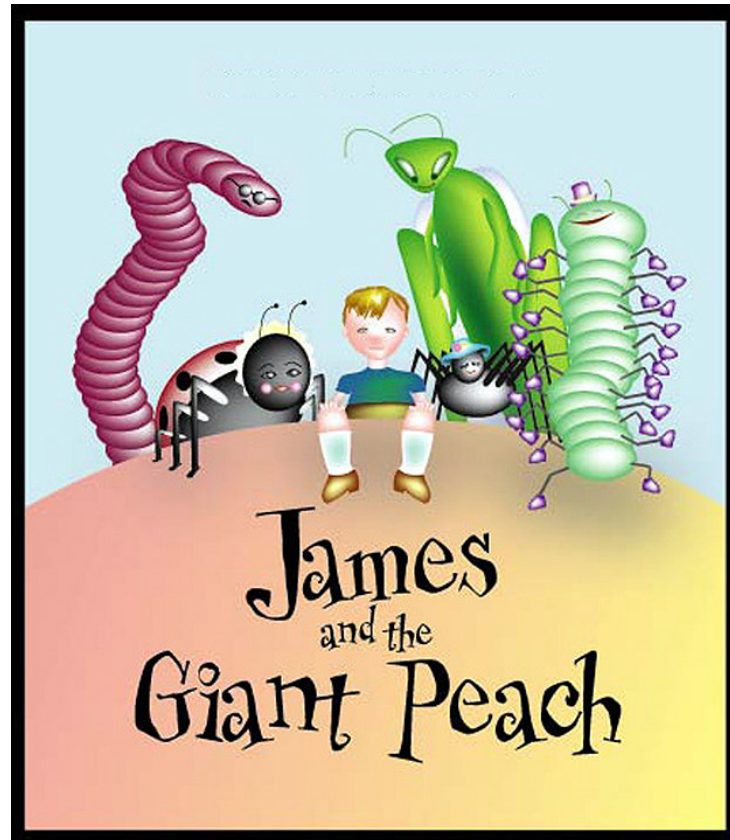


# Lex-Ham Community Theater

presents



ROALD DAHL'S  
FANTASY ADVENTURE FOR CHILDREN  
Dramatized by Richard R. George

**7:30 pm Fridays, November 7, 14, 21 and Saturday, November 22, 2003**

**2:30 pm Saturdays, November 8, 15 and Sunday, November 23, 2003**

**10:00 am Thursday, November 13, 2003**

St. Paul Central High School  
275 N. Lexington Parkway, St. Paul

## About the Author



Roald Dahl was born Sept. 13, 1916 in Llandaff, South Wales. He began his writing career when novelist, C.S. Forester, asked him to write about his most exciting war experience. *The Saturday Evening Post*, bought his story for \$1000. After having success with his first story, he soon began writing other stories for different magazines. His stories started out factual but he says “ As I went on, the stories became less and less realistic and more fantastic. But becoming a writer was a pure fluke. Without being asked to, I doubt if I’d ever have thought of it.” It was during this time that Dahl developed his unusual style known for its great humor.

Dahl has said “Had I not had children of my own, I would have never written books for children, nor would I have been capable of doing so.” He also said, “To me, the most important and difficult thing about writing fiction is to find the plot. Good original plots are hard to come by. You never know when a lovely idea is going to flit suddenly into your mind, but by golly, when it does come along, you grab it with both hands and hang on to it tight. The trick is to write it down at once, otherwise you’ll forget it.”

*James and the Giant Peach* was one of his earliest successful children’s stories. It took him six months to complete. Dahl felt he knew what children loved to read and wrote his stories accordingly. Some of the things he knew children liked were: being spooked, suspense, action, ghosts, finding treasure, chocolates, toys, money, magic, giggling, the hero overcoming the villain, and a first-class plot. His concerns for his reader’s enjoyment have made many fans of all ages. His stories captivate the reader from beginning to end. Even though he died on November 23, 1990, his stories will be treasured for many years to come.

“A little nonsense now and then is  
cherished by the wisest men.”  
—Roald Dahl

---

## The Story

When poor James Henry Trotter loses his parents in a horrible rhinoceros accident, he is forced to live with his two wicked aunts, Aunt Sponge and Aunt Spiker. He becomes "the saddest and loneliest boy you could find." Then one day, a little old man gives James a bag of “green things” that promise to reverse his misery forever. When James accidentally spills the bag on his aunts' withered peach tree, he sets the adventure in motion. From the old tree a single peach grows, and grows, and grows some more, until finally James climbs inside the giant fruit and rolls away from his despicable aunts to a whole new life. Join James along the way as he meets an assortment of hilarious insects and they become his friends.



