



# Vermont Stage Youth Company Summer Audition Information

## **Speaking Their Silence - A Devised Piece**

**Ages 15-19**

In partnership with Human Rights Watch (HRW), students will devise a piece of theater that tells the stories of young people who have recently been or currently are imprisoned within our own country's borders. Interviews were conducted by HRW Children's Rights Division Senior Counsel, Michael Bochenek and these transcripts are made available to the Vermont Stage Youth Company in an allied effort to bring other young people's stories and voices to light in a devised theatrical work. As advocates for the young people who are victims of an antagonistic, unjust, and unethical political situation in our own country, the Senior Company members are entrusted to share these stories with discipline, artistry, sensitivity, and respect. Mr. Bochenek will be a resource for the Company as the words and stories are brought to light.

**REHEARSAL HOURS:** Monday-Friday, June 22-26, June 29-July 3, July 6-9, 10 am-5 pm

**PERFORMANCES:** Friday, July 10 at 7:30pm, Saturday July 11 at 2pm & 7:30pm and Sunday, July 12 at 2pm & 6pm (TBD)

## ***Amélie***

**Ages 15-19\***

Amélie is an extraordinary young woman who lives quietly in the world but loudly in her mind. She covertly improvises small but surprising acts of kindness that bring joy and mayhem. But when a chance at love comes her way, Amélie realizes that to find happiness she'll have to risk everything and say what's in her heart. Be inspired by this imaginative dreamer who finds her voice, discovers the power of connection, and sees possibility around every corner.

**REHEARSAL HOURS:** Monday-Friday, July 13-17: 9 am-5 pm; Mondays-Fridays, July 20-24: 10 am-5:30 pm, Monday-Wednesday, July 27-29 10am-5:30pm

**PERFORMANCES:** Thursday & Friday, July 30-31: 7:30 pm, Saturday, August 1 2 & 7:30 pm, Sunday, August 2: 2 & 6 pm

\*Adults 20+ and/or students under 15 may be considered for the roles. This will be determined for callbacks on 2/16.

## ***Peter and The Starcatcher***

**Ages 11-14\***

This Tony-winning play with music, provides a backstory for the beloved characters of Peter Pan, Mrs Darling, Tinker Bell and Hook, and serves as a prequel to J. M. Barrie's Peter and Wendy. From marauding pirates and jungle tyrants to unwilling comrades and unlikely heroes, *Peter and the Starcatcher* playfully explores the depths of greed and despair... and the bonds of friendship, duty and love.

**REHEARSAL HOURS:** Mon-Fri, August 3-7: 9 am-4 pm; Mon-Fri, Aug 10 -Aug 13: 9am-4 pm

**PERFORMANCES:** Thursday & Friday, Aug 13-14: 7:30 pm, Saturday, Aug 15: 2 & 7:30 pm, Sunday, Aug 16: 2 & 6 pm (TBD)

\*Students aged 15+ may be considered for the roles. This will be determined for callbacks on 2/16.

Vermont Stage Youth Company Artistic Team:  
Amy Riley, Danielle Sertz, Ryan Addario, Gina Fearn, Randal Pierce

## FAQ's about YoCo Summer Program

*Can anyone audition for these productions?*

Yes! Our summer productions are open to all students aged 11-19! You do not need to be part of the school year Company.

*Where will we perform?*

All rehearsals and performances will be at the Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center.

*What if I have conflicts with the rehearsal dates?*

If you have a conflict, list it on the form and we'll see if it is something we can work around. Please be thorough and honest with your conflicts. Because these are ensemble shows, everyone relies on everyone else - so you'll need to be committed to the rehearsal schedule.

*Will there be pre-summer rehearsals?*

Yes. We will have some pre-summer rehearsals based on cast and team member schedules. They will most likely be on weekday evenings or Sundays.

