

 THEATRE
HORIZON

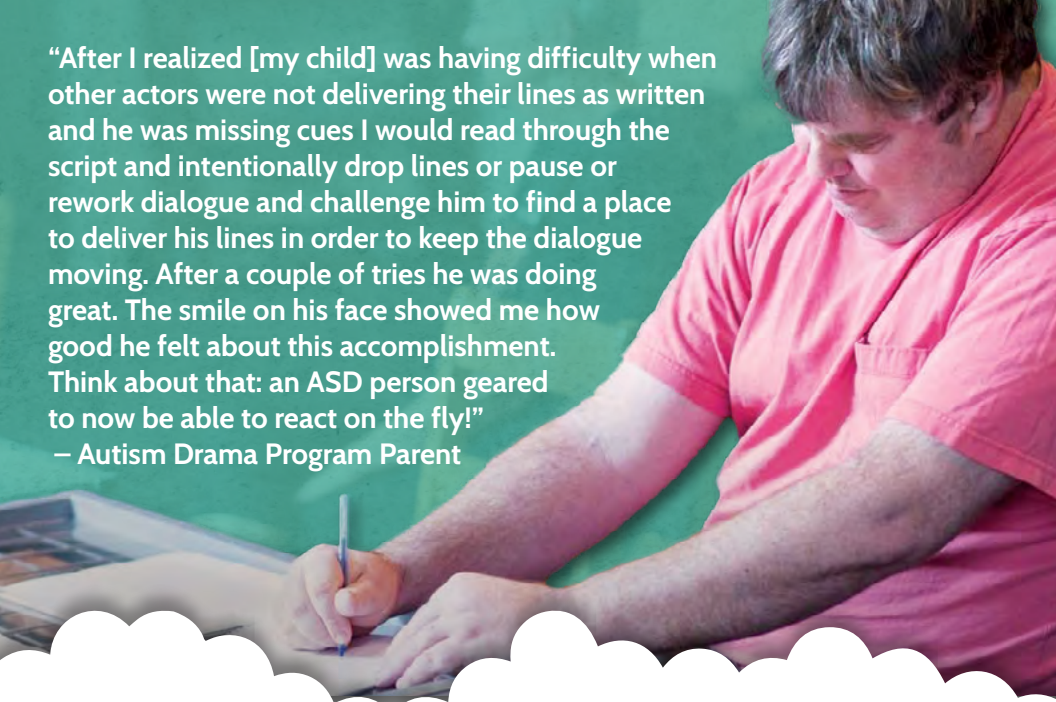
AUTISM DRAMA PROGRAM



**Classes for Children & Adults
on the Autism Spectrum**

"After I realized [my child] was having difficulty when other actors were not delivering their lines as written and he was missing cues I would read through the script and intentionally drop lines or pause or rework dialogue and challenge him to find a place to deliver his lines in order to keep the dialogue moving. After a couple of tries he was doing great. The smile on his face showed me how good he felt about this accomplishment. Think about that: an ASD person geared to now be able to react on the fly!"

– Autism Drama Program Parent



ABOUT AUTISM DRAMA PROGRAM

Since 2005, Theatre Horizon's Autism Drama Program (ADP) continues to inspire imagination, communication, and interest in personal relationships for individuals on the autism spectrum.

Our classes help students develop social skills, verbal expression, empathy for others, and a sense of self-worth and accomplishment. Class size is limited to provide a small student to teacher ratio; parents, aides, and caregivers are also welcomed to attend to support. We serve our students through virtual and in-person programs so that students may participate based on their needs.

Thanks to funding from individual donors and foundations, Theatre Horizon can make these programs accessible to all families regardless of household income by offering sliding scale tuition. In the name of equity, we ask that families pay what they feel they can afford.



Above: A student writes a play as part of *Storytelling & The Art of Playwriting*.

Left: 6 ADP students performed in *TOWN* (a professional theatre production in Theatre Horizon's 2022/23 Season).
Photo by John C. Hawthorne

OUR CLASSES

Youth Drama (ages 10 to 17+)

Through improv games and creative play, students learn flexible thinking and valuable social skills in an environment that celebrates their unique talents.

Storytelling & The Art of Playwriting (ages 17 to 30+)

This class introduces participants to the fundamentals of storytelling, helping writers and actors develop the skills necessary to communicate their ideas effectively. Class focuses on story structuring, building suspense, conveying emotion, and using voice and body to add layers to the audience's experience.

Through improv games and writing exercises, participants learn to create strong characters, rich dialogue, and engaging storylines. Class culminates in a showcase of participants' work.

Acting 101 (ages 10+) ADDED BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Participants learn the fundamentals of Acting as they develop the skills necessary to communicate their character's intentions, thoughts, and feelings. Through improv, theatre games, and acting exercises, participants learn to create strong characters, engage in rich dialogue, and the basics of performing for an audience. The class culminates in a final showcase where participants will have the opportunity to be cast and perform in a showcase of original works written by the Playwriting Class.



Students and Teaching Artists during a visit from Philadelphia playwright Bruce Graham.

BY THE NUMBERS

- 3 Sessions of Classes Annually (Fall, Spring, and Summer)
- 6 Weeks of Classes Per Session
- 6 Autism Drama Program students performed in *TOWN* (a professional theatre production at Theatre Horizon)
- 61 students—including 7 from out-of-state—served by 22 Teaching Artists (2021/22 School Year)
- 100% of post-session survey respondents saying that they “agree” or “strongly agree” that as a result of our classes, the student was able to:
 - work more cooperatively with others;
 - more readily accept others’ differences and mistakes;
 - have more confidence in making friends;
 - express a sense of accomplishment; and
 - express a desire to continue exploring theatre arts

Below: Artistic Director Nell Bang-Jensen and Director of Community Investment Mydera Taliah Robinson on *The Kelly Clarkson Show*!



“Teaching a kid the skill of how to communicate how they feel on the inside is so invaluable...[Autism Drama Program] is such an incredible gift that you’re giving and such an incredible opportunity, too.”

– Kelly Clarkson, *The Kelly Clarkson Show*



For more information, scan the QR code, visit theatrehorizon.org/autism-drama-program or call 610-283-2230 x2.