## Character Match

1. \_\_\_\_\_ James Henry Trotter
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ Aunt Sponge
  3. \_\_\_\_\_ Aunt Spiker
  4. \_\_\_\_\_ Old Green Grasshopper
  5. \_\_\_\_\_ Centipede
  6. \_\_\_\_\_ Ladybug
  7. \_\_\_\_\_ Spider
  8. \_\_\_\_\_ Earthworm
  9. \_\_\_\_\_ Silkworm
  10. \_\_\_\_\_ Glow-worm
- a. is a pest and proud of it.
  - b. is sad, lonely, and just wants some friends.
  - c. thinks she’s as lovely as a rose.
  - d. truly a farmer’s friend in the garden.
  - e. sleeps all day in a corner inside the peach.
  - f. does nothing but good, yet is treated unfairly.
  - g. thinks she’s a firefly.
  - h. Has a pimple on her chin.
  - i. loves to make everything a disaster.
  - j. is like a grandfather to James.

# JAMES And The GIANT PEACH



## Cast

Mother.....Emily Rollie  
Father.....Bradley Schaefer  
Narrator.....Karla Nweje  
Aunt Sponge.....Debby Edlund  
Aunt Spiker.....Erin Stuhlfaut  
James Trotter.....Zak Forde  
Little Old Man.....Marc Drummond  
Old Green Grasshopper.....Eric Anderson  
Centipede.....Harlan Chambers  
Spider.....Erin Harris  
Ladybug.....Susan Rengstorf  
Earthworm.....Emily Rollie  
Glow-worm.....Gina Guion  
Captain.....Marc Gustafson  
First Officer.....Bradley Schaefer  
Second Officer .....Marc Drummond  
Little Girl.....Kristen St. Michel  
Mayor.....Marc Drummond

## Ensemble

Marc Drummond  
Ma-Eyongerie Frambo  
Marc Gustafson  
Lisa Lee  
Eva Mitchell  
Caroline Mitchell  
Kristen St. Michel  
Bradley Schaefer

## Production Staff

**Director** - Virginia L. Anderson  
**Stage Manager/Assistant Director** - Robin Wilcox  
**Assistant Stage Manager** - Lori Oslin  
**Props** - Lori Oslin, Tara Harris  
Sue Mitchell, Jodi Trotta  
**Costumes** - Judy Larsen, Holly Haushalter  
**Lighting** - Dave Reynolds  
**Light Board Operator** - Tony Carlson  
**Sets** - Jon Stierwald  
**Sound** - Jim Schnobrich  
**Graphic Design** - Barb Keith  
**Publicity** - Catherine Grothe, Jack Rose,  
Greg Schultz  
**Program Editor** - Tara Harris  
**Photography** - Lila Taft, Leo Tushaus  
**Producer** - Urban Landreman

*"Produced by special arrangement with  
THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY  
of Woodstock, Illinois"*

---

### Please consider becoming a **Friend of the Lex-Ham Theater**

With support from the foundations and government arts agencies to arts organizations such as the Lex-Ham Community Theater down because of budget shortfalls, your financial support is needed more than ever.

Support the activities of the Lex-Ham Community: quality theatrical productions which also build community, acting classes from beginning thru advanced for children and adults, free informal Shakespeare Reading Series events including a potluck supper. Donations of any amount will be accepted and are tax-deductible. Everyone who chooses to join our membership program at one of the suggested levels will receive mention in our programs.

A **Family membership** (\$50) will give you \$1 discount on up to four tickets for each Lex-Ham production. For contributing at the **Sponsor Level** (\$100), you will also receive a pair of complimentary tickets for the Lex-Ham production of your choice.

**Eric Anderson** (Old Green Grasshopper) This is Eric's first performance with the Lex-Ham Theater, though he has been active in acting throughout high school and college. Graduating from the University of Wisconsin - Madison in mechanical engineering this past spring, he moved to and began working in Oakdale. Other activities include reading, making scale models, and involvement with a local church. Eric hopes to appear in future installments at the Lex-Ham.