*What is the tuition?*

Tuition is \$650 for the older shows, and \$595 for *Peter and the Starcatcher*. You will be asked to provide pay a \$100 deposit to hold our audition slot. If you are not cast, you will receive a full refund. Payment plans are available to split your tuition into multiple installments. Limited scholarships are available. Please inquire with the Director of Education, Amy Riley, amy@vtstage.org.

*What are audition and callback dates?*

Ages 11-14 will audition Saturday, February 15 at 2pm to be considered primarily for *Peter and the Starcatcher*, ages 15-19 audition Saturday, Feb 15 at 10am to be considered primarily for *Speaking Their Silence - HRW Collaboration (15-19) & Amélie (15-19)*. College students may audition via video. Callbacks are February 16th, starting at 10am. Not everyone will be called back but that doesn't mean you aren't cast in the shows. At callbacks you may be asked to sing or act more specific material which we will provide on Saturday evening when the callback list is posted.

*I am an older teen, is there just one audition for both shows?*

Yes, you are coming to one audition. We will be casting you based on which show best fits you, and which of you best fit the different shows. You may be called back for multiple shows, as we work out the casting puzzle.

*What is the audition process?*

We have open auditions meaning all auditioners are in the room at the same time. This helps to build a collaborative and supportive environment. At auditions, you will dance, sign and read sides. The dance portion will be fun and energetic. You do not need formal dance training to be considered a dancer. What we want to see is students jumping in and having fun, supporting each other, and the ability to take direction. You will be given "sides" (portions of the script) to perform. You will be able to choose from a few options when you arrive at registration, so if you need to take a little time to read them through and familiarize yourself, please arrive early. And remember to make clear choices about how the character moves and talks, as well as what the character wants (objective), and what they are doing in order to GET what they want (tactics).

*Do I have to stay at auditions the whole time?*

Yes. We will give parents an estimated end time when we meet in the morning, but audition length may be unpredictable so we ask understanding.

*What should I wear?*

Wear something comfortable that you can bend and move in. Sneakers are fine, no need for dance shoes. Bring a water bottle.

*What if I can't make it to auditions in person?*

Please contact Director of Education, Amy Riley, if you have a conflict with the February 15th audition date: [amy@vtstage.org](mailto:amy@vtstage.org).

*More Questions?*

Please feel free to email any questions to [amy@vtstage.org](mailto:amy@vtstage.org)

## *Peter and the Starcatcher*

### *Character descriptions*

#### THE ORPHANS

**Boy:** A nameless, homeless, and friendless boy at the beginning of the play and a hero by the end, Peter is brave and competitive, a survivor, and someone the other boys come to look up to. More than anything in the world he wants a home and a family. He doesn't trust adults and, thus, never wants to grow up to be one. If he could grow up, he'd fall for Molly.

**Prentiss:** Ambitious, logical, and a little bit older than Peter, Prentiss wants to be the leader but he knows he will never be one.

**Ted:** Called "Tubby" by Prentiss because of his obsession with food, Ted is the most talented of the boys, an easy wit, a natural actor. He is fed up with Prentiss, but hungry for companionship.

**Orphans:** Children suffering under the care of Gremplin, the schoolmaster from St. Norbert's Orphanage for Lost Boys.

#### THE BRITISH SUBJECTS

**Lord Leonard Aster:** The very model of a Victorian English gentleman, Lord Aster is a loyal subject of the queen, devoted father, and faithful friend.

**Molly Aster:** Thirteen-year old girl and a natural leader, Molly was raised to believe females can do anything males can. She is fearless, curious, passionate, and devoted to her father, her country, her Queen, and the cause of the Starcatchers.

**Mrs. Bumbrake:** Molly's nanny, Mrs. Bumbrake is British through and through, no-nonsense, and not afraid of anything; but she likes a good time. She still has girlish charm, even though she's older.

**Captain Robert Falcon Scott:** Commander of the fastest ship in Queen Victoria's fleet, The Wasp, Captain Scott is an old schoolmate of Lord Aster.

