



Young Conservatory CABARET PROGRAM 2025-26 Season



WELCOME & OVERVIEW

Welcome to A.C.T.'s YC Cabaret Program. This pre-professional program offers the highest level of musical theater training offered in the Young Conservatory. This program is designed for dedicated students seeking a rigorous program with specific training around voice, acting, dance and the *synthesis* of these skills into the unique art of musical theater performance. As part of the Conservatory at the largest regional theater company in the Bay Area, students in our Cabaret program have access to many opportunities connected to our larger theater company and conservatory artists and staff.

In the YC Cabaret program, students build more than performance skills and confidence. Through the rigor and scope of the program, we aim to create resilient and disciplined artists who:

- Understand how to collaborate
- Appreciate the history of the art form through exposure to material
- Take feedback constructively
- Advocate for themselves in a professional manner, and
- Develop the self-discipline and time management skills needed in competitive performing arts college programs and beyond in the industry.

YC Cabaret alumni include 2025 Tony Award-Winning Actor Darren Criss (*Glee*, 2025 Tony Award for Leading Actor in a Musical for *Maybe Happy Ending*), Erika Henningsen (original Cady in *Mean Girls*, *Just in Time*, *Four Seasons* on Netflix), Adam Jacobs (original *Aladdin* on Broadway), Lucas Babcock (current Laurens/Philip in national tour of *Hamilton*) and many admitted into notable programs including: Carnegie Mellon, University of Michigan, Juilliard, NYU, USC, Boston Conservatory, Berklee School of Music, UCLA, Emerson, The New School, Pace, Marymount Manhattan, Chapman, Oklahoma City University, Fullerton, Irvine, Otterbein, Syracuse, Manhattan School of Music, The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and more.

To deliver this unique training experience, the A.C.T.-YC invests vast amounts of time and resources and recruits the highest caliber educators to serve these rising artists from across the Bay Area. Due to the overwhelming demand to be cast in the program, and the strict participant number for each ensemble, please carefully review the guidelines below prior to auditioning. Being a member of this ensemble is a privilege. If offered a place this year in either ensemble, you agree to **make your participation a priority**.

WHAT DOES PARTICIPATION IN THE YC CABARET PROGRAM INCLUDE?

- Weekly group rehearsals
- Culminating performances on one of our four A.C.T. stages
- Additional private coaching slots throughout the season
- Support with creating your audition book using knowledge of the musical theater canon and industry-standard requirements
- Invitations to panels with YC alumni, A.C.T. staff and guest artists from mainstage shows
- Comp and discount tickets offers
- Performance opportunities for A.C.T. special events and other community engagements



GENERAL FAQ

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE ENSEMBLES?

A variety of considerations are factored into the ensemble a student is invited to join. In addition to age criteria, experience, development and skills in voice, acting and movement are included in the casting decision. The age criteria breakdown is as follows:

- High School Cabaret Ensemble “Angelica” (Grades 11-12)
- High School Cabaret Ensemble “Eliza” (Grades 9-12)
- High School Cabaret Ensemble “Aaron Burr, Sir” (Grades 9-11)
- Middle School Cabaret Ensemble “Peggy” (Grades 6-8)

When considering “triple threat” performance skills for placement, experience and qualities, elements that are factored into decisions include:

- Vocal: Physiological age and development of the vocal instrument including muscular/vocal fold coordination, breath support, transition across the range, resonance and placement;
- Musicianship: intonation, ear training or sight reading, rhythm, harmonizing, ability to pick up melody/harmony, reading sheet music;
- Acting: maturity and variety in approach to acting the song, ability to connect to lyrics and play with imaginary circumstances
- Dance/Movement skills
- Curiosity and willingness to learn from peers and faculty

CAN I REQUEST TO BE SWITCHED INTO A DIFFERENT ENSEMBLE or ONLY CONSIDERED FOR A SPECIFIC ENSEMBLE?

Unfortunately, due to the overwhelming number of students auditioning for these ensembles, we are not able to accommodate requests to switch ensembles or audition only for certain groups based on factors other than those outlined above.