**Virginia L. Anderson** (Director) Virginia is thrilled to join Lex-Ham this fall! A Carleton College graduate, Virginia holds an M.A. in drama from Stanford University and an M.A. in performance and culture from Goldsmiths College, University of London. Previous directing credits include *Spring Awakening*, *Celebration*, *The Lover*, *Falsettos*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Kathy and Mo Show*, and numerous workshopped pieces. She has worked in stage management for the 2002 Sondheim Celebration at the Kennedy Center, as well as for various theatres in London, Buffalo NY, and the Twin Cities including Frank Theatre, The Theater Gallery, and Park Square Theatre. Virginia dedicates this production to the memory of Margaret Hayes, a dear friend and former speech and drama teacher at Central High School, whose own productions filled this very stage with the same vitality, creativity, and grace with which she touched so many of our lives.

**Harlan Chambers** (Centipede) Harlan is making his debut performance with the Lex-Ham Community Theater. He is in his first year at the University of Minnesota, where he studies theatre and literature. Past work in children's theatre includes *Winnie the Pooh* (Pooh), *Cinderella*, and *Charlotte's Web* (Wilbur). Other favorite roles include *The Maids* (Ohio University) and *Biloxi Blues* (Monomoy Theatre). Also active in creating solo performance, his latest project is an adaptation of Goethe's *Faust*, going into production this January.

"We've been waiting for you..."  
—Centipede

**Marc Drummond** (Little Old Man, Mayor, 2nd Officer, Ensemble) Marc has been acting in theatre since his Middle School days, so he is greatly enjoying working with the wide variety of ages in *James and the Giant Peach*, which was also one of his favorite books when he was growing up. Marc loves acting in all kinds of shows, from slapstick comedies to Shakespeare, from tragic dramas to light musicals, and from improv to introspective darkly comic Ger-

man classics. Marc graduated from Hastings High School in 1996 and from Albion College in 2000. Since graduating with a degree in English, Marc has had roles in the Mounds View Community Theatre's production of *Crazy for You*, as Eugene Fodor, as well as in Virginia Anderson's 2003 Fringe Festival production of *Spring Awakening*, as dear old Moritz. When he's not acting, Marc works as a Travel Consultant for Preferred Adventures by day and gallivants as a swing dancer by night. As he lives just down the street, Marc hopes to be involved in future Lex-Ham productions as well.

"I look and smell,  
I do declare  
as lovely as a  
rose....."  
—Aunt Sponge

**Debby Edlund** (Aunt Sponge) Debby is thrilled to be joining the Lex-Ham Community Theater for the first time after a 7-year hiatus from acting, giving life to the role of mean Aunt Sponge. A mother of two herself she very much enjoys the ability to vent her occasional parenting frustrations through the arrogance and nastiness of her character. Her previous acting experience includes portraying Cleonice in the play *Lysistrata*, along with other short plays at Gustavus Adolphus College. In addition, she received an award through Southwest High School for her work acting, directing and writing numerous short plays and monologues throughout her junior and senior year. She has been performing in school and community plays, dancing and singing since a young age. She feels privileged to be working with such a talented cast and director and hopes to continue to be involved in Lex-Ham Theater in future productions.

**Zak Forde** (James) Zak is currently employed with a special company where they pay him nothing, to do hours and hours of work and he can't even go on strike (Murray Jr. High). He is in the eighth grade and is almost 14 years old. Zak has been doing shows with the Lex-Ham Community Theater for 3 years now, and some of his most "memorable" roles include the annoying little boy in *Chinamen*, Peter in *Under the Gaslight*, and Charlie in *Bullets and Beauties* among others. He is thrilled to be playing James in this production and has had the time of his life. Zak loves to party, is a newsaholic and also has an unhealthy obsession with politics.