**Gremplin:** Mean and nasty, Gremplin is the schoolmaster from St. Norbert's Orphanage for Lost Boys.

#### THE SEAFARERS

##### ABOARD THE WASP

**The Black Stache:** A ruthless, heartless pirate captain who captures The Wasp, Black Stache started shaving at age ten. He is proud of his magnificent facial hair and is partial to the poetical and the theatrical.

**Smee:** First mate to Black Stache, Smee is simple-minded and single-minded to his captain's every whim.

**Sanchez:** A hard-working Spanish pirate, Sanchez has an identity crisis.

**Black Stache's Crew:** An unworthy gang of ill-meaning folks under the command of Black Stache.

#### ABOARD THE NEVERLAND

**Bill Slank:** A vicious captain with no ability to lead his crew, Slank is also an orphan. He is cruel to Peter and the boys and would sell his own mother for a ship to command.

**Alf:** An old seadog who is far more proud of his rank of "Mister" than he should be, Alf is always in search of a damsel.

**Mack:** A very bad sailor, Mack wants to be anywhere else but under Bill Slank's command.

**Bill Slank's Crew:** An unworthy gang of ill-meaning folks under the command of Bill Slank.

#### THE MOLLUSKS

**Fighting Prawn:** King of the Mollusks and the son of Jumbo Prawn and Littleneck Clam, Fighting Prawn is kidnapped by British sailors and brought in chains to England where he served as a sous-chef. Since returning to his island kingdom, he has vengefully murdered any English person who dared set foot on his island.

**Hawking Clam:** Son of Fighting Prawn.

**Mollusks:** Citizens under the rule of Fighting Prawn, trying to defend themselves from constant threats of attack and attempts at colonization.

**Teacher:** Formerly a salmon, Teacher is now an ancient, knowledgeable mermaid.

**Mermaids:** These fantastical sea creatures transformed from regular fish after swimming in the wake of the starstuff.

**Narrators:** A group of story guides who often are in the midst of the action.

## *AMELIE Character Descriptions*

### ***YOUNG AMÉLIE POULAIN -***

Young Amélie is an optimistic and playful child. She deeply loves her parents, and when her distant and germaphobic father gives her a medical checkup, he hears her heart racing. Believing that she has a weak heart, Amélie's parents isolate her from any possible excitement or stimulation and keep her at home. To cope with her loneliness, Amélie creates a vibrant world in her imagination. She sings and plays with her goldfish Fluffy and imagines a Notre Dame nun as a crocodile. She even creates a little face on her hand to talk to after her mother dies. Her mother's death causes Amélie's father to be even more distant, and young Amélie asks how many days before she can leave home and be on her own.

***RAPHAEL POULAIN -*** Amélie's overprotective and germaphobe father gives young Amélie a monthly checkup, which is the only contact she has with him. When her heart swells with happiness and love during their brief interaction, Raphael mistakenly diagnoses her with a weak heart, and believes that she must be protected at home. While his wife Amadine homeschools Amélie, he remains as distant as ever. When Amélie's mother dies, he creates a memorial to Amadine from a garden gnome. As an adult Amélie returns to see her father, and tries to encourage him to leave the house yet he refuses to leave the gnome. After Amélie steals the gnome and sends it around the world Raphael finds the courage to leave his apartment and connect with his daughter.

***AMANDINE POULAIN -*** Amadine is young Amélie's overprotective mother. After her husband mistakenly diagnoses Amélie with a weak heart, Amadine decides to homeschool Amélie so that she is not overstimulated. She gives Amélie a fish to alleviate her daughter's loneliness, but after a mishap in which the fish falls out of the bowl, she determines that the fish must go. In an effort to console Amélie, Amadine takes her to Notre Dame, and prays to God for help raising her daughter. As mother and daughter leave the cathedral, a suicidal Belgian tourist jumps from a parapet and kills Amadine.