WHAT IS THE POLICY FOR CONFLICTS or “OPT OUTS” for ONE PROGRAM?

Opting out of one of the three programs (either Fall, Winter or Spring) in the year is permitted. There are no discounts offered if a student elects to opt out of a session. All conflicts must be submitted via a survey/form to directors before each program begins. More than one conflict per program is considered significant, and participation will be at the discretion of the director.

WHAT IS THE TUITION FOR CABARET?

The tuition for participation in the 2025-26 season is \$1,890*, payable in one, two or three installments. The **tuition represents your membership for the full season**, no matter how many programs you participate in. If you are not performing in a particular program due to conflicts with other events, there is no refund of any portion of the tuition. Scholarships are available, and requests for scholarship applications can be sent to YoungConservatory@act-sf.org. Scholarship requests must be received by email by September 4, 2025 before midnight.

**The tuition is allocated toward season-long expenses including administrative and support staff, director, vocal director or support coach, accompanist, choreographer, stage manager, front-of-house, concession, marketing, security, box office and facility/venue costs. This is in addition to ensuring we are able to compensate our skilled faculty in compliance with California’s Assembly Bill 5 (AB5).*

WHEN IS THE TUITION DUE?

For the 2025-26 Season, **the first tuition payment is due on the first day of the cabaret program orientation (September 6)**. If you choose our 50/50 payment plan, the remaining 50% of tuition will be charged on the first day of winter rehearsals (1/10 or 1/13). If you choose our 3-payment plan, one third of tuition will be charged on

the first day of winter rehearsals (1/10 or 1/13) and the last third on the first day of spring rehearsals (4/7 or 4/11). If you select either the 50/50 or 3-payment plan options, you **must** elect to save your card on file when registering online.

WHAT ARE THE COMMUNICATION EXPECTATIONS?

A.C.T.'s Young Conservatory fosters a learning environment that helps students transition into the expectations of the professional theater industry. As such, we implement a policy that states that students are responsible for reading and responding to all communications within 24-48 hours of receipt. These communications will be directed to the students own accounts and cc'd or bcc'd to parents.

It is imperative that students provide an email address that they check frequently. Consistent lack of response may result in dismissal from the program. As a *secondary* form of communication, cabaret directors may elect to use "Remind," a texting app that allows them to send announcements, and/or Google Classroom. But email is the primary mode of communication and **MUST** be a priority for students and parents.

HOW IS REPERTOIRE SELECTED DURING THE SEASON?

Students who are accepted into the Cabaret program should expect to push themselves and grow with a variety of musical styles and trust the expertise of the Cabaret faculty. Students do not select their own music for the YC Cabaret program (though they typically are provided choices by directors and given an opportunity to weigh in.) This is an educational program with the aim to provide students a wide range of repertoire across the season that will broaden their knowledge of the musical theater canon *and* thoughtfully support the development of the vocal instrument.

HOW WILL SHEET MUSIC BE SOURCED?

In order to build competency and self-sufficiency as performers, students may be responsible for finding, purchasing, printing, or copying sheet music (or providing the YC office with 72 hours' notice to print). Directors will always give clear instructions and reminders involving sheet music ahead of time and will provide sheet music whenever possible.

ARE THERE SPECIFIC THEMES FOR THE 2025-26 CABARET SEASON PERFORMANCES?

Yes! The composition and running order for each program is designed by the directors and is created to offer a particular thematic or stylized structure to the performance. Across the full season, the program themes provide a fun and well-rounded experience for students. We will announce the specific themes for the 2025-26 season during the mandatory student orientation on Saturday, September 6th.



ADD-ON DANCE AND VOICE CLASSES FOR HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLES (Back by popular demand!)

A.C.T.'s Young Conservatory Cabaret Program is a comprehensive pre-professional musical theater training and performance program that provides a launch pad for aspiring performers in the Bay Area. In recognition of the broad industry skills and college training elements demanded of "triple threat" actors, we have expanded the program to offer students in the high school ensembles access to additional training to support their performance skills. These add-on classes are highly recommended to students who are considering ongoing training at college in a conservatory based musical theatre/theater program.

