



"Oriole Corner"

*This week's Oriole Corner has been written by guest columnist
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Charlotte Performing Arts Center continues its popular Arts for Youth Onstage Experience program

Experiencing live theatre (as an audience member or performer) can create special, lasting memories for people of all ages. With this in mind, the Charlotte Performing Arts Center is excited to continue its Arts for Youth Onstage Experience program for the 2017-2018 School Year. The program began in 2014, and since then nearly 150 kids have participated in one of the productions!

The Onstage Experience was created as an extension of the Arts for Youth program, which brings live professional children's theatre to the performing arts center for daytime performances. This year's Onstage Experience production, *The Grunch*, features nearly fifty (50) youth in grades 4 – 8 at the Charlotte Upper Elementary and Middle School. Nineteen (19) cast members are new to the Onstage Experience. Cast members learn valuable life skills as part of the program: self-confidence, freedom of expression, and teamwork are just a few. They learn from day one that every role is important to the show no matter the size, and that it takes a huge commitment from them (and often their families) to pull off a successful production. The goal is improvement and not perfection. We want them to do their best, show respect to their directors and fellow cast members, and most of all, have fun.

The Onstage Experience program also gives valuable leadership and mentoring experience to Charlotte High School students that assist with the productions. They often have an opportunity to work one on one with students developing their theatrical skills. On occasion, they are asked to take on more responsibility in the form of choreography or directing specific scenes. Their participation in the program is vital to its success.

This year's production of *The Grunch* is loosely based on the story "How the Grinch Stole Christmas". It follows a group of students writing and performing a musical at their school. The title character, Rudy Grunch, doesn't like musicals and sets out to ruin everything for the kids involved. In the end, he has a change of heart much like the title character in the story of the Grinch.

Performances of *The Grunch* are February 2 & 3 at 7:00 pm. For more information, contact the CPAC Box Office at 517-541-5690 or visit our website at www.charlotteperformingartscenter.com.