**Ma-Eyongerie Frambo** (Ensemble) Ma-Eyongerie is a teen who truly loves performing. Though she began taking dance classes soon after she was able to walk, her serious training began after she moved

to walk, her serious training began after she moved

from The Big Apple to Atlanta, GA. There she studied with Dance Clayton, Price Performing Arts Center, and with Ballethnic Dance Company. While at PPAC, she toured as part of its Jr. Performance Ensemble. At Ballethnic, Ma-Eyongerie became a member of both the Pre-Professional program and the Ballethnic Youth Ensemble and danced roles in the *Urban Nutcracker* & the *Leopard Tale*. She was a 2003 recipient of the Hank Aaron *Chasing The Dream* Scholarship and was invited to perform as a guest artist with BYE on its Austrian tour in the summer of 2004. Also while in Atlanta, she discovered her love for acting while working with the *Youth in Dilemma* drama group. A proud student at Brooklyn JHS, she studies with Classical Ballet Academy and will perform in *Waltz of the Snowflakes* and *Arabian* in Ballet Minnesota's *Nutcracker*. She has really enjoyed working on "*James*" and would love to do this type of project again. Ms. Frambo also plays the violin, enjoys talking on the phone, having sleepovers with friends, watching television, shopping and horsing around with her parents.

**Gina Guion** (Glow-worm) This is Gina's first show with the Lex-Ham Theater, and she is thrilled to be a part of it. The last play she was in ironically, was *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. She loves children's theatre, and both writing and performing in children's theatre.

**Marc Gustafson** (Captain, Ensemble) Marc is very pleased to be here at the Lex -Ham Theater. He has had various roles at the History Theatre, Youth Performance Co, The Phipps, Theatrix, and Stepping Stone Theatres. Most recently as Dill in *To Kill A Mockingbird* at the History Theatre. Marc's other interests are piano, dance, voice, archery and swimming.

"I'm hungry....  
aren't you hungry?  
—Spider

**Erin Harris** (Spider) Although she's been a favorite around her house for many years, this is Erin's debut performance on stage and she's having a wonderful time. She is an 8th grader at Lake Jr. High in Woodbury and very happy to be a part of this production. Erin has taken acting classes at the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis and with Los Angeles acting coach Sandra K. Horner. In addition to acting, she likes to draw and sing. She would like to thank the Lex-Ham Theater production staff for making this a memorable experience and hopes to work with them again in the future.

**Lisa Lee** (Ensemble) Lisa is thrilled to be cast in a play for the first time in her adult life, previously she acted in 2 plays grade school. She thinks it's fascinating to see the process of putting a dramatic production together. Lisa has participated in Twin Cities theater in the past as an audience member and an usher. She's also played in pit orchestras for community theatre musicals. The most recent ones are *1940's Radio Hour* (Lakeshore Players), *The Sound of Music* (Playhouse 15), *Grease* (Hillcrest Community Theater), *Redhead* (Rosetown Playhouse), and *Quilters* (Lex-Ham Theater).

**Caroline Mitchell** (Ensemble) Caroline is proud to make her Lex-Ham Community Theater debut as a member of the ensemble in *James and the Giant Peach*. She is currently a 7th grader at Friends School of Minnesota and lives in the Summit Hill neighborhood of St. Paul with her mom, brother, sister and three cats. Caroline is in the Theater Arts Training Program at Childrens Theatre Co. and is an avid Irish tin whistle player.

**Eva Mitchell** (Ensemble) Eva is a 4<sup>th</sup> grader at Lake Harriet Community School in Minneapolis. She loves to write, and she plays piano, soccer and basketball. Eva has three older brothers, so there is always comedy and drama at home. This is her first theatre experience. She is cousins with fellow ensemble member, Caroline Mitchell.

**Karla Nweje** (Narrator) Karla first fell in love with acting as a teen. However, she actually began her stage career in her native New York City as a dancer. While there, she earned her BFA in Dance Performance from the Conservatory of Music of Brooklyn College-CUNY and studied with Dance June Lewis and Company and on scholarship with Mary Anthony Dance Theatre. Karla has performed with DanzAhora, Inc and The Brooklyn Dance Theater and with choreographers Ronald K. Brown/Evidence, Daniel Maloney, and Djoniba Mouflet. After moving to Atlanta, GA, she utilized her skills as an instructor in numerous studios, outreach programs, public and private schools, and enrichment institutions. Karla performed and taught for several years with Ballethnic Dance Company and also served as a rehearsal director for its full-length ballets. She also choreographed two musicals. To stay connected with acting, Ms. Nweje trained briefly with the *Youth in Dilemma* drama group and the Alliance Theater in Atlanta. She also performed in a handful of film, stage, and industrial theater projects. "*James*" is Karla's first play since moving to the Twin Cities area. She is thrilled to be learning and performing with the Lex-Ham Community Theater and would love to be a part of future projects.

