



Upstage Live Online FAQ:

Does my child need previous theatrical experience?

Our programs are available to all experience levels. We encourage children who do not have previous experience in theatre to join and we will help bring them along. For those who have been in Upstage, or other theatre classes, we build on their existing skills, stretch their capacity and help them reach new levels. Previous experience is NOT required for any of our programs.

How did you decide on the age groups?

*The online platform has presented the opportunity for Upstage to consider the various developmental stages of children as it relates to their online abilities and needs. After working with kids online for the past nine months, we have realized that our traditional breakdown of **K - 2nd, 3rd - 5th and 6th grade** and above work quite well. The youngest group (**k-2**) require more imaginative or “pretend” play and shorter class times, with space to stretch some of the older kids. Our **3rd - 5th graders** are able to stay focused online longer and connect to the material through age appropriate theatre games, scene study, singing and dancing. The **6th graders** and beyond are ready to tackle more advanced material, think critically about character development and work through tougher vocals and choreographer. Not only do we break down our programs into these age groups, but also find it important to go a step further and use breakout rooms to further tailor the experience for kids allowing for differentiated instruction.*

Does my child have to audition?

At Upstage, we do not require the kids to audition in order to register and participate in our programs. Everyone is welcome to join. We utilize a “workshopping” approach that allows the children to begin to learn the material (singing and dancing especially). During this process the teachers observe the kids and note strengths and stretches. We also look at behavior, attitude and participation level. Some teachers hold a dedicated “Solo Day” that allows those who want to, the opportunity to sing a part of a song for the teachers. This exercise further informs the teachers which children are willing to get up in front of the others to perform and does often play a part in the casting process.

How does filming process work for the final spotlight video?

Our online programs culminate in a spotlight video that the students work on and film mostly during class. For Act 2 students, there may be times when they need some adult assistance. We will do our best to keep these to a minimum. Usually the kids have another device they can film on, while using their other device for Zoom/their music source. We will send videos/guides to help make the process easy and streamlined. We will supply all classes with a google drive link to submit final takes!

How many kids are in each class?

This varies depending on the type of program. For our premiere programs (Acts 1, 2, & 3) and enrichment classes, we're aiming for 15-20 per pod*,

Can I sign up for multiple sessions?

Yes! You can find an Upstage program almost every day of the week! Opportunities for Premiere Programs, Enrichment Classes and Pods will be available.

Our Recommendations:

- Plugging an HDMI cord from your laptop into your tv for a bigger picture creates an experience that get kids away from a small screen
- Prepping your child with water, snacks, and their materials so they're in their work space
- Try to stay away from handheld cell phones for the zoom classes, as much as possible. If you do have to use an iPhone, keep it set on a steady stand. We've found kids holding phones get easily distracted, and aren't able to fully immerse themselves.
- For quick last minute help such as zoom numbers, passwords, materials, links etc, just search for your production manager in your inbox and select the welcome letter.

* Pods are contained classes consisting of a production manager, a director, possibly one or two more teachers and possibly an intern.