What is InterACT?

Each year, InterACT brings hundreds of students from schools of need to the theatre by inviting them to participate in the Student Performance Series, Hartford Stage’s student matinee program. InterACT is open to grades 9-12 and is free of charge. Teachers may apply for one or two classes of up to 30 students each. Hartford Stage will review one application per school or academy, to be determined by that school. All InterACT students experience a series of in-school workshops that explore themes related to the productions. InterACT is subsidized through Hartford Stage corporate and foundation funding.

Hartford Stage is dedicated to serving students of all abilities, ages, backgrounds, ethnic and racial groups, and socioeconomic levels, creating an audience that reflects the diversity of our community, increasing the diversity of future theatre audiences, and ensuring that students with little or no access to theatre have access to Hartford Stage.

Goals

Through InterACT, Hartford Stage aims to:

- Expose students to a range of genres of dramatic literature and performance styles.
- Deepen students’ engagement with plays through in-school workshops.
- Develop critical thinking skills that allow students to reflect on Hartford Stage shows through conversation, analysis, and dramatic engagement.
- Strengthen the relationship between students and Hartford Stage while building an appreciation for live performance.

InterACT is sponsored by:

Ensworth Charitable Foundation
SBM Charitable Foundation
Michael Wilder
NewAlliance Foundation
Newell D. Hale Foundation
Scripps Family Fund for Education and the Arts
The Ellen Jeanne Goldfarb Memorial Charitable Trust
2019-2020 InterACT Play Descriptions

*This season, each InterACT performance is on one, predetermined date.

- **Quixote Nuevo**  
  In association with Huntington Theatre Company and Alley Theatre  
  By Octavio Solis  
  Directed by KJ Sanchez  
  **InterACT Performance: Thursday, October 10, 2019***  
  A reimagining of Don Quixote by Miguel de Cervantes. Quixote Nuevo is set in the fictional modern-day border town of La Plancha, Texas, where Don Quixote loses himself in stories of chivalrous escapades and embarks upon a quest of imagination, adventure, and Tejano music. Along the way he recruits a hapless but trusty sidekick in his search for lost love. As the community wrestles with containing Quixote’s fantasies, he, his family and friends discover the joys and perils of being the hero of your own story.

  *Themes & Topics for Discussion: immigration, the aging process, hope, love, belief in something greater than ourselves, the resilience of purpose, adaptation of literature*  
  *Please note: Contains disturbing fantastical images and mature themes (including a scene depicting child abuse)*

- **A Christmas Carol**  
  By Charles Dickens  
  Adapted and originally Directed by Michael Wilson  
  Directed by Rachel Alderman  
  **InterACT Performance: Thursday, December 5, 2019***  
  Hartford Stage brings the magic of Dickens’ heart-warming classic to life in this Connecticut holiday tradition! Recently redesigned costume and set elements bring a fresh look to this well-loved tale of transformation. Ebenezer Scrooge, the heartless miser discovers the true meaning of the holiday season after a Christmas Eve haunting. Visit or revisit Charles Dickens’ beloved characters: Tiny Tim, Bob Cratchit and the Spirits of Christmas Past, Present, and Future. Ghosts take flight and soar across the stage, carols are sung and snow falls capturing the spirit of a Victorian Christmas forever warming the hearts of adults and children alike.

  *Themes & Topics for Discussion: Dickens, adaptation of literature, Industrial Revolution, greed and generosity, responsibility to others*

- **Jane Eyre**  
  By Charlotte Brontë  
  Adapted and Directed by Elizabeth Williamson  
  **InterACT Performance: Thursday, March 3, 2020***  
  Brontë’s beloved tale of courage, sacrifice and self-respect features one of literature’s greatest heroines. Orphaned as a child, Jane takes a position working as governess at Thornfield Hall for the brooding Edward Rochester. The strong-willed Jane falls in love with her mysterious employer, but the discovery of a dark secret and its devastating aftermath forces the young governess to make a heart-wrenching decision that changes their lives forever. Williamson’s adaptation will be intimate and intense, focusing on Jane’s integrity and inner strength.

  *Themes & Topics for Discussion: search for belonging, autonomy and self-reliance, gender equality, integrity, adaptation of literature, Feminist studies, 19th century studies*
*Plays and performance dates are subject to change. In the event that a change is made to a previously announced InterACT performance, Hartford Stage will make every effort to reschedule InterACT classes into another performance but cannot guarantee availability of tickets.
What is included?