**Lori Oslin** (Assistant Stage Manager) Lori is delighted to join the staff as Assistant Stage Manager. This is her first experience behind the scenes of a theatre production, although she has spent a great deal of time (probably far too much!) in the various audiences at various theatres! Lori is having a grand time collecting props, creating puppets, and working with the actors and stage hands.

**Susan Rengstorf** (Ladybug) Susan is still not sure what her sixteen year old niece meant when she wrote, "I can so totally see you as the Lady Bug in *James and the Giant Peach*", but she is truly enjoying the opportunity. This is her second play with Lex-Ham Theater, having played the role of Mis' Abel in the 2001 production of *Neighbors*. Susan has been acting, singing, and dancing on local stages for eighteen years, and also acts in movies, on TV, and in commercials from time to time.

"How can I see....  
when I am blind?"  
—Earthworm

**Emily Rollie** (Mother, Earthworm) A newcomer to the Lex-Ham Theater Stage, Emily is returning to the stage as an actor for the first time in several years. Originally from Ely, MN, Emily was very active in theatre and speech throughout high school.

She continued to pursue these dramatic interests while attending St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN, where she majored in English and secondary education. Emily currently lives in St. Paul and teaches theatre, communication, and English at Jordan High School in Jordan, MN, located on the southwest corner of the Metro area. She is also pursuing her Master's degree in theatre Education-Production at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, WA. Although she has been off-stage for several years, she has served as director and assistant director for the Jordan School plays. Some of Emily's most memorable roles have been Miss Hannigan (*Annie*), Lady Larken (*Once Upon a Mattress*), Hamlet (*the 15 Minute Hamlet*), and Kim McAfee (*Bye Bye Birdie*). She has thoroughly enjoyed working with the lively cast and crew on "*James*" and looks forward to returning to the stage with Lex-Ham again in the very near future.



**Kristen St. Michel** (Little Girl, Ensemble) Kristen is 10 years old and attends IHM-St. Luke's School in St. Paul. Kristen loves to perform and shares a love of comedy with her father. Although this is her first performance in the theatre, she has taken classes with the Stage Coach Theater Company. She enjoys art and a variety of sports. When she is not organizing an "after school performance" for herself and friends, she can usually be found creating pictures with an abundance of art supplies surrounding her.

**Bradley Schaefer** (Father, 1st Officer, Ensemble) Bradley decided to follow his dreams to be an actor. His first role for Lex-Ham was that of a Greek soldier in *The Trojan Women* this past spring. He is now pleased to be with the cast and crew in *James and the Giant Peach*. He is a recent graduate of the Brave New Institute School of Improvisation, where his show, *Reservoir Dads* was a success; and he is currently studying theatre at the University of Minnesota.

"Please ignore ....  
the pimple on my chin."  
— Aunt Spiker

**Erin Stuhlfaut**  
(Aunt Spiker)

Erin is so pleased to be returning to the Lex-Ham after

performing in *The Trojan Women* last spring. She received her BA in theatre Arts from Augsburg college and has had roles in such shows as *Oh, Dad, Poor, Dad...* at the 2002 MN Fringe Festival, *The Importance of Being Ernest* at Applause Community Theatre, *Alice in Wonderland* at Lakeshore Players, and most recently *The Music Man* at Heritage Theatre Company.

**Jodi Trotta** (Props) most recently served as the Assistant Stage Manager for "*On the Beaded Fringe: Explorations in Undulation*" at the Minnesota Fringe Festival. She has worked on productions for University Theatre, Crisis Point, the Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company and Handsaw Theatricals.

**Robin Wilcox** (Assistant Director/Stage Manager) Robin received a BA in Theatre Arts from California State University, Los Angeles. She has worked in all areas of theatre from acting, directing, and playwrighting to set building and design. As an assistant director/stage manager, she has worked on such shows as *Talking to Gertrude*, *The Song of Rice*, *Good Home Cookin'*, and the musicals *Falsettos* and *Baby*. This is her first time working with Lex-Ham and the first show she has worked on in the Twin Cities. She looks forward to contributing in future Lex-Ham productions.

