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## Local News

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## Festival Players offering special opportunities for youth

Posted By Jack Evans — Special to The Trentonian

Posted 2 months ago

This year's Festival Players of Prince Edward County summer season offers two special opportunities for Quinte area youth, reports Sarah Phillips, artistic director.

While summer seems a long way off, deadlines for applying for the two programs are coming up by the end of this month.

Jan. 30 is the deadline for interested young people from across the area to apply for auditions for youth roles in the summer productions. Young people aged 10 and up are needed for parts in a show called "Schoolhouse," by Leanna Brodie.

"This is an exciting opportunity for area youths to perform alongside high-calibre theatre professionals," commented Phillips. "There are eight roles available."

Those interested should send photographs of themselves with their name, age, contact information and a bit about their backgrounds to: [info@festivalplayers.ca](mailto:info@festivalplayers.ca) or call (613) 399-5677.

The play is set in a one-room schoolhouse in rural Ontario. It is about a young schoolteacher just out of college and the challenges she finds among her charges.

Phillips noted that Jennifer Brewin, who directed last year's successful "Goodnight Desdemona; Good Morning Juliet," will head up the show and she has experience in working with young actors in British Columbia.

"These kids are going to have the time of their lives," predicted Phillips, who noted that auditions will start in early February with rehearsals beginning in June during non-school hours, with the show set to run in Macaulay House, Picton July 23-Aug. 8.

She also welcomes queries for further information or assistance from applicants or their parents at the phone number listed above.

Meanwhile, Jan. 31 is the deadline for a second youth-oriented program the festival offers. This is the 2009 Youth Mentorship Program. From February through the end of the festival, area young people aged 14-19 can be a type of apprentice, learning all aspects of theatre, mentored by professionals working with the summer season.

The work will include acting lessons, design, stage technical aspects, costumes, lighting, sound and more. There will be coaching on voice skills, dialects and auditions. Each successful applicant will be paired up with a professional Festival Players company member who will mentor them throughout the season.

They will also be invited to audition for the "Schoolhouse" production and otherwise to work in production roles for all three plays during the season.

Part of the season will involve the Mentorship students to create and perform their own play.

Applications can be made by email to: [sarah@festivalplayers.ca](mailto:sarah@festivalplayers.ca) or telephone (613) 399-5677.

"This program is limited to 10 participants, so don't delay," Phillips suggested.

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