Classes selected for InterACT receive:

- Tickets to three Student Performance Series productions at Hartford Stage.
- An in-school, pre-show workshop for each show (approximately 90-minutes in duration, can be done as either one 90-minute session or two 45-minute sessions, depending on the individual school’s schedule) led by a Hartford Stage Teaching Artist.**
- An optional post-show Talk Back following each performance with artists and Hartford Stage staff (approximately 20 minutes).
- Study guides for all students and chaperones.
- Hartford Public Schools are also provided bus transportation to and from the theatre.

**ALL WORKSHOPS MUST TAKE PLACE DURING THE WEEK OF THE PERFORMANCE.

Expectations

- **Teacher attendance at a pre-program information session.** This year’s information session will be held on Tuesday, September 24, 2019 from 4:30pm-5:30pm.
- **Teacher attendance at preview performances.** Teachers of accepted classes receive two tickets to a preview performance of each InterACT play their students will attend (excluding A Christmas Carol) and should plan to see the play before their students do in order to help prepare their students to see the show.
- **Student participation and teacher presence in the classroom during workshops.** Workshops should not conflict with other events (field trips, testing, etc.) that would take students or the cooperating teacher out of the classroom. The schedule for workshops must be confirmed no later than two weeks prior to the performance.
- **Classes must adhere to InterACT’s three-play subscription model.** This means that the same group of students will attend all three performances.
- **1 adult chaperone per 12 students at the performance.**
- **Teachers must inform the InterACT program manager at least two weeks in advance of the following:**
  - Any special seating or bussing accommodations students may need. This includes, but is not limited to, wheelchair accessible seating/bussing, and audio assistance devices in the theatre.
  - Accessibility or behavioral factors that may impact students’ ability to participate in workshops.
- **Respect for front of house staff at matinees.** In order to ensure an enjoyable educational experience for all audience members, students and chaperones will follow the instructions of Hartford Stage staff and observe all protocols and guidelines set by the theatre.
- **Hartford Stage reserves the right of refusal or discontinuance if the above guidelines are not followed.**

If you have any questions about the program or application, please contact Natalie Pertz at (860) 520-7261, or email npertz@hartfordstage.org
Curriculum Standards

InterACT is an academic program intended to supplement and enhance classwork in the English Language Arts or Drama classroom. Participation and attendance at InterACT workshops and performances support various combinations of the academic standards listed below. The specific standards addressed will vary depending on each play’s content and how individual teachers integrate the productions into their curricula.

InterACT supports the following Common Core English Language Arts standards for grades 9-12:

- **Reading Literature: Key Ideas and Details 3.** Analyze how complex characters (e.g., those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme.

- **Reading Literature: Craft and Structure 5.** Analyze how an author’s choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text (e.g., the choice of where to begin or end a story, the choice to provide a comedic or tragic resolution) contribute to its overall structure and meaning as well as its aesthetic impact.

- **Speaking and Listening: Comprehension and Collaboration 1.** Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grades 9-12 topics, texts, and issues, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

InterACT supports the following National Core Arts Standards:

- **TH:Re7.1.I a.** Respond to what is seen, felt, and heard in a drama/theatre work to develop criteria for artistic choices.

- **TH: Re8.1.I c.** Justify personal aesthetics, preferences, and beliefs through participation in and observation of a drama/theatre work.

- **TH: Re9.1.I b.** Consider the aesthetics of the production elements in a drama/theatre work.

- **TH: Re9.1.III c.** Compare and debate the connection between a drama/theatre work and contemporary issues that may impact audiences.
Timeline and Application Deadline

- **June 1, 2019**— 2019-2020 InterACT application is made available.

- **June 17, 2019**—Deadline to submit applications.
  - Completed application materials must be received by Monday, June 17, 2019 and should be submitted via mail or email to:
    - Natalie Pertz
    - Education Associate
    - Hartford Stage
    - 50 Church Street
    - Hartford, CT 06103
    - npertz@hartfordstage.org
  - Early applications, when possible, are encouraged.

- **June 17-21, 2019** – Interviews with teacher applicants. Interviews will be done by phone.

- **July 3, 2019** —Teachers will be informed whether their classes have been selected for InterACT 2019-2020.
  - Hartford Stage aims to select students who will benefit most from the InterACT program. Applications are evaluated on both need and merit. All decisions are final and are not subject to appeal. We will do our best to accommodate as many schools as funding and space allow.

