

What is the TNT Youth Conference?

The TNT Youth Conference is a four-day event, generally at the beginning to middle of June, celebrating young people's involvement in the performing arts. The location changes each year, based on the availability of a local theatre host. Individual students and adults, members of Youth Companies with their adult directors and chaperones - all are welcome to attend. Attendance numbers in the past few years have ranged from 275 to over 400. The official kickoff is on Thursday afternoon (rehearsals for performing companies begin on Wednesday) with performances in the evening. On Friday and Saturday mornings, students rotate among a series of workshops designed specifically for them. In the afternoons and evenings, there are more performances. On Sunday morning, there is an Awards Brunch, recognizing all of the performing companies and announcing the All Star Cast and Spirit Awards. Registration for the Youth Conference is open to anyone (you do not have to be a company member to register) and includes all workshops, social events, performances and the Sunday Brunch.



Kaleidoscope Company from Permian Playhouse, Odessa in *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*



Improv Workshop with B. J. Cleveland

Workshops: Young people from all across Texas who are interested in the performing arts - particularly theatre - come together to attend workshops ranging from Improvisation to Hip Hop, Stage Makeup to Audition Techniques. The students are broken up into similar age groups, then rotate among 6 workshops, each of which lasts about 1 hour. Workshops are taught by professional theatre artists.

Performances: Each year, up to fifteen companies apply to perform at the Youth Conference, bringing their own show to be performed for the other conferees and the general public, with tickets available for purchase at the box office before each show. Each of the shows receives feedback from a qualified Commentator, adding to the educational value of the showcases. Previous productions have included *Seussical, Jr.*, *Broadway!*, *Step on a Crack*, *Drag On!*, *In Sam's Head* . . . it runs the gamut from published plays and musicals to original works authored by the company members.



Pied Piper Players of Denton Community Theatre in *Little RED*

Each year, the host company provides social events to encourage networking and camaraderie among the young people in attendance. A pizza party, an ice cream social, a black-light dance, a karaoke night - whatever the hosts can imagine!

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E.N.C.O.R.E. from Fort Bend Theatre, Sugar Land, perform in *Gooney Bird Greene and Her True Life Adventures*

Application / Registration: The application form to perform (\$75 fee) will be available on the TNT Website on February 1, 2009. Conference Registration (\$60) forms will be available in the spring of 2009. For additional information contact TNT at **817-731-2238**.