***FLUFFY POULAIN -*** Fluffy is young Amélie's goldfish, imagined larger than life and outside of his bowl he is Amélie's only friend. When he falls out of his bowl, Amélie gets excited and anxious, and although Fluffy is saved, Amélie's parents decide that he must go. Amélie drops him in a pond, telling him that now, he has the world's biggest fishbowl.

***AMÉLIE POULAIN - early 20's; still imaginative, still sees the best in things.*** Amélie lives in a romantic and whimsical world in her mind, but is often too shy to live truly her dreams. On the night of Princess Diana's tragic death--Amélie is so shocked at the news that she drops a bottle, and finds a secret hiding place under the floorboards where lies a box filled with childhood treasures. This find sets Amélie on a quest. Throughout this quest Amélie brings joy (and mayhem) to strangers in Paris by improvising covert acts of kindness. Amélie also makes a new friend--an elderly gentleman in her apartment building, Julian Dufayel. Julian encourages her to be more outgoing and adventurous, rather than isolated. As Amélie tries to follow his advice she encounters Nino. The two run into each other several times, and while they have a romantic spark between them, Amélie is too shy to approach him. As this chance at love comes her way, she realizes she'll have to risk everything and say what's in her heart to find happiness. The quintessential dreamer, Amélie is romantic, fun, and loved by all who meet her.

***SUZANNE SACRIPANT -*** Suzanne Sacripant is a former trapeze artist. After an accident that left her with one leg shorter than the other, she left the circus and opened The Two Windmills. As the cafe owner, she takes care of her employees and regular patrons. Suzanne notices how young and vibrant Amélie is, but is also worried that Amélie has lost any ambition for more out of life. She inspires Amélie to step out of her comfortable circle and strive for more.

**GINA WELLS** -Gina Wells is a young waitress at the Two Windmills Cafe. She is emotionally distant from others after her husband's death, and readily antagonizes Joseph Cottard, her former lover and a regular at the cafe. However much she spurns men, she does show some friendliness and solidarity for women, especially when it comes to how awful men are. Gina receives a letter from her dead husband Adrien, who died in a plane crash, and realizes that he truly did love her.

**GEORGETTE CORNUEL** -A true hypochondriac, Georgette shies away from most people. She is lonely and worried and her only companions are those at the Two Windmills Cafe, where she works as a tobacconist. After seeing that Georgette and Joseph have a romantic spark, Amélie arranges a rendezvous between them. After this newfound love, Georgette relaxes and enjoys her world a little more, even though she still has her "ailments." But as soon as she sees Joseph turning towards his old grumpy ways, she spurns him.

**PHILOMENE de NOIRPOIS** -Philomena is a patron of the Two Windmills Cafe and airline stewardess. She, like so many others, is bored and waiting for something to happen in her life. After Amélie steals the memorial gnome from her father's apartment, she gives it to Philomene, who takes it around the world with her, sending photographs of the gnome's adventures to Amélie's father. .

**HIPOLITO JEUNET** -Hipolito Jeunet is a regular patron of The Two Windmills, the cafe where Amélie works. He is a lonely writer, waiting for his inspiration but dreaming of the day when he'll walk into a bookstore and see his book on the shelf. Hipolito is writing a novel--which he calls a future failure--about a young man who journals about disasters yet to come in his life. This fear of disaster leads him to do nothing. While disillusioned, Hipolito is kind and appreciative of the people at The Two Windmills.

