

THEATRE FOR SCHOOLS

2025-2026 | schools Programme



YOUNG
COURTYARD
PLAYHOUSE
Theatre Academy

courtyardplayhouse.com

050 986 1760

schools@courtyardplayhouse.com

CONTENTS

School Programme

- » Page N°3 - About Us
- » Page N°4 - Workshops for Schools
- » Page N°7 - Performances for Schools
- » Page N°9 - Screenings: National Theatre Live
- » Page N°11 - The Young Playhouse
- » Page N°12 - Teacher Training
- » Page N°13 - Corporate Training
- » Page N°14 - Theatre Hire
- » Page N°16 - Contact Us



ABOUT US

The Courtyard Playhouse

Dubai's only KHDA licensed Improvisation Theatre and Training Centre.

Founded in 2013, the Courtyard Playhouse is the UAE's first small theatre venue. We offer a programme of improvisation, acting workshops and performances for children and adults. We also specialize in the delivery of corporate training and development and theatrical events.

The Courtyard Playhouse boasts two theatre spaces, seating 75 and 35, each equipped with top-of-the-range lighting, sound and projection systems.

Note from the Owners

'Opportunities for children to experience theatre in the region are scarce. I Kemsley recall phoning every theatre in Dubai on behalf of a school student in 2009, asking if there was any work experience available. The student didn't like performing, but loved all aspects of backstage work and was enchanted and motivated to learn how it all worked. I was greeted with bafflement and confusion by the theatres. I felt very guilty relaying this to her; it had quite a profound effect on me, and I wondered if was something we could remedy.'

Cut to the present ...

The Young Playhouse is a programme of theatre activities especially geared to school students. The programme is designed to give more opportunity to the hundreds of teachers and thousands of children in the UAE who deserve broader opportunities and better exposure to theatre and the Arts. At the Courtyard Playhouse, students can experience National Theatre Live from London; they can take part in work-experience placements; learn set-design, lighting, scenography and the craft that goes into the running of a modern professional theatre. Students can watch new, immersive performances and take part in workshops or even compete in their own Theatresports™ Tournaments. Most of all, they can experience, learn and play in a young, vibrant and professional community, that can boast to having full-time employees that have come through the youth ranks, including the current General Manager.

We hope that we've made the world of theatre more accessible to students of all ages than it was in 2009. We thank all of the dedicated teachers who support us, your local theatre, enabling us to offer and enhance these opportunities for children season after season. We look forward to working with you this academic year.

WORKSHOPS

Theatre in the Classroom

Unlock Creativity and Learning Through Theatre! Engaging with theatre in the classroom sparks imagination, fosters collaboration, and builds confidence, nurturing essential skills that extend beyond the stage.



We pride ourselves on crafting bespoke theatre training programs that perfectly suit your school's requirements. Whether you're seeking a captivating addition to your "Week Without Walls" initiative, a recurring class to enrich your curriculum, or an engaging workshop that culminates in a spectacular showcase, we have the expertise to bring your vision to life. Our experienced team collaborates closely with educators to understand your goals and tailor the program's duration, content, and format accordingly.

WORKSHOP RATES

IN THEATRE WORKSHOP	
1 hour	3,750 AED
1.5 hours	4,200 AED
2 hours	4,725 AED

OFF-SITE WORKSHOP (AT SCHOOL)	
1 hour	2,100 AED
1.5 hours	3,150 AED
2 hours	3,675 AED

Prices are inclusive of 5 % VAT and the rates are for groups of 15 students.

"The students had a great time last week, and full credit goes to the Courtyard Playhouse and the two amazing instructors we had. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience and parents were quite impressed with the final showcase - the kids really pulled it all together for Friday's performance!"

-Christina DeMers, DAA



WORKSHOPS

Schools Workshops Designed for You!

The flexibility of improvisation allows us to apply our skills to your needs; we listen and create something specifically for your students and your environment.



