Mission & Values

Mission
Christian Youth Theater develops character and creativity in kids of all ages through quality theater arts training that brings families and communities together while reflecting the Creator.

Values
- Treat each individual with respect and significance
- Develop character traits including discipline, self-confidence, and integrity
- Bring families together through the use of individual talents and abilities
- Share the love of Christ in word and deed

Claiming the arts for Christ!
# CYT Staff Contact Information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Responsibilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Managing Director</td>
<td>Bev Schulz</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bev@cythouston.org">bev@cythouston.org</a></td>
<td>Payment/financial questions, scholarships, Donations and Partnerships. Works closely with CYT HQ, alongside the Artistic Director as Co-Director, and with the Board of Directors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artistic Director</td>
<td>Ashlie Driver</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ashlie@cythouston.org">ashlie@cythouston.org</a></td>
<td>General CYT Questions, Employment Opportunities, EXPO. Supervisor to Coordinators, Artistic Teams, Production Team Leaders, and Class Instructors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branch Administrator</td>
<td>Mary Ramsower</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mary@cythouston.org">mary@cythouston.org</a></td>
<td>Website questions, ticketing, playbills, and other administrative duties. Resource to class, camp &amp; show coordinators, works closely with MD &amp; AD.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounting Coordinator</td>
<td>Christina Kruse</td>
<td><a href="mailto:christina@cythouston.org">christina@cythouston.org</a></td>
<td>Manage accounts payable and receivable. Works closely with the Managing Director and Coordinators.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Coordinators</td>
<td>Robyn Flanery-East</td>
<td><a href="mailto:robyn@cythouston.org">robyn@cythouston.org</a></td>
<td>General area questions for class registration, auditions, and shows. Assists Show and Class Coordinators, Supervisor to Artistic Teams, and parent volunteers.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jeannie Bailey-North</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jeannie@cythouston.org">jeannie@cythouston.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Coordinators</td>
<td>Robyn Flanery-Kingwood</td>
<td><a href="mailto:robyn@cythouston.org">robyn@cythouston.org</a></td>
<td>Class enrollment questions, report class absences, Lost &amp; Found, and general Showcase information. Sends out important class session announcements. Supervisor to Instructors.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dawn Leal-Spring/Klein</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dawn@cythouston.org">dawn@cythouston.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jeannie Bailey-Conroe</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jeannie@cythouston.org">jeannie@cythouston.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Show Coordinators</td>
<td>Bye Bye Birdie</td>
<td><a href="mailto:robyn@cythouston.org">robyn@cythouston.org</a></td>
<td>Show auditions, callbacks, casting questions, report rehearsal conflicts/illness, Lost &amp; Found for rehearsal and shows, Volunteers and Crew. Posts weekly Callboard announcements, rehearsal schedule, production and Artistic Team notes. Supervisor to Artistic Team and parent volunteers.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>My Son Pinocchio Jr. Crystal St James</td>
<td><a href="mailto:crystal@cythouston.org">crystal@cythouston.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Annie Jeannie Bailey</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jeannie@cythouston.org">jeannie@cythouston.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Camp Coordinator</td>
<td>Jamie Hawley</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jamie@cythouston.org">jamie@cythouston.org</a></td>
<td>General questions regarding camps.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching Artists</td>
<td></td>
<td>See website for contact information</td>
<td>Contact your child’s teacher directly if you have questions regarding course content, homework, or showcase. Sends first class day parent letter, syllabus and periodic class specific communications.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional CYT Staff</td>
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<td>See website for contact information</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Website &amp; Social Media</strong></td>
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<td><strong>CYT Houston Website</strong></td>
<td><strong><a href="http://www.cythouston.org">www.cythouston.org</a></strong></td>
<td>Family account, Class &amp; Show information, Callboard, Parent Hub, Purchase tickets, Camps, Special Events &amp; more!</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Facebook (official page)</strong></td>
<td><strong>CYT Houston</strong></td>
<td>Special announcements, photos &amp; general information</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Facebook (closed groups)</strong></td>
<td><strong>CYT Houston’s Bye Bye Birdie 2020</strong></td>
<td>You can join these groups for show specific information before auditions, but the group will become private for those cast in the show. This group is a great way for families to connect with one another and get show announcements, photos and videos.</td>
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<td><strong>CYT Houston’s My Son Pinocchio Jr. 2020</strong></td>
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<td><strong>CYT Houston’s Annie</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Twitter</strong></td>
<td><strong>@cythouston</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Instagram</strong></td>
<td><strong>@cythoustontx</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CYT HQ (National Organization)</strong></td>
<td><strong><a href="http://www.cyt.org">www.cyt.org</a></strong></td>
<td>National blog posts, CYT history &amp; news. Moving? Find a CYT near your new home!</td>
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<td><strong>Facebook- Christian Youth Theater</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Instagram- @cythq</strong></td>
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Click [HERE](https://mailchi.mp/cythouston/signup) to sign up for the CYT Houston Newsletter!
### Spring Session Dates for Classes:

**North (Spring/Klein) Class Dates:**
- Feb. 17
- Feb. 24
- Mar. 2
- Mar. 16
- Mar. 23
- Mar. 30
- Apr. 6
- Apr. 13
- Apr. 20*

*Class & Showcase

**East (Kingwood) Class Dates:**
- Feb. 18
- Feb. 25
- Mar. 3
- Mar. 17
- Mar. 24
- Mar. 31
- Apr. 7
- Apr. 14
- Apr. 21*

*Class & Showcase

**North (Conroe) Class Dates:**
- Feb. 20
- Feb. 27
- Mar. 5
- Mar. 19
- Mar. 26
- Apr. 2
- Apr. 9
- Apr. 16
- Apr. 23*

*Class & Showcase

**Because we partner with local churches for our classes and rehearsals, dates and locations are subject to change. Check your email (classes) or the callboard (rehearsals) for updates.*
Classes

Students may take classes and audition for any show, regardless of area. Online Enrollment Packets are sent with each class confirmation email. Please have these forms filled out before coming to your first class. **Students will not be able to attend class without these completed forms.**

East (Kingwood) - Kingwood First Baptist Church
Act 1 4:45-6:40 PM  
Act 2 6:45-8:40 PM

North (Spring/Klein) – Klein United Methodist Church  
Act 1 5:00-6:50 PM  
Act 2 7:00- 8:50 PM

North (Conroe) – First Christian Church  
6:00-7:50 PM

Teachers will allow a 10-15 minute snack and bathroom break.

Concessions
We will be selling snacks and water bottles during break time. Concessions are $0.25-$1.00 each. For your convenience, you may purchase a snack card for $5 or $10, if you do not want to send money every week with your student. If your child would like to bring their own snack, please keep in mind that CYT is a NUT FREE ZONE. We have some students with severe nut allergies.

Drop-Off & Pick-Up

Students should arrive on time and be picked up promptly. They will need to sign-in upon arrival and sign-out when they leave. Students 5-7 years old should always be escorted by an adult and picked up directly with their teacher.  
**All students under age 12 must be picked up by a parent/guardian.** We require a written note* from the parents/guardians that would like their 12-17 year old to walk outside on their own after class.

______________________________________________  Date:_________________

*You may bring a completed copy of the following, or something similar written:

Please allow _______________________, age ____, to walk outside on their own after class. They will sign-out before leaving the premises.

Signed _____________________________________________________________
Christian Youth Theater – Houston
Student Behavior Contract
(To be printed and turned in at first class)

I know that participating in CYT is a privilege; I_________________________________________ will:

Initial Here

_______  Respect Coordinators, teachers, Artistic Team members, parents, other students, and facility representatives at all times.

_______  Use honoring language and actions; I will not gossip, name-call, use profanity or inappropriate words or actions.

