CYT Mission Statement

Christian Youth Theater develops character and creativity in kids of all ages through quality theater arts training that brings families and communities together while reflecting the Creator.

Our Core Values

- Treat each individual with respect and significance
- Develop character traits including discipline, self-confidence, and integrity
- Bring families together through the use of individual talents and abilities
- Share the love of Christ in word and deed

Developing Character...one stage at a time!
## How do I get more information about what is going on at CYT?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email/Phone</th>
<th>Position/Role</th>
<th>Responsibilities</th>
<th>Other Information</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tonja Rainey</td>
<td><strong><a href="mailto:tonja@cytbatonrouge.org">tonja@cytbatonrouge.org</a></strong></td>
<td>Artistic Director, Founder</td>
<td>General CYT Questions, donations and sponsorships, Press and Public Relations, Vendors, Employment Opportunities, Website questions. EXPO, Improvathon</td>
<td>Sends out a monthly newsletter to CYT subscribers.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(225) 938-1438</td>
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<td>Supervisor to Area Coordinators and artistic team (director, musical director, choreographer etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Rainey</td>
<td><strong><a href="mailto:david@cytbatonrouge.org">david@cytbatonrouge.org</a></strong></td>
<td>Managing Director, Founder, Board President</td>
<td>Payment/financial questions, Scholarships, Donations and Sponsorships, Board questions</td>
<td>Sends out monthly newsletter to CYT subscribers.</td>
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<td>225-938-9025</td>
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<td>Allison Barraco</td>
<td><strong><a href="mailto:classes@cytbatonrouge.org">classes@cytbatonrouge.org</a></strong></td>
<td>Class Coordinator</td>
<td>General class information, prerequisites and class placement, Registration, report class absences, Decathlon Award eligibility, employment opportunities for instructors. General Showcase information and session dates, Lost &amp; Found (classes), summer camps.</td>
<td>Sends out Class Notes newsletter with Important Class Announcements.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(225) 788-8894</td>
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<td>Supervisor to BR Teachers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michele Nichols</td>
<td><strong><a href="mailto:shows@cytbatonrouge.org">shows@cytbatonrouge.org</a></strong></td>
<td>Show Coordinator</td>
<td>Show Auditions, call backs, and casting, volunteer news and opportunities, Cast Party and special events, Lost &amp; Found (rehearsals and shows), Production Fair.</td>
<td>Posts weekly Callboard announcements with Rehearsal Schedule, production notes, and director’s notes.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(225) 276-7051</td>
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<td>Supervisor to Production Team Leaders, and parent volunteers</td>
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<td>CYT Instructors</td>
<td>See website for contact info</td>
<td></td>
<td>Email your child’s teacher directly if you have questions about: Course content, homework, Showcase, or planned absences.</td>
<td>Sends first class day parent letter, syllabus and periodic class specific communications</td>
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**Let’s Get Social!**

**Facebook**

**Instagram**

**Twitter**

**Websites**

| CYT Baton Rouge | www.cytbatonrouge.org | Family Account, Class information, registration, Instructor and Staff bios, contact information, online documents, rehearsal schedule, callboard, Parent Hub, show and audition information, purchase tickets, special programs and more! |
| Facebook (official page) | “CYT Baton Rouge” | Special announcements, photo gallery, videos, general information. |
| Facebook (closed groups) | CYTBR Godspell | Once your children are cast in our seasonal musical you can join this closed group for show specific news, announcements, photos and videos not available to the public during our pre-production period. |
| CYT HQ (National Organization) | www.cyt.org | National blog posts, see CYT shows nationwide, CYT history and news. Moving? Find a CYT near your new home! |

**Session Dates**

| March | 10 | Week One Classes |
| 12-13 | “Godspell” Auditions |
| 14 | “Godspell” Callbacks |
| 15 | Production fair |
| 17 | Week Two Classes – *Bring a Friend!* |
| 24 | Week Three Classes |
| 31 | Week Four Classes |
| April | 7 | Week Five Classes & *Teacher Meeting* |
| 14 | Week Six Classes |
| 21 | Week Seven Classes |
| 28 | Week Eight Classes |
| May | 5 | Week Nine Classes |
| 12 | *Showcase @ Jefferson Baptist Church, 6pm* |
Baton Rouge Class Day Schedule:

3:40  Act 1 Students may begin to arrive (go directly to sanctuary) – \textit{DO NOT ARRIVE EARLY!}
4:00  Act 1 Classes Begin
5:45  Act 2 students may arrive (go to sanctuary)
6:00  \textit{Assembly}
6:15  Act 1 students dismissed
6:15  Act 2 classes begin
8:15  Act 2 classes end  \textit{Please pick up students PROMPTLY!}

*Snack break* - teacher will allow a 10 min break for snack and restroom. No GUM or sodas allowed.

