

# WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE

MARK LAMOS, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR | MICHAEL BARKER, MANAGING DIRECTOR

## NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release: April 26, 2022

## Registration Open for Westport Country Playhouse's Summer Theater Camp for Middle School Students

### CampWCP for playwriting and performing runs for four weeks, June 27 – July 23

Registration is now open for Westport Country Playhouse's CampWCP, a four-week theater camp for middle school students (6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade), from June 27 through July 23, Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., on the Playhouse campus. Now in its second year, CampWCP is licensed by the CT Office of Early Childhood (OEC).

"CampWCP is a summer theater intensive experience for kids who love putting on a show and inspiring others," said the Playhouse's Roz and Bud Siegel director of education Jenny Nelson, who oversees CampWCP. "No theater experience is required. CampWCP is for kids who either know they love theater, are curious about theater and the power of storytelling, or want to learn through theater how to have their voices heard. CampWCP offers four weeks with a focus, a goal, and the chance to meet artists and community leaders."

Nelson added, "We hope that CampWCP empowers young artists to activate their creative voice — so that they can ignite social change for their community and beyond."

CampWCP participants will explore the art of playwriting and devise their own play. Guided by a professional Theater for Young Audiences playwright, the young artists will collectively create stories together and perform their original play at the Playhouse for an invited audience of family and friends on Saturday, July 23. Upon graduation, campers will receive a bound copy of their theater piece.

Campers will also learn acting techniques from Nelson and how to be a student activist from local community activists. They will also have the opportunity to participate in workshops with Playhouse staff and invited guests. Past workshops have covered movement and language, character building, and theatrical poster design.

Jenny Nelson hails from Arizona where she received her bachelor's degree in theater and master's degree in theater from the University of Arizona. She earned a second master's degree in education from Fairfield University. She is the associate artistic director of Collective Consciousness Theatre, a social justice theater in New Haven. She has taught at universities, including City College of New York in the graduate program for theater professionals and educators. She has also worked as an artist and educator at theaters, including Long Wharf Theatre, Shubert Theatre, and Yale Repertory Theatre. Nelson was a nominee for the Tony Teaching Award of Excellence.

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### WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE

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[westportplayhouse.org](http://westportplayhouse.org)

Fee for the four-week summer camp is \$900. To ensure that all young artists have equal access, scholarships and payment plans are available. To register, visit:

<https://campscui.active.com/orgs/WestportCountryPlayhouse?orglink=camps-registration>

All campers are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and provide proof of vaccination prior to the start of camp. Physical distancing measures, health protocols, and masking may be required based on current CT Office of Early Childhood (OEC) and local guidelines.

Support for the 2022 Education and Community Engagement Program comes from the Eunice and David Bigelow Foundation; Stephen Corman; Anna Czekaj-Farber; The David and Geri Epstein Foundation; George A. and Grace L. Long Foundation; Judy and Scott Phares; Adolph and Ruth Schnurmacher Foundation, Inc.; and Roz and Bud Siegel.

CampWCP is sponsored by Aquarion Water Company; special thanks to Linda Rost for 2022 scholarship support.

For more information about CampWCP, contact: [education@westportplayhouse.org](mailto:education@westportplayhouse.org)

For Westport Country Playhouse tickets and information, visit [westportplayhouse.org](http://westportplayhouse.org), call (203) 227-4177, or email at [boxoffice@westportplayhouse.org](mailto:boxoffice@westportplayhouse.org). Stay connected to the Playhouse on Facebook (Westport Country Playhouse), follow on Twitter (@WCPlayhouse), and on YouTube (WestportPlayhouse).

#### **ABOUT WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE**

The mission of Westport Country Playhouse is to enrich, enlighten, and engage the community through the power of professionally produced *theater worth talking about* and the welcoming experience of the Playhouse campus. The not-for-profit Playhouse provides this experience in multiple ways by offering live theater experiences of the highest quality, under the artistic direction of Mark Lamos; educational and community engagement events to further explore the work on stage; the New Works Initiative, a program dedicated to the discovery, development, and production of new live theatrical works; special performances and programs for students and teachers with extensive curriculum support material; Script in Hand play readings to deepen relationships with audiences and artists; the renowned Woodward Internship Program during the summer months for aspiring theater professionals; Family Festivities presentations to delight young and old alike and to promote reading through live theater; and the beautiful and historic Playhouse campus open for enjoyment and community events year-round. Charity Navigator has recently awarded its top 4-star charity rating to the Playhouse in recognition of its strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency.

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