Melody Lane Performing Arts Center
January 16th – January 18th, 2026
Atlanta, Georgia

Junior Theater Festival - What It's All About!

The Junior Theater Festival is the largest gathering of youth theater performers **in the world!** The JTF experience features Adjudications led by Broadway professionals, All-Star productions, New Works Showcase, music, dance and acting workshops, dance parties, sing-a-longs, awards, Audition Opportunities Broadway celebrity performances, Broadway guest artist interviews and more!

Past Celebrity Appearances: Alan Menken, Ben Platt, Cynthia Erivo, Michael James Scott, Ali Stroker, Caissie Levy, Bobby & Kristen Lopez, Benj Pasek & Justin Paul, Olivia Rodrigo, Joshua Bassett, Megan Hilty, Darren Criss, Skylar Astin, Andrew Barth Feldman, Ryan McCartan, and more!

Student/Family Commitment: MLPAC approaches The Junior Theater Festival as a serious educational trip. It is an incredibly large commitment *which requires* dedicated, passionate, hard working academic and artistically successful students that are capable of working, learning and memorizing at a fast pace. MLPAC has earned an impeccable reputation over the years, and is looked upon by the Festival organizers as a program leader in the industry.

Past Melody Lane Theatre JTF Awards

Excellence in Dance (2025)- Newsies JR
Excellence in Acting (2024)- Moana JR in Sacramento, CA
Excellence in Music (2024)- Legally Blonde JR
New Works Showcase Group (2022)- The Big One-Oh! JR on the Mainstage
Excellence in Acting Award (2022 & 2024)- Beauty and the Beast JR and Moana JR
Outstanding Production Award (2021)- Matilda JR, in Houston, TX
All Festival Individual Award (2021)- River Reed, Bruce in Matilda JR
Excellence in Ensemble Award (2020)- Mary Poppins JR
Freddie G Teaching Fellowship Award (2020)- Mrs. Dana Alvarez
Outstanding Production Award (2019)- Lion King JR
Outstanding Female Performer (2019)- Christine Mazuryk, Rafiki in Lion King







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JTF Atlanta 2024, Academy B Team: *Disney's Aladdin JR*

Ages: 10-18, Grades 3-12

Team Size: 30-35 Students

Rehearsal commitment:

October – November: 1 day per week
December 1st – 19th: 2-3 days per week
December 20th – January 4th (Winter Break): Rehearsals TBA for those in town
January 5th – 14th: Final Rehearsals, 2-3 weekdays + weekend
January 15th – 19th: Junior Theater Festival & Travel - Atlanta, Georgia

Team Dues Cost: $850.00 + Travel, Hotels, Food

Eligibility & Criteria to Attend JTF:

- Commitment – the schedule both prior to the Festival and at the Festival requires an unwavering commitment; **two rehearsal absences** are permitted for each student. Students may be removed from the team if absences are unexcused and/or persistent.
- RESPECT for fellow performers, directors, production team, property and the rehearsal process
- Hard working, Dedicated, Team player, Reliable, and Punctual. Picks up choreography quickly. Listens to and can follow directions
- A good citizen able to represent Melody Lane Performing Arts Center and Cape Coral/Southwest Florida during both the process and festival trip
- The ability to be professional, kind and respectful in but not limited to all airports, on airplanes, in the hotel, at the festival, during workshops, rehearsals, backstage, performances, in their hotel room, with adults and to assigned chaperone
- All previous production involvement including school year and summer productions are also in consideration and part of each student's audition.

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Junior Theater Festival Team Dues Breakdown

Student...$850 Atlanta

Junior Theater Festival Registration & All-Access Pass ($350)

MLPAC Team Fee- 3 Months Specialized Instruction, Team Expenses

JTF Team Adjudication Shirt, JTF Festival Shirt

Wristbands for Trade

Snacks in Atlanta

Team Mementos + More

+Family Member (Parent, Sibling, Grandparent, Aunt, Etc)... +$350

Junior Theater Festival Registration & All-Access Pass & Festival Shirt

+Additional Team Member Sibling... at a 10% Discount for Team Fee

***Not Included:**

Hotel Costs (Given a group rate, may share rooms to cut back on prices)

Travel Costs (flights or gas)

Meals (we do organize a few group meals to help with planning & costs)

Fundraising Opportunities

Team Raffle & Event (have raised over $8000, 100% of what each student raises goes back to them)

Sam's Club Days (have raised $150-450 per 2 hour shift to split amongst the students who work the shift)

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Junior Theater Festival Contract (Turn in on Audition Day)

Every member of the JTF Teams needs to read through this contract thoroughly and decide whether one can commit to the privilege and responsibility of being on our traveling theatre team. Such an endeavor takes time, dedication, and decorum. We are very happy to invite you to audition for our team and want all of our students to have a professional and enjoyable experience.

Adults, Please initial next to each:

____ I understand that my student is required to attend all rehearsals and performances, and that more than 2 unexcused absences may result in my removal from the team.

____ I understand that if absent for certain rehearsals, my participation in parts of adjudication material that is covered during my absence may be limited.

____ I understand that fundraising attempts will be made, however I am responsible for the full cost if no funds are raised.

____ I understand that a $150 non-refundable deposit (due 7/1/25) is required to accept a spot on the team.

____ I understand that non-payment of any portion of the fees by certain deadlines may result in my/my child not being permitted to attend the Junior Theater Festival.

____ I agree to follow the Melody Lane Theatre mission statement, which is to celebrate the talents and successes of others and be a source of positivity to my castmates and creative team.

____ I understand that casting for the team is based on team casting, solos may be assigned later; which means that I recognize it is a privilege for my child to be chosen, as JTF is an ensemble experience. It is not about me/my student.

The following behaviors will result in immediate Removal from the Junior Theater Festival Team:

- Physical Violence
- Inappropriate Physical Contact
- Alcohol or Drug Use
- Vaping or Nicotine Use
- Vandalism to Melody Lane Property

I agree to follow these rules, procedures, and attendance policies and I understand the consequences of failing to do so. I will respect fellow cast-mates, crew members, staff members and property at all times.

Student Name _____

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature (if under 18) _____

Date _____