**Concessions**

We will be selling snacks and water bottles during break time. Concessions are $1.00 each. Please send small amounts of cash with students if they wish to purchase snacks. No bills over $10 please, unless you’d like to make a donation 😊

**Drop off and Pick-up**

\textit{Drop-off} your student for class on time. You do not need to walk them in. \textit{Pick-up} your student in the sanctuary. Simple!

Parents may pick students up at 6:15 for Act 1 and at 8:15 for Act 2. Students will wait in the sanctuary until they are picked up. They will sign out as they leave. There will be adult supervision for pick-up for 15 minutes only after each pick up time.

Students 5–7 years old should always be escorted by an adult and dropped off and picked up directly with their teacher.

**Opening Night! FREE Student Ticket!**

All registered students will receive an official show t-shirt as part of your class tuition and fees. Registered students who are not in the cast of this session’s musical production may attend for FREE on Opening Night IF:

1. they sign up by Week 5: (send an email tickets@cytbatonrouge.org and let us know the name of your student and if they’ll attend) and

2. wear their official show t-shirt to the show.

This offer applies only to current registered CYT students on Thursday night performance only. Accompanying adults and siblings should purchase advance tickets online as this show frequently sells out.
CANCELLATION POLICY

If we have to cancel a class, there will not be any make-ups or refunds for that class.

ILLNESS POLICY

Make sure your children eat and sleep well, drink lots of fluids and wash hands frequently during our class session. If anyone in your family has had a virus, or is running a fever please stay home and contact the Class Coordinator if you will be absent. In addition, if your child has had fever or has a virus within 24 hours of class, please keep them home.

LICE POLICY

If your child(ren) have lice, you may not return to classes or rehearsals without a doctor’s note stating that your child’s head is clean and can return to class. Upon returning, one of our staff members will do an additional lice check.

If you need help getting rid of lice, we have several people who have become experts on the subject. Do not be afraid or ashamed to ask for help. Email the Class Coordinator and she will put you in touch with the experts.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

It is especially important that your student attend classes regularly and that they do not miss the Showcase performance. Everyone is cast in the class Showcase. It is your child’s time to shine for family and friends as they celebrate 10 weeks of hard work! Many numbers are ensemble numbers so when a child is not there to play their part everyone’s special moment is affected.

Likewise, quality performing arts education, and character development are primary goals of CYT. Therefore, **students cast in our seasonal musical production, may not miss more than two class sessions.** If a student has missed two classes they will be referred to the Show Coordinator who will determine if they may continue to participate in the show. Please seek approval for all absences in advance whenever possible. Student with excessive class and rehearsal absences risk being removed from the show.

ELECTRONICS POLICY

Cell phones, tablets, computers and hand held electronic games must be kept in student’s bags during class and assembly. If a student is seen using a device during instructional time it will be taken up and given back to the student before they go home. If there is an emergency and parents need to reach a student on campus, please text or call your Class Coordinator.

CYT CODE OF CONDUCT

All students sign and review our code of conduct upon registering for classes, and before auditioning for our productions. Please help us reinforce our expectations by referring to this agreement with your children throughout the session.
Discipline Policy

1. CYT staff will talk with the individual student about his/her misbehavior. This will be done in private, not in front of the class. The student will be taken aside or out of the classroom and instructed about specific behavior.
2. On the second infraction the instructor will notify the Class Coordinator. The Class Coordinator will talk with the student, taking him or her temporarily out of class, and will record the misbehavior.
3. On the third infraction the Class Coordinator will call the parent and explain the misbehavior of the student.
4. If inappropriate behavior continues, the Artistic Director will evaluate the situation as recorded by both the teacher and the Class Coordinator, and will determine the necessary consequences. The student and parents will be notified by the Artistic Director, and possible expulsion from the class may result. No refunds for those who are expelled from class.

Auditions and Information

March 12-13 Auditions for “Godspell” @
Grace Baptist Church (630 Richland Ave, Baton Rouge)
March 14 Callbacks, 10am @ Grace Baptist Church
March 15 Production Fair, 2pm @ Grace Baptist Church

All registered students ages 8-18 are invited to audition for our Musical Production of “Godspell.” Casting for this production is audition-based and while not everyone who auditions will be cast in the show, auditions are a wonderful educational and character building experience. Please carefully consider whether your child is ready for the commitment that being cast in a show requires, as well as for the potential disappointment that may result from casting decisions.

Audition Process:

1. Sign up on your family account on our website for your audition time slot. Expect to be in auditions for at least one hour
2. Fill out the Audition Form (sent with class confirmation email).
3. Update your bio on your family account profile page.