Thanks to all the supporters of the Lex-Ham Community Theater. These include the following contributors to the 2003 fund drive:

**Sponsors  
(\$100 or more)**

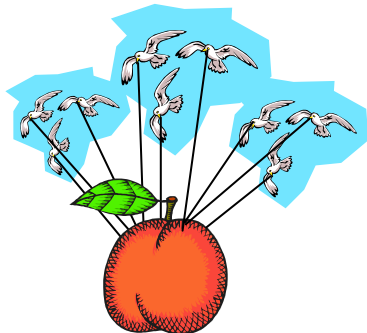
Karl & Mary Lou Grahek  
Eileen Forrester & Ken Peterson  
Jack and Judy Schlukebier  
Urban Landreman

**Family Members  
(\$50 to \$99)**

Karen Amidon & William Grenke  
Patricia Amidon  
Michael Arfsten  
Patricia Eaves & Stuart Alger  
Ann-Marie Fox & Andrew Faltesek  
Bob and Julie King  
Mark and Darlene Levenson  
Marie Michel  
Cris Tibbetts and John Pikala  
Richard Todd and Pat Haswell

**Individual Members  
(up to \$49)**

Mari Lyn Ampe  
Linda Sue Anderson  
Pat Armstrong & Paul Sherburne  
Bonnie Beverly  
Jack Bradley  
Christine DeZelar-Tiedman  
Ken and Barbara Ford  
Suzanne Gaines  
Holly Lindsay & Michael Levine  
Dr. Francis and Louise Mayer  
Meg Moynihan  
Gene and Nancy Recibe  
Alexis Reller  
Shirley Retter  
Pam Scott  
Jessica Smith  
Minerva Takis  
Jane Zilch



**Special thanks go to**

- Central High School
- Concordia University - St Paul
- Immaculate Heart of Mary Church
- Pam Weiss &  
the St. Paul Community Education staff
- St Paul Central's Drama Club who will  
perform West Side Story Dec. 5-7
- Carolann Winter, the College of St. Catherine
- Red Balloon Bookstore
- Gopher Stage Lighting



**Lex-Ham Community  
Theater**

**Shakespeare  
Reading Series**

Join neighbors and friends for an  
informal reading of:

*Taming of the Shrew*

Friday, January 9, 2004  
1184 Portland Avenue, Saint Paul

6:30 p.m. – potluck supper  
7:00 p.m. – sit down and read the play

Parts are reassigned at the start of each scene,  
so everyone gets lots of opportunities to read.

(Please bring your own copy of the play)



# Lex-Ham Community Theater

Since its start in 1995, the Lex-Ham Community Theater has striven to achieve its mission of producing quality theatrical experiences by and for the residents of the Lexington-Hamline and surrounding neighborhoods in St. Paul. The company has enhanced the local theatrical scene by

- Selecting lesser-known works by noted playwrights, such as *Soul Gone Home* by Langston Hughes and *The Vegetable* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- Giving the regional and world premieres of works by local authors, such as *Bullets and Beauties* by Urban Landreman
- Reviving wonderful classics such as *The Philadelphia Story* by Philip Barry and *Under the Gaslight* by Augustin Daly.

All of its shows have provided people with little previous experience an opportunity to be on-stage or work off-stage side by side with those who have more experience.

Finally, the company strives to help build community by involving people across generations and walks of life with each of its productions.

The theater is further involved with the community by offering acting classes through St. Paul Community Education and holding free informal Shakespeare Reading Series events. Call (651) 644-3366 to get involved.

Check out the theater's website at:

[www.LexHamArts.org/theater](http://www.LexHamArts.org/theater)

---

## 2004 Season Upcoming Shows



**MARCH**  
*Tally and Son*  
by Lanford Wilson

**JULY**  
*The Solid Gold Cadillac*  
by Howard Teichmann & George Kaufman

**NOVEMBER**  
*Working*  
based on the book of Studs Turkle

## Acting Classes

The Lex-Ham Community Theater offers acting classes year round through St. Paul Community Education. The next session will start in January 2004 with the following classes and instructors:

- **Intro to Acting for Students aged 10 to 12,**  
Lisa LeGrand
- **Advanced Acting for Students aged 10 to 14,**  
Lisa LeGrand
- **Beginning Acting for Adults,**  
John Townsend
- **Contemporary British Scene Study,**  
John Townsend
- **Modern Classic Scene Study,**  
John Townsend
- **Audition Skills,**  
Kurt Hunsicker

To register for children's classes, call 651-325-2672

To register for adult classes, call 651-293-8811