

**A new model of
youth theatre.**

REACT

**Youth need a place to break out
of their bubbles, escape screens,
and develop soft skills.**

**Theatre is a means to an end:
improvement of the individual.**

React *has* been around since 1976

Justin Wade is a former student of React founder Charlotte Kaufman, and has been running the theatre since 2005. The Athenaeum is located in the heart of the Mass Ave cultural district and has been a home away from home for React students since 1976. This program has stood the test of time in downtown Indianapolis, and it is here to stay.

Our staff is chosen carefully as real-life role models. They are Indianapolis all stars, respected in and out of the classroom as artists, educators, and leaders.

They have backgrounds working with some of the most exciting, innovative arts groups in Indianapolis and bring world class theatre techniques to React students — such as devised theatre.



Students often take classes from kindergarten to high school.



Devised theatre doesn't start with a script; **it starts with students.**



Here, students write their own story.

They work hand-in-hand with the director to develop an original script, incorporating their own opinions, thoughts and ideas. This gives students ownership, investment, and empowerment.

We're building a new model of theatre for young people. There are no leads. Everyone works as a unit the entire performance. We see young people in the room with all their individual complexity, see what they're experiencing and ask them to pull from their own real life experiences to build characters.

Scripts that have been vetted by the public take out all elements of **danger**.

But, **changing the world** will require dangerous thinking.

We're not asking students to be actors, **we're asking them to be storytellers.**





Devising breaks down barriers.

Devised theatre breaks down traditional theatrical barriers and provides **equity** for students. The best teams are made up of strong individuals. We inspire uniqueness and individuality in our students, and encourage them to value the same in themselves and in others. We encourage our students to form opinions and instill in them the confidence to stand up for themselves.

This unique model of theater for young people is inclusive, equitable, and empowering, where every student can express themselves and tackle important social issues in their own unique voice.




Young people need a place to fail in front of others and experience breakthroughs.

Kids need a place to step out of their social bubbles.

Kids need a place where they can go to break out of their social bubbles. Typical theatre builds hard skills – but we focus on soft skills too. We teach students to truly grow, find the good in the bad, think spontaneously, take critiques, transform weaknesses into strengths, and be in a constant state of learning.



And all of this leads to
self-empowered individuals that
see the world as opportunity...



Regina (Student for 12 years)



"It's such a wonderful community that truly values art and the voices of youth. React uses these voices to make a true change in our community and it feels so good to be a part of that."



"React is a radical alternative to traditional learning in the arts. It fosters an environment for creative expression and collaborative thinkings in ways that are both rare and essential for our youth today."

Alethea (Student for 8 years)

We're not asking students to be actors, we're asking them to be ~~storytellers~~
disruptors

REACT