_______  Treat property and equipment of the facility with care.

_______  Dress modestly and appropriately, keeping the CYT Dress Code in mind.

_______  Be pure in my relationship choices and actions; I will avoid the use of drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, and excessive physical contact with others.

_______  Not leave the premises during class time or rehearsals, for any reason, unless it is listed on my conflict form.

_______  Maintain appropriate content and images on any and all social media (Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, etc.) remembering that you are representing CYT and are a role model for other students and should exhibit values based on Biblical principles.

_______  Abide by CYT’s Class Attendance Policy (CYT Handbook) and that it is especially important that I attend classes, Showcase, and rehearsal/show call times. I understand if my attendance exceeds the maximum allowed absences, I am subject to replacement in the production in which I am currently cast and may be removed from the Showcase. Should this occur, there will be no refunds for production fees, class tuition, and ticket sales.

_______  Keep devices, such as cell phones, tablets, and other hand-held electronics stowed away while at classes, rehearsals and performances unless the teacher or director has given express permission for them to be out.

_______  Not make any sort of recording during auditions, callbacks, rehearsal or classes unless I have been asked to do so by the Artistic Team or the teacher of that class. I will also be respectful of other people's privacy should I have permission to be on my device.

Signed_____________________________________________  Date_____/_____/_____
Student Signature

Signed_____________________________________________  Date_____/_____/_____
Parent/Guardian Signature
Illness Policy
If your child is ill, has had a fever or virus within 24 hours of class, please keep them home and contact the Coordinator.

Attendance Policy
It is especially important that your student attend classes regularly and that they do not miss the Showcase performance. Many numbers being performed rely on every student to be present and others are affected if one person is missing. CYT Houston is an Educational 501c3 organization, and the classes, and attendance in those classes, is what allows CYT to maintain that status. All communication regarding absences must be done by contacting the Class Coordinator. Quality performing arts education and character development are primary goals of CYT. Therefore, students should not plan to miss more than two classes. Special consideration may be granted regarding absences due to illness or family emergency. In these instances, please make requests to the Class Coordinator in advance and as promptly as possible for consideration. Should your child’s attendance in classes (or rehearsals) exceed the maximum allowed absences, he/she is subject to replacement in the production in which they are currently cast and they may be removed from the Showcase. If your child has a conflict during Showcase, please notify the Class Coordinator and the Instructor as soon as possible.

Class Refund Policy
A $25.00 processing fee will be applied to class refunds requested at least 2 weeks prior to the first night class. No refunds will be given for requests made closer than 2 weeks to the first night. Being registered in a class is required for auditioning for a show. If a student auditions for a show, there will be no refund given for their class, even if the request is made more than 2 weeks before the first night of class.

Discipline Policy
First Offense
Adult in charge will talk with the individual student about his/her misbehavior.
Second Offense
Adult in charge will call the parent and explain the misbehavior of the student.
Third Offense
Artistic Director will be notified and will talk with student (if warranted). Dismissal from the class or show may result.
Electronics Policy
Cell phones, tablets, and other hand-held electronics must be kept in a student’s bag while at CYT classes and rehearsals. We encourage interaction with other students and castmates! On occasion, permission may be given to students to take notes or record on their devices for their benefit. The devices should be stowed away unless the teacher or director has given express permission for them to be out.

Behavior Contract
All students review and sign our Behavior Contract upon registering for classes, and before auditioning for our productions. Please help us reinforce our expectations by referring to this agreement with your children throughout the session.

