



CALL FOR PROPOSALS!

Children, Youth and Performance Conference

CONNECTING DRAMA AND PERFORMANCE RESEARCH TO PRACTICE IN THE LIVES OF YOUNG PEOPLE

The *Children, Youth and Performance Conference* is accepting proposals for our third annual conference, held at Young People's Theatre (YPT) in partnership with York University. The conference will take place in Toronto, Canada on June 6th and 7th, 2020.

This peer-reviewed conference is an exchange of knowledge between researchers, performers, educators, practitioners and community organizers, from across the country and abroad, putting performance research to work and examining its effects on the lives of young people. Through a range of informative and interactive sessions, participants will discuss the future applications and implications of performance work with, by, for, and about children and youth.

Our conference is open to a variety of presentation topics and styles focusing on *Children, Youth and Performance*. YPT has focused our 2019/20 season on the seven ancestral teachings rooted deep within Anishinaabek culture (Respect, Humility, Bravery, Honesty, Love, Wisdom and Truth), and we welcome proposals that touch on these teachings, as well as ways of incorporating and discussing Indigeneity and decolonization in the field. We invite presenters from a variety of disciplines and sectors, including, but not limited to child and youth studies, performing arts, Indigenous studies, social sciences, humanities, education, human rights and public policy. Following the conference, accepted presenters will be invited to submit articles for a peer-reviewed, open-access special issue of the LEARNING Landscapes journal that will focus on the conference themes.

Proposals

We welcome proposals based on cutting-edge research, theories and practices which focus on any of these five themes:

1. Youth Performance for Social and Environmental Justice
2. Performative Research Methods
3. Innovations in Experiential and/or Digital Drama
4. Power and Privilege in Theatre for Young Audiences
5. Drama, Health and Wellness

Proposal Guidelines

Each proposal should outline the presentation's purpose, method, findings (for case studies and panels), what will take place during the session, and must be relevant to one of the conference themes. Please clearly indicate into which conference theme your proposal fits best, and which of the following formats your presentation will take:

Case Studies (10-15 minutes): These presentations should discuss case studies and specific projects. We welcome interactive, innovative presentation approaches, veering away from traditional 'lecture-style' paper presentations.

Interactive Workshops (45 minutes): Workshops should be welcoming to participants with varying levels of performance or research experience. Please ensure your workshop carefully adheres to the allotted timeframe (including all required set-up and/or take-down), as sessions will be back-to-back. Workshop presenters are responsible for their own materials and set-up. Please clearly indicate space needs (empty room, chairs, tables, etc.), and the specific activities that will take place.

Panels (25 or 45 minutes, depending on panel size): We welcome panel proposals of three or more participants that showcase relevant initiatives and projects. Panels may include any combination of researchers, practitioners, performers, and/or young people, in a collaborative, discussion-style format.

Performance Excerpts (up to 15 minutes): We welcome short performances, derived from research projects or advocacy initiatives. Within the allotted timeframe, each presentation should include a short performance (such as a monologue or scene) followed by a brief talkback. We strongly encourage proposals that include child and youth presenters. All presentations of this nature must fit within the allotted timeframe (including all required set-up and/or take-down). Performances should be flexible for a variety of potential spaces (such as a classroom or studio) and should indicate specific resource needs (chairs, music stands, etc.).

Proposal Guidelines Cont.

Your proposal should be submitted as a 1-2 page Word document including:

- a succinct presentation title (10 words max.),
- all presenter name(s), affiliations, contact information,
- bio(s) (100 words max. for each bio),
- the appropriate conference theme,
- the presentation format (workshop, panel etc.), and
- a presentation summary (300 words max.).

Proposals must be sent directly to Abigail Shabtay, Conference Chair, at ashabtay@yorku.ca no later than January 10th, 2020. Those who require early acceptance for travel/funding applications should submit proposals by December 20th, 2019. Enquiries about facilities/accessibility can be directed to Karen Gilodo, YPT Associate Artistic Director, Education, at kgilodo@youngpeoplestheatre.org. Accepted presenters must register and confirm attendance by the registration deadline to be included in the program schedule (registration details will follow letters of acceptance).

About Young People's Theatre

YPT is the oldest professional theatre company in Toronto and is a national producer and presenter of theatre for young audiences - the first and largest of its kind in Canada. Over the past 54 years YPT has staged many of the most important plays that form the canon of work for youth in our country. The enriched learning experiences of YPT's Education & Participation Department also provide young people with opportunities to develop their whole being. At Young People's Theatre we strive for a positive and lasting impact on the emotional, social, and intellectual development of young people - giving them the chance to grow into the unique and wonderful people they were born to be.

