

Dear Parents and Carers,

JUNIOR THEATRE FESTIVAL, BIRMINGHAM RESIDENTIAL 22nd-23rd MAY 2026

I hope you are keeping well! I am so excited to confirm that we will be returning to the Junior Theatre Festival next May 2026 taking place at the ICC, Birmingham! The Junior Theatre Festival brings together schools and youth groups from across the UK and Europe for a day of musical theatre joy. And South Side will be attending, having successfully attended for the last 4 years, with one student describing it as the best thing they had ever done! We return in 2026 looking to make it a fourth year of winning an award!

This opportunity is open for all members in year 5 upwards. Throughout the festival you will take part in workshops with West End stars, take to the stage to perform, watch live performances, attend an awards ceremony and so much more!

This is an overnight trip, and we will leave via coach on Friday 22nd May 2026 at 5pm from our studios. From there we will travel to Birmingham, where we will be staying at the ibis Styles hotel, which we stayed at the last 4 years, before attending the Junior Theatre Festival at 8am on Saturday 23rd May 2026. And finally returning home after the festival, leaving Birmingham at approximately 7pm.

Please see below the key details of how your son/daughter can join us on this amazing trip!

What is the Cost?

The cost per person is £220. Sadly, this is a slight cost increase due to coach prices, the hotels and JTF registration fee going up, please do let us know if this price is too high and we will see what we can do. This includes all 3 meals on the Saturday, access to everything at the festival, a Junior Theatre Festival t-shirt, the hotel, and coach travel.

The fee can be paid in 4 monthly instalments if you wish of £56 to help spread the cost. The first payment will be taken when your place is confirmed, and then the 3 following payments will be taken by direct debit for the following 3 months. If you require a different payment plan or would like to discuss the finances, please let us know!

Rehearsals

As part of the festival, we will be performing a section from a Broadway Junior show. There will be a few rehearsals for this prior to the festival. There will be one during the Easter holidays and then on the 5 Wednesdays between the Easter break and the trip, so a real commitment. These exact dates can be found on the application form. All attendees must be able to make a minimum of 5 of the confirmed rehearsal dates, or they won't be able to perform. (Please note there are two Easter dates on the form, we have put both to work out which date most people can make, but there will only be one of the two)

How to confirm your place?

Please visit www.southsidetheatre.com/jtf and complete the form, no later than Wednesday 8th October 2025. Spaces have sold out the last 3 years, and we have over 70 students pre-registered this year, so if you would like to join us, we recommend signing up ASAP! We will email you to confirm your space following Friday 3rd if successful. Places will be offered based on several factors including first come first serve, rehearsal availability, age group/rooming requirements and date of which you can attend. Once confirmed payment will be taken via GoCardless.

If you have any questions, please do get in touch at info@southsidetheatre.com or speak to us after class.

Kind regards,

Toby Ward-Smith
Artistic Director