Dress Code Guidelines
The shaded portions of this figure represent the parts of the body which must be covered in all positions (e.g. sitting, standing, bending and reaching) while attending CYT.
• CYT expects students to dress modestly and appropriately, in a way that promotes a healthy environment and eliminates distractions.
• Overly tight, too short or revealing clothing is not acceptable.
• No spaghetti straps - tank straps must be “2 fingers” wide
• Midriffs must be covered, even when arms are raised or when seated.
• Undergarments are not to be visible or exposed.
• If wearing tights and leotards, wear shorts or other coverings over attire.
• Leggings may be worn ONLY IF they are paired with shorts or a long shirt that goes to mid-thigh, completely covering the hips and backside. If extensive dancing is expected with kicks, etc., please wear shorts.

Last Class & Showcase
The Showcase is an evening when parents, grandparents, and friends can come and see, not only what your student has been working on over the last 9 classes, but what all classes have focused on. Showcase usually begins at 7:00pm and ends around 8:30pm or 9:00pm.
We realize these are school nights and we try not to keep you past 9:00pm whenever possible. For this reason, the Our Gang class, which is our 5-7 year old student class, is typically the first to perform, so that you may leave when they get tired. We ask that all other classes stay for the entire Showcase to support each other.
Seating for Showcase usually begins 15 minutes before the start time.

There will be an alternate schedule to allow for the last class before showcase. Act 2 classes will be called in earlier to allow each class a small amount of time to check their spacing, practice with the mics, etc. on the stage before the showcase. Your instructor will email you details and arrival times.

Parents will want to send food for a dinner break before showcase. Please keep in mind that CYT is a NUT FREE ZONE.
Audition & Show Information

All students, ages 8-18, who are enrolled in a class are eligible to audition for a show. Please see the SHOW page at www.cythouston.org for more information. Class tuition and Show Production fees are separate. Students that are cast in a show are required to attend call times at Friday and Saturday rehearsals, Tech Week rehearsals, and all performances. For more information check out the PARENT HUB!

**Because we partner with local churches for our classes and rehearsals, dates and locations are subject to change. Check our website or your email for updates.**

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<tr>
<th>Spring Shows:</th>
<th>Audition Dates:</th>
<th>Location:</th>
<th>Performances:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bye Bye Birdie</td>
<td>Feb. 21-22</td>
<td>Kingwood Church of Christ</td>
<td>April 30-May 3 Charles Bender Performing Arts Center, Humble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annie</td>
<td>Feb. 21-22</td>
<td>Klein United Methodist Church, Spring</td>
<td>May 15-17 &amp; May 21-24 The Crighton Theatre, Conroe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My Son Pinocchio, Jr.</td>
<td>Feb. 28-29</td>
<td>Klein United Methodist Church, Spring</td>
<td>May 7-10 Charles Bender Performing Arts Center, Humble</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Audition Process:
1. SIGN UP THROUGH YOUR FAMILY ACCOUNT: Once you register for a class, you can sign up for an audition time slot for whichever show you choose.
2. COMPLETE THE ONLINE AUDITION PACKET: The link for the packet is located in the Show Notes listed for each show. You will need to complete all pages. You do NOT need to print this packet. We access it online. At the end, there is a link for the few pages you DO need to print and bring with you to auditions. One printed headshot is also required. (This does not need to be a professional photo.)
3. PREPARE: You have 2 minutes to shine! You will need a 1 min. (at least) song and 30 second to 1 minute monologue. You will upload your music (cut for your audition) to a link provided.
4. AUDITION DAY: Show up for your audition at least 15 minutes early. Bring the Costume form and the Production fee form, along with your headshot and production fee payment.

CYT holds open auditions. This means that other auditioners, as well as parents and siblings, will be able to sit and watch auditions to support their friends. For students who may be nervous about auditioning, it may help them to sit and watch some auditions first, and experience the positive experience that open auditions bring. How many people are allowed into auditions at any one time will be dependent on the size of the audition venue.
ADDITIONAL CYT OPPORTUNITIES:

The CYT National Decathlon Award

The Decathlon Award recognizes exceptional CYT students who have demonstrated a love for theater by pursuing a well-rounded education in the theater arts and who have exhibited a character consistent with CYT values. The award includes a certificate of recognition to be presented at the CYT EXPO, as well as a personal letter of recommendation from Paul Russell, CYT Co-Founder.

