



FESTIVAL ANTIGONISH THEATRE ACADEMY

2026 Policies Document

Director of Education & Community Engagement:
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Registration

All students must be registered before attending classes.

Selecting a Class, Camp or Workshop

- Adult participants must be 18 years or older.
- Youth participants must be within the age range stated for each class either at the beginning or within the course schedule.
- If you're unsure which class to register for, please reach out to the Director of Education by email. A trial attendance at a class's first meeting can be arranged.. (Trials are not available for day camps or workshops.)
- Be aware that many aspects of more advanced classes may not be appropriate for a younger participant regardless of their skill level compared to peers.

For youth participants – there are typically two levels of experience and expectations for students over the age of 8 (e.g., 8-11 vs. 10-12, or 13-17 vs. 15-19). With the younger range reflecting a more process-driven, socially-minded environment for students looking to make friends with like-minded peers. Whereas the older range reflects a more skill based, product-driven environment.

Payment Policy

Payment is required to complete registration. Pay online through our ticketing website or by phone at the Box Office (902-867-3333).

Withdrawal Requests

All withdrawal requests must be made in writing by email to the Director of Education.

Refund Policy

Full Refunds will be processed:

- When a program is cancelled by FATA.
- If a single-day youth camp (e.g. PD Day Camps) is cancelled due to weather, illness, or other unforeseen circumstances.
- Withdrawal is requested by email at least **two weeks prior to the first meeting**.
 - Within two weeks a withdrawing student will receive a refund if their spot is filled by someone on a waitlist.

Refunds will **not** be provided if:

- A student is dismissed from the class for violating policies outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.
- A student stops attending and the Director of Education is not informed.
- A single day in a week-long youth camp is cancelled for weather, illness or other unforeseen circumstances.

Financial Barriers

FATA and its parent organization, FAST, believe that arts education should be available to all. If you are experiencing a financial barrier to participation please reach out to the Director of Education.

Each program has a modest allowance for partial or fully waived fees, available on a first-come, first-served basis. This support may be paused for a semester if a substantial waitlist forms, so others have a chance to register.

Accessibility

Physical Accessibility: Please contact the Director of Education to confirm the accessibility of all venues. The Bauer Theatre and most on-campus classrooms are fully accessible. Occasionally, off site venues may be required and have different levels of accessibility.

Levels of Support: Most students who can participate independently (without one-on-one support) and work cooperatively with the group will find classes and camps suitable. Instructors appreciate any information that can be provided before your program.

Sensory Support: Classes have access to a simple sensory support box, and students are welcome to use it as needed. Classes can be loud and stage lights can be bright. We do ask that fidgets or sensory supports brought by students be quiet so they don't distract during focused work.

Unfortunately, FATA cannot provide one-on-one support. Students who need dedicated support, or significant one-on-one time with the instructor away from the group, may not find classes suitable. Our instructors are teaching artists who do not have advanced experience in managing high support needs or complex behavioral needs. To discuss if your child can be properly supported please reach out to the Director of Education.

Course Policies

All students are expected to adhere to the Student Code of Conduct at all times. The following policies apply to all FATA programming.

Cancellations

- FATA reserves the right to cancel any class, camp or workshop due to low registration numbers or other unforeseen circumstances.
- FATA Instructors reserve the right to cancel any class or day of camp in the event of severe weather, illness or unforeseen circumstances.
- Notifications will be made by email to the email indicated on the registration form.
- Weather Cancellations - Weekday Classes
 - Youth classes will be canceled if school is cancelled and/or StFX Campus is closed by 11:00am.
 - Adult classes will be cancelled if StFX Campus is closed.
- Weather Cancellations - Weekend Classes
 - Decisions will be communicated no later than two hours before the start of class.
- Make-Up Classes are indicated on the schedule for each class, please consider this the end of class (especially in the winter) for scheduling purposes.
 - Make-up classes are not offered for day-camps.
 - Additional make-up classes may be considered at the discretion of the instructor in consultation with participants.

Attendance

It is expected that every student will attend all class meetings and participate in final performances and showcases in their own way (with exceptions made for illness, etc). If your student may be unable to attend a final performance, please let the instructor know as soon as possible (even if it's not yet certain). Unexplained or short-notice absence for performances can cause significant disturbances to everyone's experience and can negatively affect the outcome of months of work.

Participants are asked to stay home if sick and inform their instructor or the Director of Education. Due to the nature of theatre work, illnesses spread easily and with severity. We understand that everyone gets sick and students will not be punished if they're unable to attend.

Youth Pick Up and Drop Off

- Each parent/guardian must indicate their dismissal plan on the registration form with expectations clearly stated. For example: if your student will walk home or to you in the parking lot or you will come inside and meet them.
- **Supervision is not guaranteed more than 15 minutes before or after class. Students must be picked up within that window.**

- Students must be picked up no later than 15 minutes after the end of classes.
 - If a pick-up no-show occurs, the instructor will contact all listed phone numbers and leave voicemails. If the wait becomes extended, the instructor will act in the child's best interest
 - Extremely long or frequent late pick-ups will result in student dismissal.
- Students attending afterschool classes should arrive ready for class, having had an adequate snack.
- Teens ages 13-17 and up are permitted to leave day-camps during the lunch break only if their parent/guardian has submitted the permission form.