IMPROV (AGES 9+)

Ignite spontaneity and quick thinking with our improv workshops. Students discover the joy of thinking on their feet, enhancing their problem-solving abilities and boosting self-assurance in a fun and supportive environment.

DRAMA (AGES 4+)

Our dynamic drama workshops cultivate young minds by encouraging self expression and empathy. Through imaginative play, students develop communication skills and gain a deeper understanding of emotions and storytelling.

MUSICAL THEATRE (AGES 7+)

Unleash the magic of musical theatre in your school! Our workshops blend singing, dancing, and acting, allowing students to explore their talents, build self-esteem, and experience the thrill of performing musical theatre.

PUBLIC SPEAKING (AGES 7+)

Equip students with a vital life skill through our public speaking workshops. By practicing effective communication techniques, students build confidence in presenting their ideas, a skillset that will serve.

THEATRESPORTS

Fostering Unity and Friendly Competition

Empower large student populations through tailored weekly classes that culminate in a thrilling Theatresports match at our theater, fostering camaraderie, confidence and spirited competition.



For schools with a large student body, we offer a fantastic opportunity to engage in weekly improvisation classes tailored to individual age groups. As the weeks progress, these enthusiastic groups build camaraderie, confidence and a strong sense of teamwork.

The pinnacle of this journey culminates in an exhilarating Theatresports match held at our esteemed theatre. Here, the teams showcase their newfound talents in a spirited competition, where quick wit and collaboration take center stage. This unforgettable event not only celebrates the students' growth but also reinforces the joy of performance, leaving lasting memories and a stronger sense of unity among participants.

Theatresports is team-based competition where team captains issue dramatic challenges to their opponents. Each team does a scene based on the challenge, then it is over to the judges.

.Our judges will score scenes until a victor emerges and is awarded the winners' trophy to rapturous applause.

On the surface, Theatresports is a team-based 'theatre competition' but its main aim is to build a mutual desire to create dynamic, interesting theatre through spontaneity, storytelling and supportive play.

'Thank you very much for the pictures and a big thank you all, a special one from our students to their Improv teachers, for making the event fun and pedagogical!'

-Gaelle Prud Homme, LFIGP



PERFORMANCES

Improvised Kids' Theatre for your Schools

Super Story



For Ages 3 - 11

The Courtyard Playhouse's favourite children's performance, For ages 4-11: **Super Story** is available for schools to book!

The premise is simple: each performance is a new unique story that unfolds based on what the children in the audience want to happen next! The show is an extension of Keith Johnstone's improvisation exercise, 'Super Story', and supports curriculums that value storytelling, literacy, social awareness and fun! Children may create a castle drawbridge from our cardboard box set, draw an enchanted garden right onto the boxes with coloured chalk or even invent an evil lair or swamp to escape from. Will the princess escape on the dragon, or be sucked into the bog and imprisoned by the swamp monster? The possibilities are fun and endless when the children decide and create their very own Super Story.

Our improvisors are experienced at performing for all age groups and tailoring the content to suit. Recommended age ranges for this particular show are 4-11 years old.

Our venue at the Courtyard Playhouse is perfect for a child's first experience of live theatre. Students will engage in a special, interactive show in the most beautiful small theatre in the world.

Prices per 1 hour performance is 7,000 AED for up to 61 students. All students will receive popcorn and water bottles, teachers will be treated to a tea/coffee and popcorn in the snack bar. VAT is included in the price.

'Thank you for an amazing trip! All the adults and children thoroughly enjoyed it and could not stop talking about it!

We will definitely be rebooking for next year!

-Angelique Edmunds, Horizon English School



PERFORMANCES

Improvised Theatre for your schools

This is Impro



For Ages 12 - 18

A one-act interactive improvisation show designed specifically for ages 12-18, "This is Impro" brings the magic of improv right to your students! Packed with spontaneous scenes and hilarious scenarios, this dynamic performance is driven entirely by audience suggestions. Performed by our most experienced improvisers, the show guarantees non-stop entertainment and laughter.