Criteria information is available online: https://www.cyt.org/decathlon-award/
For more information, contact Mary Ramsower, mary@cythouston.org.

HYPE- High School Youth Pursuing Excellence

HYPE is a complimentary CYT program through which high school youth involved in CYT can develop their leadership skills. HYPE is a service and leadership group – it is not a church youth group or a clique. HYPE is based on the premise that when you give CYT students meaningful responsibility they will step up to the challenge. HYPE students are committed to the program for one full school year, and are involved in the following: attending meetings twice a month, planning social events for CYT families, organizing fundraisers, doing service projects within the community, and planning ways to minister and mentor within CYT. In turn, HYPE students are trained by their Adviser(s) on leadership skills, and are mentored to put that growth into action at CYT and elsewhere in their lives. HYPE applications are accepted during the summer and new members are interviewed and inducted before the next fall semester begins. For more information, please email the HYPE advisor, David Horn, at hype@cythouston.org.

CYT National EXPO - CYT’s 40th Anniversary Celebration is at Expo 2020!

Every summer CYT Leadership, students, and their families gather for a National EXPO where they experience HYPE training and equipping, performing arts workshops, an Improv Competition (Improvathon), and fellowship opportunities with CYT affiliates from all over the nation. EXPO is held in San Diego, California. More information about EXPO will be provided in the spring; families who want to attend EXPO are encouraged to begin planning and saving early!

Complete details are available online: https://www.cyt.org/expo/

EXPO 2020 will be June 24-27, San Diego, CA and we’d love for a big group to go and represent CYT Houston! Details on our Facebook group: CYT Houston EXPO 2020
Improvisation (improv) is a form of live theatre in which the plot, characters, and dialogue of a game, scene, or story are made up right in front of the audience’s eyes. Sometimes Improv is purely comedy-based, while other times it can be a mix of both comedy and drama. Unscripted, actors “write” the plot on the spot, act, and direct themselves all at the same time, without previous planning. Improv is challenging and exciting, and a great way to hone an actor’s skills. CYT selects and trains a group of six students to compete in a national improvisational comedy competition held at the CYT national EXPO. Team selection is audition-based. To be on the team, students must have taken Improv and currently be enrolled in the Improv class, which takes place on Monday nights in Spring. Students must attend team practice (TBD), missing no more than two practices per season. Students selected for the team are required to pay regular tuition rates and take the Improvathon class. The estimated costs of travel, lodging, meals, and registration fees to attend Improvathon are estimated at $1,200 per team member. Team members will have several opportunities to raise funds for Improvathon, however, families planning to audition should start planning and saving as soon as possible. More information will be made available during the winter session. Questions may be submitted to Rebecca McDowell, RebeccaMcDowell@gmail.com.

Do you have a moving or inspirational CYT story to tell? Current students between the ages of 12-18 can write their story down in 500 words or less and enter it into the annual My CYT Story Competition! The competition begins on a local level. Each Branch’s local Board of Directors will review all the stories submitted by their students and will anonymously select one local Branch Winner. The Branch Winner then moves on to the national level. These stories are read by the CYT HQ staff who then anonymously selects one National Winner of the My CYT Story Competition. Each Branch Winner is awarded a certificate of recognition and a unique special edition CYT Swag item from CYT HQ at the National CYT EXPO in June. In addition, the National Winner has their name engraved on a plaque at the CYT HQ Office. Complete instructions are available online:
https://www.cyt.org/my-cyt-story/
Submission information will be posted in early spring on the CYT Houston Facebook page and in our newsletter.

Support CYT Houston when you shop online!
SHOP AMAZON SMILE

If you make online purchases on Amazon, make sure to go through Amazon Smile and choose CYT Houston as your charitable organization. We’ll receive a donation from your order. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!
http://smile.amazon.com