



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

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

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## **About the Program**

From September 2025 through May 2026, students entering grades 5–8 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 traditional acting classes. It's a space for young actors to take bold artistic risks, deepen their skills, and work in a supportive, high-level environment.

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## **Schedule & Commitment**

- Classes are held on Mondays.
  - Session 1: September 15 – Late November 2025 (12 sessions, 95 minutes each)
  - Session 2: Late February – Mid-May 2026 (12 sessions, 120 minutes each)



Dream Arts Company Resident Theatre Ensemble (2025–2026 Season)

- Location: Downtown Birmingham (exact location shared upon acceptance)
  - **All participants commit to the full year. This is not a single-semester program.**
  - **Virtual auditions are happening now!**
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## **Tuition & Enrollment**

- Tuition: \$800/year (split into \$400 per semester)
- Includes: 43 hours of instruction, classroom materials, rehearsal space, and final showcase
- Payment plans and limited financial aid are available.

**That breaks down to just \$33 per week or \$18 per hour.**

## **Tuition Notes & Additional Costs**

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

**Please note:**

**Tuition does not include any of the following:**

- **Travel or participation costs for optional field trips, including the planned New York City performing arts trip**



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- **Tickets to see live theatre performances or special group outings**
- **Dream Arts merchandise (e.g., T-shirts, hoodies, or water bottles)**
- **Costumes or supplies beyond standard classroom materials**
- **Performance tickets for family and friends attending the final showcase or any public events**

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

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### **What Your Child Will Gain**

- Advanced acting instruction and ensemble-based learning
- Original performance opportunities
- Creative writing and storytelling development
- A chance to collaborate with students who share a passion for theatre
- A welcoming and rigorous space to grow as an artist and person



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**Plus, all ensemble members will be eligible for an invitation to a Dream Arts performing arts trip to New York City in 2026 (dates to be announced).**

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## About the Director

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 (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 in 2022 and is proud to lead this program again.

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## How to Apply



Dream Arts Company Resident Theatre Ensemble (2025–2026 Season)

- **Auditions are virtual and happening now!**
- Students entering grades 5–8 are eligible to apply

**Essay Requirement**—As part of the application process, all students must submit a one-page essay answering the 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’re looking for honest, thoughtful responses that help us get to know each applicant as an artist and an ensemble member.

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## What to Prepare for the Audition

All auditions will take place live over Zoom. After you submit your application and essay, you’ll be contacted to schedule your audition date and time.

Here’s what to prepare:

1. A Memorized Monologue (1–2 minutes):
  - Please prepare a short, memorized monologue from a published play..
  - Choose something that reflects your personality or emotional range.



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- No original writing or poetry for the monologue, please.

## 2. A Brief Personal Introduction (30–60 seconds):

- At the start of your audition, you'll be asked to introduce yourself.
- Be ready to share your name, grade, and a few things you love about acting or being part of a performance.
- This is just a chance for us to get to know you — there's no right or wrong answer!

## 3. Optional – Creative Bonus:

- If you'd like, you may also share something creative at the end of your audition — a favorite line from a book or show, a few lines of something you've written, or even a character voice or impression you enjoy.
- Optional, but we'd love to see your creative spark if you're up for it!

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### **Zoom Audition Tips:**

- Find a quiet, well-lit space where you can stand and move a bit if needed.



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- Make sure your device is charged and your camera and microphone are working.
- Wear clothes you feel comfortable moving and performing in.
- Most importantly, just be yourself. We're looking for passion, creativity, and an openness to learning, not perfection.
- Fill out the audition registration form, visit [DACompany.org](https://DACompany.org)
- Or contact TEAM DACO: [dacodetroit@hotmail.com](mailto:dacodetroit@hotmail.com)