This show is an incredible opportunity to foster key life skills in students. By inviting them to participate on stage, we help build their confidence, encourage creative thinking, and improve teamwork. "This is Impro" creates a fun, supportive environment that resonates with teens and inspires them to express themselves freely while developing valuable communication skills.

Each 1 hour performance is priced at 7,000 AED for up to 61 students. All students will receive popcorn and water bottles, while teachers will be treated to tea or coffee and popcorn from the snack bar. VAT is included in the price.

'A big thank you to you and your team for the wonderful and memorable experience. The children were absolutely thrilled with the whole experience, from the lively performances to the beautiful venue itself. The way you welcomed us and made sure that everything ran smoothly was truly appreciated by both the students and the teachers.'

-Ashleigh Watson, Dubai International Academy



SCREENINGS

National Theatre Live

National Theatre Live makes world class theatre accessible ...



Each broadcast is filmed in front of a live audience in London. Cameras are carefully positioned throughout the auditorium to ensure that cinema audiences get the 'best seat in the house' view of each production. The shows are so immersive and filmed with such attention to detail that it is often difficult to differentiate from the real thing; we regularly have standing ovations for our projector screen!

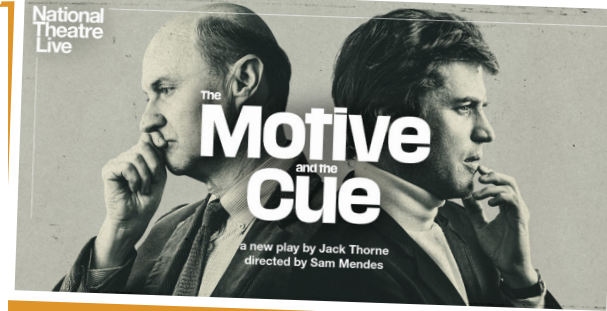
Among our recent repertoire, illustrious titles have graced our screens, featuring Erin Doherty's compelling portrayal in 'The Crucible,' Emilia Clarke's artistry in 'The Seagull,' and Hiran Abeysekera's captivating performance in 'Life of Pi.' These are merely glimpses into our extensive selection of titles available for your school's screening pleasure. Reach out to us, and let us help you align the perfect titles with your curriculum.

Schools can book the Courtyard Playhouse theatre auditoriums exclusively to attend screenings. The theatre spaces are available during school time and at other times if bookings are made in advance.

'Having the opportunity to bring my IB Higher Level Language and Literature classes to the Courtyard Playhouse the past two years has been invaluable. For students, National Theatre Live provides a depth of understanding that classroom analysis cannot match. I highly recommend any class, from middle school to high school, to take full advantage of this unique and fulfilling educational tool.'

-Jarret Dodge, The Universal American School of Dubai





This is just a snapshot of some of the titles we offer for schools. To get the full list please contact schools@courtyardplayhouse.com

MAIN AUDITORIUM

Exclusive National Theatre Live Screening

Max 75 people
(students & teachers)

Choice of ANY of
our National
Theatre Live titles

TOTAL COST
PER SCREENING

5250 AED
(inclusive of VAT)

IMPROV STUDIO

Exclusive National Theatre Live Screening

Max 25 people
(students & teachers)

Choice of ANY of
our National
Theatre Live titles

TOTAL COST
PER SCREENING

2500 AED
(inclusive of VAT)

YOUNG PLAYHOUSE

Opportunities for the Youth



VOLUNTEERING

Elevate your passion for the arts through volunteering opportunities at our theatre. Whether your interest lies onstage, backstage or in the dynamic business realm of this multi-layered industry, we welcome dedicated students to join us. These engagements, often arranged through schools, offer firsthand experience within our bustling theatre environment. Our volunteering roles not only enrich students' understanding but also align with curriculum requirements.