- **Tuesday, September 24, 2019** – Mandatory participant meeting.
  - From 4:30-5:30pm teachers must attend a mandatory meeting to discuss expectations and prepare for the first show of the season. This meeting will be held at Hartford Stage’s Education Center in downtown Hartford.

Application Instructions

1. **Review the play descriptions and performance dates (page 2).** Teachers know their students best, so please assess the plays’ appropriateness for your class(es). If you have any questions about a play’s content, please contact the InterACT program manager before submitting your application.

2. **Check your school’s calendar.** Be sure to check your school’s calendar and speak with administration to avoid any conflicts. Remember, your classes will also commit to pre-show workshops during the week of the performance. Hartford Stage may not be able to accommodate workshops before or after the performance week.

3. **Choose whether you will apply for one or two classes.** Please include an approximate number of students per class. Teachers of accepted classes will be asked to confirm specific counts once the school year begins. Please note that a 1:12 chaperone to student ratio is required when attending the performance.

4. **Fill out and return the attached application (pages 6-9).** Please provide us with current and complete information about your school, highlighting curricular ties and how your students will benefit from the program.

**PLEASE SUBMIT ONE APPLICATION PER SCHOOL OR ACADEMY. THAT APPLICATION IS TO BE DETERMINED BY THE SCHOOL, AND MUST BE SIGNED OR ENDORSED BY THE SCHOOL’S PRINCIPAL (SEE PAGE 9).**
InterACT 2019-2020 Application Form

Section 1: School Information
Teacher’s Name ________________________________________________
School Name __________________________________________________
School Address _________________________________________________
City, State, Zip ________________________________________________
School Phone ______________________________
Teacher Cell Phone _____________________________________________
Email _________________________________________________________
Best time to reach you _________________________________________
Subject(s) taught ___________________ Grade of participants _________
Applying for 1 or 2 classes? _____ Approximate number of students per class ______
Percent of students who qualify for free or reduced lunch ________________
Is your school a Title I school? __________
Demographics (race, age, and gender) of students ______________________

Section 2: Classroom Culture and Curricular Ties
Have you participated in InterACT before? __________________________
If so, for how many years? ______________________________
If not, how did you hear about the program? _________________________
Why are you interested in participating in InterACT? __________________
What do you hope your students will gain from the InterACT experience? _________
Please describe the nature of your class (participation levels, diversity, etc.).

How will you incorporate attending the productions into your curriculum? Provide an example using a production from our upcoming season. Use additional paper if necessary.

How will you measure your students’ learning through InterACT? Use additional paper if necessary.

Please list/describe any other arts organization programs you and your class participate in.

Please list/describe arts opportunities that currently exist for your students at school.
Is there any additional information we should know that may affect our decision?

If you have any questions about the program or application, please contact Natalie Pertz at (860) 520-7261, or email npertz@hartfordstage.org.

Section 3: Signatures

If selected for participation in Hartford Stage’s InterACT program, I will adhere to all Hartford Stage guidelines and requirements for InterACT, including information sessions, attendance at preview performances, and participation in pre-show workshops. I understand that in the event of a school closing or delay on an InterACT performance day, Hartford Stage will make every effort to reschedule students into a different performance, but cannot guarantee availability of tickets. I understand that in-school workshops cancelled due to school closure or school conflict may not be rescheduled. I will ensure my classes participate in all surveys connected to collection of data necessary for funding and program evaluation. I understand Hartford Stage’s right of refusal or discontinuance if the program expectations are not fulfilled.

Teacher Signature _____________________________ Date __________
If selected for participation in Hartford Stage’s InterACT program, I will support the teacher and students’ participation in information sessions, pre-workshops, and InterACT field trips. **I have checked the performance dates against our school and district calendars, and to the best of my knowledge I find no conflicts.** I acknowledge that this is the sole application submitted by our school or academy and recommend this class(es) as an appropriate fit for the program. I understand that in the event of a school closing or delay on an InterACT performance day, Hartford Stage will make every effort to reschedule students into a different performance, but cannot guarantee availability of tickets, and that in-school workshops cancelled due to school closure or school conflict may not be rescheduled. **I understand Hartford Stage’s right of refusal or discontinuance if the program expectations are not fulfilled.**

Principal Signature* ________________________________ Date ________

*In lieu of a signature, principals may send an email endorsement to npertz@hartfordstage.org
Unsigned or unendorsed applications are incomplete and will not be considered.