



Want to take your passion for theatre to the next level?

Dream Arts Company is now accepting applications for our **2026-2027 Resident Theatre Ensemble**, a school-year-long, performance-based acting program for dedicated young artists.

GRADES 5-9	SEASON Sept. 2026 - Apr. 2027	MEETS Mondays
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About the Program

From **September 2026 through April 2027**, students entering **grades 5-9** will engage in hands-on learning with professional theatre artists, explore the art of performance and creative writing, and collaborate on dynamic, ensemble-driven projects.

Led by acclaimed teaching artist and performer **Amelia Hefferon**, this program goes far beyond a traditional acting class. The Resident Ensemble gives young actors a space to take bold artistic risks, strengthen their performance skills, develop their individual artistic voices, and collaborate with other students who share their passion for theatre.

The program culminates in a **final performance in April 2027**.

Schedule & Commitment

Classes are held on **Mondays in Downtown Birmingham**.

SESSION 1	SESSION 2
September 14 - November 16, 2026 10 sessions 90 minutes each Starting at 5:30 p.m.	January 4 - April 26, 2027 14 regular sessions 120 minutes each Starting at 5:30 p.m. Plus additional tech rehearsals leading up to the final performance

Dream Arts Company generally follows the Birmingham Public Schools calendar when scheduling school breaks. There will be **no Resident Ensemble class** on:

- January 18, 2027 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- February 15, 2027 - BPS Mid-Winter Break
- March 29, 2027 - BPS Spring Break

Additional tech rehearsal dates and final performance details will be provided to enrolled families.

Location: Downtown Birmingham. Exact location will be shared upon acceptance.

All participants commit to the **full 2026-2027 season**. The Resident Ensemble is a full-year program and is not offered as a single-semester enrollment.

Tuition & Enrollment

\$850 Full season	2 x \$425 Semester payments	47-49 hrs. Approx. instruction & rehearsal
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Tuition includes approximately **47-49 hours of instruction, rehearsal and performance preparation**, classroom materials, rehearsal space, and participation in the final performance.

That breaks down to approximately **\$17-\$18 per instructional hour** for a full season of advanced theatre training, ensemble work, rehearsal, and performance experience.

Payment plans and limited financial aid are available.

Tuition Notes & Additional Costs

Tuition covers instructional hours, rehearsal space, basic classroom materials, and participation in the final performance.

Tuition does not include:

- Travel or participation costs associated with optional field trips
- Tickets to live theatre performances or special group outings
- Dream Arts Company merchandise, such as T-shirts, hoodies, or water bottles
- Costumes or supplies beyond standard classroom materials
- Performance tickets for family and friends attending the final performance or other public events

Any additional experiences, outings, or purchases will be optional and communicated clearly to families in advance.

What Your Child Will Gain

Resident Ensemble members will experience:

- Advanced acting instruction and ensemble-based learning
- Original performance opportunities
- Creative writing and storytelling development
- Opportunities to strengthen confidence, collaboration, and creative problem-solving
- Experience working as part of a committed theatrical ensemble
- The chance to collaborate with students who share a genuine passion for theatre
- A welcoming, supportive, and rigorous space to grow as both an artist and a person

VIRTUAL AUDITIONS ARE HAPPENING NOW!

Meet the Director

About Amelia Hefferon

Amelia Hefferon is a theatre artist and educator committed to using theatre as a tool for education, social justice, and collective creativity.

Amelia has worked with notable organizations including:

- Lookingglass Theatre Company
- Steppenwolf Theatre Company
- Adventure Stage Chicago
- Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit
- Matrix Theatre Company
- The Story Pirates
- And more

She holds a **BA in Theatre from Northwestern University** and an **MA in Applied Theatre from the City University of New York**.

Amelia joined Dream Arts Company in 2022 and is proud to return to lead the Resident Theatre Ensemble for the 2026-2027 season.

How to Apply

Virtual auditions are happening now! Students entering **grades 5-9** are eligible to apply.

After submitting the required application materials, applicants will be contacted to schedule a live Zoom audition.

Essay Requirement

As part of the application process, all students must submit a **one-page essay** answering the following question:

Why would you like to participate in this season's Dream Arts Resident Ensemble?

Essays should be written by the student, not a parent. We are looking for honest, thoughtful responses that help us get to know each applicant as an artist and potential ensemble member.

What to Prepare for Your Audition

All auditions will take place **live via Zoom**. After submitting the application and essay, applicants will be contacted to schedule an audition date and time.

A Memorized Monologue | 1-2 minutes

Please prepare a short, memorized monologue from a published play.

Choose something that reflects your personality, interests, or emotional range.

Please do not use original writing or poetry for your audition monologue.

A Brief Personal Introduction | 30-60 seconds

At the beginning of your audition, you'll be asked to introduce yourself.

Be ready to share your name, grade, and a little about what you enjoy about acting, theatre, or being part of a performance.

There is no right or wrong answer. This is simply an opportunity for us to get to know you!

Optional Creative Bonus

If you'd like, you may share something creative at the end of your audition. This might include:

- A favorite line from a book or show
- A few lines of something you've written
- A character voice or impression
- Another brief creative choice that shows us a little more about you

This portion is completely optional, but we'd love to see your creative spark if you're up for it!

Audition Day

Zoom Audition Tips

- Find a quiet, well-lit space where you can stand and move comfortably.
- Make sure your device is charged and your camera and microphone are working.
- Wear clothing that allows you to move and perform comfortably.
- **Most importantly, be yourself.**

We're looking for **passion, creativity, commitment, and an openness to learning**, not perfection.

READY TO AUDITION?

Send an audition request via email

Subject line: **RES ENSEMBLE AUDITION**

dacodetroit@hotmail.com

Questions? Contact TEAM DACO at the same email address.

Dream Arts Company

Where artists are encouraged to create boldly, collaborate fully, and grow through the art of theatre.