Parents/guardians of youth participants are asked to wait in the lobby or hall until class is dismissed. Although you may enjoy watching your child participate it may cause disruption to class and create unintended anxiety for students.

Right to participate, or not participate

The focus of FATA is to foster a love of theatre in an environment that matches the pace of individual growth. We appreciate that participants won't express themselves in the same way or progress at the same rate. All students have the right to take part, or not, in daily activities and final performances alike. That said, students will always be encouraged to give it a try or contribute in their own way. Students who opt to sit out for games or exercises are expected to observe quietly.

Philosophy

FATA believes that every person and child has a creative voice and a talent worth developing. Our classes are centred on each student's individual experience, and are designed with the flexibility to grow and change alongside them. Our teaching is grounded in well-established actor-training pedagogies, using games and exercises to make complex ideas accessible to all ages and skill levels. Much of our creative work also draws on devised theatre techniques and ensemble training.

What does that mean?

Devised theatre - A style of theatre where an ensemble of actors, director and creative team work together through exploration and improv to create a unique and new play. Often the script is the product of this process rather than the starting point.

Ensemble Training - A style of actor training where the group trains together with a focus on listening, reacting and developing relationships. This style is an excellent foundation for individual technical work. Ensemble training helps you think like an actor while the technical training makes you sound like an actor.

Process driven - In a process driven class, instructors focus on ensemble group work, intuitive skill building through games and exercises. Although these courses typically envision a product at the end, the final form will be dictated by each group's strengths and preferences.

Product driven - In these classes a major project is the focus, allowing skill building and technique to develop through the rehearsal and creation process. Students in these classes should expect to memorize lines and contribute to the rehearsal process.

Why are students playing games? Shouldn't they be acting?

Much actor training relies on training games and exercises developed by well-respected teachers like Viola Spolin to employ improvisational techniques to teach skill without letting the actor's own brain get in the way. These techniques are excellent for youth participants as well as experienced actors. They can teach you to listen, speak clearly, trust your instincts and so much more. Sometimes an over-focus on technique can be overwhelming and uninteresting – especially for kids!

General Policies

Lost & Found

Festival Antigone Theatre Academy is not responsible for lost or damaged items. Please do not bring anything valuable to your course. If students are asked to contribute a costume or prop item, please be aware that any item brought in is at the discretion of the student and their parent and is not the responsibility of the Theatre Academy.

Found items are kept for an additional semester. Lost and Found is located in the coat closet within the main hallway of The Bauer Theatre, hours may vary, but generally open 9:00-3:00 M-F.

Foods and Allergies

There is **no food permitted within the seating or stage area of The Bauer Theatre**, or on stage areas of other venues. Only water is permitted on stage/ performance areas.

Food allergies: **No nuts or shellfish.** If there are other specific allergies that must be avoided, participants will be informed in the welcome email prior to the start of a course. It is the responsibility of participants and their parents/guardians to inform the Director of Education of any serious allergies during the registration period.

Scents: Perfumes, colognes or strong body scents are not permitted.

Smoking: Is only permitted in front of the building away from the main doors. Please avoid smoking at the rear of the building as smoke travels easily back into the building from this area.

Water: All students must bring their own water bottle to classes and camps. There are refill stations available for use. Students are always encouraged to take frequent water breaks.

Food: Students attending full day camps should take two snacks and a full lunch with them. All students should come to class having already eaten.

Lunch Breaks: Youth participants will not be permitted to leave the site of their course to purchase lunch or snacks. (Teen participants can leave for lunch breaks **only** if a parent/guardian has submitted the permission form.)

Injury and Health

Instructors strive to create a safe environment for all participants by monitoring classes and break times. The nature of theatre requires all participants to work safely and stay in control of their actions so they do not get carried away in the moment. Participants and/or parents are required to inform the Director of Education of any health concerns,

chronic illness, injuries, allergies, behavioral concerns before the first meeting of a course.

By participating in, or allowing your child to participate in, Festival Antigonish Theatre Academy events or courses such as camps, classes, or workshops you understand the inherent risks involved and that Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre cannot be held responsible for injuries or accidents incurred on the premises. You acknowledge that instructors, staff, and volunteers will act in the best interests of yourself and/or your child by securing medical services deemed necessary for their immediate health and safety.

Expectations for participant behavior are outlined within the Student Code of Conduct. All participants and their parents/guardians must review and sign this document prior to the start of courses.

Safe Space

All instructors working with youth are required to comply with Child Abuse Registry and Vulnerable Sector checks and provide them to the Director of Education.

Festival Antigonish Theatre Academy actively fosters a safe space for all students and instructors. Any type of harassment is taken very seriously. Expectations for participant behavior (including anti-harassment, privacy and safety) are detailed within the Student Code of Conduct. All participants and their parents/guardians must review and sign this document prior to the start of courses.

In the event that a participant feels unsafe or is experiencing harassment while attending a course, they are encouraged to speak with their instructor, Director, or a trusted member of the FAST team. If the situation is more complex, the participant can also reach out to the Artistic Director of FAST, Andrea Boyd for support and assistance.

Photographs and Filming

Festival Antigonish Theatre Academy will occasionally take photographs and/or video of participants involved in courses such as class, camps, or workshops. These may be used in marketing or publicity material, on our website, or through social media accounts to increase the awareness and brand presence of the Academy. If you or your child wish to opt out of these images, please respond accordingly on the media consent section of the registration form.