**JOSEPH COTTARD** -Joseph Cottard is a regular patron of the Two Windmills Cafe. He is by trade a plumber, but is bored and disillusioned with his life, hanging onto bitterness, which makes him misogynistic. He once dated Gina Wells, a waitress at the cafe. When she realizes that Joseph is interested in Georgette, Amélie sets up a meeting between them. Newly in love, Joseph's demeanor towards women changes, at least for a short while, until he sees that Gina might be happy without him

**NINO QUINCAMPOIX** -a loner and artist; unconventional good looks; independent, private. Nino is a mysterious young man that Amélie first sees in the train station. They feel an immediate connection, but do not meet. One day He leaves his photo album behind, a token for Amélie to examine. Nino searches Paris for Amélie, desperate to find this woman that he doesn't know, but that he is in love with. Amélie drops hints for him but always gets scared and runs away. He talks on the phone with her, desperate to meet her in person at the Two Windmills Cafe. When Amélie's friends Georgette, Suzanne, and Gina interrogate Nino about his intentions with Amélie, he assures them that he loves her. His passion and persistence pays off as he encourages her to open her door and invite him in to her heart.

**JULIEN DUFAYEL** -Julien Dufayel is Amélie's neighbor. He is a friendly yet reclusive man--because he suffers from a brittle bone disease. Julien shares his paintings with Amélie; all of them are versions of Renoir's The Luncheon of the Boating Party. He notices, ironically, that while he must remain shut in his apartment, he sees Amélie alone by choice.. Julien proves a good and loyal friend to Amélie as he encourages her to lead a more adventurous life and find her love.

**BRETODEAU** - As a child, Bretodeau hid a box of "treasures" in the floor of his apartment. When Amélie finds it, she goes on a mission to find him and return the box. When she does, she anonymously returns it. Bretodeau finds his way to the Two

Windmills Cafe and calls his ex-wife, whom he regrets not contacting sooner so that he might see his son. Amélie sees him relieved that he will be able to meet up with his child, and she then decides that she will continue to do good for those around her.

**ELTON JOHN** - Played by a member of the ensemble, Elton John appears to Amélie in her dream in which she is celebrated in an extravagant funeral like that of Princess Diana . Elton John calls her the "Godmother of the Unloved"--and while he and a gospel chorus of angels serenade Amélie, she decides that she will continue to do good, but should also be able to find love for herself..

**GARDEN GNOME** - The Gnome is a garden ornament that Raphael Poulain uses to memorialize his wife after she dies, mostly because she hated it, and so every time he looks at it, he'll think of her. Amélie, desperate to get her father out into the world, steals the gnome and sends it around the world with Philomene, an airline hostess. Raphael receives postcards from the gnome, excitedly describing his travels. Most likely played by a member of the ensemble, the Gnome is lively and comedic.

**ADRIEN WELLS** - *Gina's dead husband.*



# Vermont Stage Youth Company SUMMER AUDITION FORM

Which show do you wish to be considered for:

*Peter and the Starcatcher (11-14)*

*Speaking Their Silence (15-19)*

*Amélie (15-19)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Pronouns: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Tell us about your theater, dance, tech, vocal experience and training, and special skills (gymnastics, juggling, ninja warrior, etc.). Nothing's too silly or too small!

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Why do you think you'd be a good fit for the Vermont Stage Youth Company's Summer Season?

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Do you have any health concerns, allergies or anything else that we should know about? If YES, please describe:

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Please check each box below to confirm that have read the Artistic Responsibilities for this program:

- The artistic responsibility and work ethic required for this program include: arriving on time, being accountable to other members of the cast and creative team and being a positive force in the rehearsal room and beyond. Engage in all activities in a supportive and collaborative way. Attend ALL rehearsals and participate in strike following the last show.

List any and ALL conflicts with the production dates listed above and ALL Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays in May, & June. Conflicts forre given to us after casting **will not be honored** and could result in losing your role. Contact us with questions, should any arise.

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**PARENTS READ/SIGN:** *I have read and understand the audition information. I realize that participation in this show is both a time commitment and a financial commitment. I agree to fulfill all obligations.*

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

***(A PARENT MUST SIGN THIS FORM BEFORE AUDITIONS.)***

*This is the AUDITION FORM. You must also register online and include the \$100.00 audition deposit. Your remaining balance is due May 1. Payment plans are available.*