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## **AACT YOUTHFEST 2025 TO SHOWCASE TALENTED YOUNG PERFORMERS IN DES MOINES**

The American Association of Community Theatre (AACT) is excited to announce **YouthFest 2025**, a national festival that showcases the next generation of community theatre talent. YouthFest will take place **June 22-24, 2025**, at the Des Moines Playhouse in Des Moines, Iowa. This event will feature **six youth theatre companies** from across the country, giving young performers the opportunity to showcase their work, connect with peers, and learn from theatre professionals.

For the first time, AACT **YouthFest** is scheduled separately from AACT's national festival, allowing for **longer performances**, more **youth-focused workshops**, and interactive activities tailored to young artists. Performances will be adjudicated in an open forum designed to encourage learning and growth in a supportive environment.

YouthFest also offers a wide variety of **educational workshops**, led by experienced professionals, providing insight into acting, directing, and technical theatre. The festival is an immersive experience where young artists can develop their skills, form lasting friendships, and create memories that will shape their future in theatre.

All YouthFest participants will receive a **discount on AACTFest 2025 registration**, allowing them to extend their stay and enjoy additional performances, keynotes, and networking opportunities at **AACTFest**, which will take place **June 25-28, 2025**, at Hoyt Sherman Place Theater.

The **Des Moines Marriott Downtown** will serve as the official hotel for both **YouthFest** and **AACTFest**, with convenient access to all venues and **travel discounts** available for attendees. For more details, including registration and funding opportunities, visit [aact.org/youthfest2025](http://aact.org/youthfest2025). AACT gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the **Jack K. Ayre and Frank Lee Ayre Foundation**, which provides travel and housing funding to ensure youth theatre companies from all backgrounds can participate in YouthFest.

**AACT Helps Theatres Thrive** by offering resources, networking, and support to more than 7,000 theatres across the United States and its territories, including U.S. Military theatres overseas.

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