Bring:

- Printed headshot (REQUIRED. You will not be able to audition without this photo)
- Music track on phone, ipod or ipad (No CDs or devises that require wifi, please!) or sheet music

Students who are cast in the show are required to attend approximately 60-100 hours of weekend rehearsals and pay an additional production fee of $200 which is due at the Production fair.

Rehearsals will be held on Fridays from 5-9 pm & Saturdays from 12:00 – 4:00 pm @ New Life Church.
**ADDITIONAL CYT OPPORTUNITIES:**

Do you have a moving or inspirational CYT story to tell? Write it down in 500 words or less. Our local board will review anonymous submissions and choose one writer who will receive a $25 discount for registration to this year's EXPO. (travel, lodging meals are not covered) We are now accepting entries for the annual essay contest! Final Submissions are due in May and should be turned in or emailed to Tonja Rainey at tonja@cytbatonrouge.org. Complete instructions are available online: https://www.cyt.org/my-cyt-story/

Every summer CYT Leadership, students, and their families gather for a National EXPO where they experience HYPE training and equipping, performing arts workshops, an Improv Competition (Improvathon), and fellowship opportunities with CYT affiliates from all over the nation. EXPO is held in San Diego, California. The estimated cost for travel, lodging, meals and registration fees is $1,200 per person. More information about EXPO will be provided in the spring. Families who want to attend EXPO are encouraged to begin planning and saving early! **2020 date: June 26 – 29!**

![Expo Out of This World](image)

**IMPROVATHON**

Each year CYT Baton Rouge selects and trains a group of 6 students to compete in a national improvisational comedy competition held at the CYT national EXPO. Team selection is audition-based. Students age 13-18 who have completed both beginner and intermediate Improv classes at CYT are eligible to audition at the end of our fall session. Students selected for the team are required to pay regular tuition rates and take the Improvathon class which is offered on Tuesday nights in the Winter & Spring Semester. The estimated costs of travel, lodging, meals, and registration fees to attend Improvathon are estimated at $1,200. Team members will have several opportunities to raise funds for Improvathon, however families planning to audition should start planning and saving as soon as possible. More information will be made available during the winter session.

**HYPE—High School Youth Pursuing Excellence**

HYPE is a complimentary CYT program through which high school youth involved in CYT can develop their leadership skills. HYPE is a service and leadership group – it is not a church youth group or a clique. HYPE is based on the premise that when you give CYT students meaningful responsibility they will step up to the challenge. HYPE students are committed to the program for one full school year, and are involved in the following: attending meetings twice a month, planning social events for CYT families, organizing fundraisers, doing service projects within the community, and planning ways to minister and mentor within CYT. In turn, HYPE students are trained by their Adviser(s) on leadership skills, and are mentored to put that growth into action at CYT and elsewhere in their lives. HYPE applications are accepted during the spring session and new members are interviewed and inducted before the next fall semester begins. A complete list of qualifications and application instructions are available in the Online Documents sidebar of our main website.
The CYT National Decathlon Award

The CYT National Decathlon Award recognizes exceptional CYT students who have demonstrated a commitment to pursuing a well-rounded education in the performing arts and who have exhibited character qualities consistent with CYT core values. The award is presented by CYT founders Paul and Sheryl Russell at the annual CYT National EXPO. Award recipients also receive personalized letters of recommendation from Paul Russell that can be used for post CYT educational and performance opportunities. For more information on the Decathlon Award, course selection and to begin tracking your student’s CYT accomplishments, please contact your Class Coordinator. For more information, go to: https://www.cyt.org/decathlon-award/

How can I help further the mission of CYT?

CYT offers many opportunities for individuals and families to get involved:

- Join our Standing O society and earn great benefits when you make a tax-deductible donation to CYT Baton Rouge. Contact Tonja Rainey for more information tonja@cytbatonrouge.org

- Invite business owners, community leaders, arts patrons and philanthropists in your network to become a CYT sponsor and attend our annual fundraising events.

- Recruit someone! Tell your friends how much you are enjoying classes, and invite them to our seasonal show or our free showcase at the end of the session. You may be the inspiration a young person needs to Act, Sing, Dance and Live!

- Serve on a production team. We need volunteers (14 and up) to help our backstage and front of house teams during the run of our seasonal musicals. Contact tonja@cytbatonrouge.org about volunteer opportunities.

- Buy an ad in our beautiful, professionally-printed show playbill. Promote your business or congratulate your favorite cast members!

Support CYT when you shop online!  

SHOP AMAZON SMILE

If you make online purchases on Amazon, make sure to go through Amazon Smile and choose CYT Baton Rouge as your charitable organization. We’ll receive a donation from your order. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Here’s the link: http://smile.amazon.com/ch/46-3131174

Purging your closets? Bring your donated items to “Here Today, Gone Tomorrow” on Burbank Rd. and CYT will get 50% back on any items that are sold.

Label your boxes with CYT account number: #711