To find out more, reach out to Kyle at kyle@courtyardplayhouse.com.

WORK EXPERIENCE

For students seeking a distinctive and enlightening one-week work experience, we open our doors to their journey. Our application and interview process ensures that enthusiastic individuals join us on this exploratory venture. This opportunity not only enriches their understanding of the arts but also contributes to their academic pursuits. If they are ready to step onto our stage and learn in a hands-on environment, they can seize the chance to apply for a work experience position by reaching out to Raeesah at raeesah@courtyardplayhouse.com.

'I found my work experience week to be thoroughly enjoyable. I genuinely felt as though I was helping with the events in an impactful way through the jobs I was assigned. I'm very grateful for the opportunity to take part in the Improv show, it was the highlights of my time helping out.'

-Cameron Walne, Work Experience Participant



TEACHERS

Improv Skills for Teachers

The Playhouse has a rich history of delivering learning and development to school professionals across the UAE.



This can be part of an inset day, a larger teacher training programme, or even during International Book Week. Development events can be hosted at The Courtyard Playhouse Theatre or our team can travel to you.

Our most popular workshop is called 'Yes And ...' and can be anywhere from two hours to an entire day. It's fantastic fun and serves as an enlightening induction or team-building event, leaving teachers with lots of new exercises to engage and inspire students.

For more teaching training options please request our corporate training brochure which has broader options including 'Storytelling', 'Stage Presence' and 'Negotiation Skills'; or we are happy to listen to-you and design a workshop with your specific needs in mind.



Improv' encourages:

Embracing ideas to see where they lead rather than leaping in which obstacles creativity and acceptance within teams, removing barriers to progress being present in the moment, listening carefully, and contributing freely adaptability and risk-taking



OUR CLIENTS

Van Cleef & Arpels

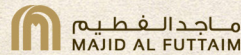
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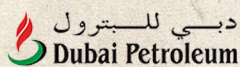
McKinsey & Company



abbvie



OMG Omnicom MediaGroup



HSBC

BVLGARI

DIOR



GIVENCHY



THEATRE HIRE

Unique and Professionally Equipped

Our beautiful stages have plush seating, a full compliment of theatre facilities and an attention to detail that has led to us being referred to as 'the most beautiful little theatre in the world'.



The Courtyard Playhouse is nestled in the creative heart of Dubai amongst the galleries and cafes of Al Quoz. We are located around the corner from The Times Square Shopping Mall, opposite Bounce and Al Serkal and accessible easily from Sheikh Zayed Road.

In the past ~chools have used the Playhouses facilities for school productions and IB/GCSE courses that require certain sound, lighting and theatre elements; drama exams; screenings; and school events.

Our Main Auditorium seats 61 fixed seats+ 14 beanbags, the Improv' Studio seats 35 and the Keith Johnstone Studio is our rehearsal space and is suitable or up to 15 adults to rehearse. Both auditorium spaces have a full compliment of ETC lighting fixtures, professional audio and video facilities as well as sprung wooden floors. We have two spacious green rooms, equally spacious foyer area and a well-stocked concession kiosk.

'Every single detail in the venue is just right.'

-Mager Masri, Caliber

'Courtyard Playhouse is just perfect! An oasis in a cosmopolitan city, where you can enjoy diversity of arts in a non-commercial environment!'

-Heidi Struiksma



THEATRE HIRE

Unique and Professionally Equipped



'I cannot recommend The Courtyard Playhouse and its team enough. I recently rented the venue for a corporate event and the team were brilliant from start to finish in helping us pull off the best event possible. If one phrase defines them, it is 'can do attitude'. If you need a special venue for your company's events, look no further - it's really magical'

-Maya Itani, Entrepreneur



CONTACT US



CONTACT US AT:

- ☎ 050 986 1760
- ✉ schools@courtyardplayhouse.com
- f [/TheCourtyardPlayhouse](https://www.facebook.com/TheCourtyardPlayhouse)
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