Night](#). Many are playwrights from past Performance Outreach Program (POP) Tours, the Playhouse’s annual program that commissions and tours a brand new play for young audiences, including Idris Goodwin (2021 POP Tour *Pick Me Last*); Lee Cataluna (2018 POP Tour *Home of the Brave*), José Cruz González (2015 POP Tour *The Astronaut Farmworker*), among others. The plays are available to download for free on the Playhouse website. Families are encouraged to post photos or videos of themselves performing the plays at home, tagging @LaJollaPlayhouse on Facebook or Instagram. The Playhouse will be providing curriculum ideas for educators to engage with these uplifting new works in their classrooms as well.

The Playhouse has also created [LJPedia @Home](#), a free online resource featuring dozens of fun virtual theatre games, activities and videos.

Additionally, the Playhouse is offering a virtual version of its popular summer Young Performers theatre training programs (YP@LJP) with [The Lab Experience](#). This series of week-long online Zoom sessions led by Playhouse Teaching Artists offers middle and high school students a chance to participate in theatre games, ensemble-building exercises, and to devise a brand new piece of theatre together. Students will have the opportunity to shine a light on social justice issues and demonstrate how artists can be change-makers. The next Lab Experience runs July 27 – 31 with sessions for students in grades 6 – 8 and grades 9 – 12. Click [here](#) for more information and registration.

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The [Young Performers Virtual Conservatory](#) also returns in an online format with a rigorous two-week program for performance-driven students in rising grades 10 – 12, featuring master classes, audition techniques and behind-the-scenes activities at La Jolla Playhouse. The program runs July 13 – July 24.

Other teen programs include a [Teen Playwriting Class](#) running July 6 – August 17. Students will be guided by a Playhouse Teaching Artist in translating their ideas onto the page, focusing on the development of plot structure and strong characters, with opportunities to present drafts and receive feedback. Click [here](#) for more information and registration.

As part of its [Digital Without Walls \(WOW\) series](#), the Playhouse is premiering a new online production for kids ages 7 to 12 entitled *The Wizards of Oakwood Drive*, by Tom Salamon (*Accomplice: San Diego, The Grift at the Lafayette Hotel*), running **July 16 – 26**. This live, Zoom-centered performance for young audiences is an all-out, winner-take-all magic spell contest. Up to 10 kids at a time will embark on a treasure hunt around their own homes, as our sibling wizards enact increasingly hilarious and mysterious spells for the panel of kid judges. With a little help from parents, participants will find special items in hidden locations in a one-of-a-kind WOW piece that is sure to delight. While working together and learning that wizard teamwork makes the wizard dream work, kids will have a chance to connect in a special interactive performance that will infuse their summer with a little magic. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased [here](#).

Finally, the Playhouse continues its educational opportunities for adults with its [Spotlight On](#) programs. Participants can take part in Zoom classes in Acting, Tech Theatre, Musical Theatre and Playwriting starting up July 17. Click [here](#) for more information and registration.

**La Jolla Playhouse** is a place where artists and audiences come together to create what's new and next in the American theatre, from Tony Award-winning productions, to imaginative programs for young audiences, to interactive experiences outside our theatre walls. Founded in 1947 by Gregory Peck, Dorothy McGuire and Mel Ferrer, the Playhouse is currently led by Tony Award winner Christopher Ashley, the Rich Family Artistic Director of La Jolla Playhouse, and Managing Director Debby Buchholz. The Playhouse is internationally renowned for the development of new plays and musicals, including mounting 105 world premieres, commissioning 52 new works, and sending 33 productions to Broadway – including the hit musical *Come From Away* – garnering a total of 38 Tony Awards, as well as the 1993 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre.

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