

# Summer scenes @

# SUMMER STAGE

Performing Arts Camp

## Director's Corner – Shawn & Ben

Dear Summer Stage Families,

With three weeks left to Summer Stage, we are truly able to see how this immersion of the arts and creativity is impacting our students in a positive and exciting way. Studios and Mulan rehearsals are beginning to come together for what is sure to be a powerful end of summer. We have long hot summer days here, but being surrounded by smiling, energetic and creative children makes you forget all that. This weekend marks the end of first session: We have said "good bye" to a few students and are eager to welcome new members this Monday.



## Next Week...

Second Session Begins!



## Disney MULAN JR.

Rehearsals are going well and we are all getting ready for the opening of Mulan!

- **Tickets will be available for purchase online over the weekend.**
- **We will start on the set next week.**
- **Penny will start getting our costumes ready!**
- **Flyers are available for distribution – ask for a pile to hand out to friends and local businesses.**



### Acting with Mr. J (Julian Rozzell)

We have now completed our third week of acting classes and I am excited and proud of my students! Not only do I have a very talented bunch but, I also have a fearless group of actors. As an instructor, actor/ performer, fearlessness is a required element of our craft. Acting is a profession wrought with not only rejection, but deep levels of creative doubt. I find that most people who are attracted to acting have a deep desire to understand the behaviors and psychologies of not only themselves, but also of human existence. Yet if one is able to couple that passion with a technique and able to create steps towards personal growth, then the sky is the limit.

When I was at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, I was taught the concept of "A VIBE". "A VIBE" is an acronym meaning Awareness, Voice, Imagination, Body, Energy. All elements the young actor needs to focus on for his or her success.

In the first week of class we focused on Awareness and Imagination. We explored these concepts through acting exercises such as Mime and various improvisatory games. One of the exercises was to present a daily ritual to the class such as brushing your teeth, ironing, watching television, etc. After the students "performed" their ritual, there was an open discussion as to what the students saw happening in the scene. Did the body language seem truthful? What objects did we see in the scene? How big was the room?. Students were then asked to "perform" the scene again keeping in mind elements of the discussion. This helps foster in the students more specific, solid, and imaginative images, along with confidence. The motto being "if the actor can't see what they are doing in an imagined circumstance, then the audience will not be engaged...".

Week two was about BODY, and our main foundation was the Mirror Exercise. The students, in pairs, explored synchronized movement while maintaining eye contact. We start off with each student having a chance to "lead" in the movement, then we explore the movement without a leader. Students perform this exercise as a group, then they present this exercise in front of the class. In our discussions of the exercise, it always amazes me how perceptive the students are in interpreting gesture and movement. I look forward in the coming weeks watching the students grow, and to be able to apply this knowledge to the demands of Mulan!



## Master Class Series...Acting For Animation Part 2 with Tony Santo



## Little Stars & Triple Threat Performance...



**Songs from  
Peter Pan  
and  
West Side Story**



# How are rehearsals going so far?

## Little Stars

They are good and it is fun. My favorite song is Keep On Guessing.

- Tatyana



## Shooting Stars

I am excited for the play. I am excited to play someone other than me. It is fun to be with all of my friends.

- Helina



## All Stars

They are really fun. Every part of it is fun.

- Hunter



## Triple Threat

They are fine. We learn a lot of songs.

- Kelly



## Counselor Connection.....Rachel Szpilka

Rehearsals are going great. It's amazing to see the progress of the show but most importantly the kids. The growth of individuals and the ensemble is tremendous. It's awesome seeing the kids apply what they learn in each class to the rehearsal process.



## What will you miss most about Summer Stage?

I will miss the pool, classes and counselors and all of camp.

- David

I will miss my friends and everything. Camp is great! I especially love the dance classes.

- Nava

I will miss Karate and electives and rehearsal.

- Gesha

To see more photos from the week check out the RRS website and blog at

[RiverdaleRisingStars.com](http://RiverdaleRisingStars.com)

We will welcome some new campers starting on Monday!

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