Add-on Musical Theater Dance: Saturdays 12:30-1:25pm

Knowledge of dance fundamentals is an essential skill for the musical theater performer, and a required component of most competitive BFA Musical Theater program auditions. In this add-on class that will be open to both Cabaret students and other HS musical theater students, we'll be staging classic musical theater dance numbers to build greater physical awareness, improve confidence in storytelling through movement, and develop strength and flexibility. Additionally, students will have opportunities to practice learning sequences in a mock dance audition format to strengthen audition skills and build confidence. *Cabaret students accepted into the 2025-26 season will receive a link to register in this class (with limited spots) when they receive their offer. Depending on the ensemble a student is cast in, this add-on class will take place either before or after their regular ensemble rehearsal.*

Add-on Voice: Saturdays 12:30-1:25pm

A singer can have a great voice yet not understand their instrument. Designed with the committed vocalist in mind, this class examines singing and vocal production through practical and knowledge-based activities aiming to broaden the singer's understanding of their instrument, its structure and function. Students will work on exercises to build breath support, extend vocal range and agility, enhance resonance, timbre and color, with the aim of releasing their authentic, free, resonant, and supported voice. *Cabaret students accepted into the 2025-26 season will receive a link to register in this class (with limited spots) when they receive their offer. Depending on the ensemble a student is cast in, this add-on class will take place either before or after their regular ensemble rehearsal.*

REHEARSAL & PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

The 2025-26 season is comprised of a Fall, Winter and Spring program with a unique theme. For each program, ensembles meet for 8-9 weeks of rehearsals, plus a mandatory tech rehearsal and two culminating performances.

SEASON OVERVIEW

- **Auditions:** August 26-28, 2025 (*Offers will go out on Friday, August 29 with confirmation requested by September 2*)
- **Mandatory Orientation for ALL STUDENTS regardless of any Opt-Outs:** Saturday, September 6th: 12-4pm
- **Zoom Orientation for Parents:** TBD Week of September 8-14.

Program	Angelica Ensemble	Eliza Ensemble	Aaron Burr, Sir Ensemble	Peggy Ensemble
FALL	September 6 – November 16, 2025			
Rehearsals	Saturdays 1:30pm–4:00pm	Saturdays 1:30pm–4:00pm	Saturdays 10:00am-12:30pm	Tuesdays 4:15pm-6:30pm
Tech Rehearsal	Wednesday, 11/12 4:30pm–7:00pm	Tuesday, 11/11 7:00pm–9:30pm	Tuesday, 11/11 4:00pm–6:30pm	Thursday, 11/6 4:30pm-7:00pm
Performances	Friday, 11/14 6:30pm and Saturday, 11/15 7:00pm	Thursday, 11/13 6:30pm and Sunday, 11/16 4:30pm	Saturday, 11/15 4:30pm and Sunday, 11/17 7:00pm	Friday, 11/7 6:30pm and Saturday, 11/8 6:30pm
WINTER	January 10 – March 22, 2026			
Rehearsals	Saturdays 1:30pm–4:00pm * (*1/31 & 2/7 rehearsal time TBD)	Saturdays at 1:30pm–4:00pm (*1/31 & 2/7 rehearsal time TBD)	Saturdays at 10:00am-12:30pm * (*1/31 & 2/7 rehearsal time TBD)	Tuesdays at 4:15pm-6:30pm
Tech Rehearsal	Wednesday, 3/11 4:30pm–7:00pm	Thursday, 3/12 4:30pm–7:00pm	Monday, 3/16 7:00pm–9:30pm	Monday, 3/16 4:00pm–6:30pm
Performances	Saturday, 3/14 6:30pm and Sunday, 3/15 7:00pm	Friday, 3/13 6:30pm and Sunday, 3/16 4:30pm	Saturday, 3/21 12:00pm and Sunday, 3/22 7:00pm	Thursday, 3/19 6:00pm and Sunday, 3/22 4:30pm
SPRING	April 7 – May 31, 2026			
Rehearsals	Saturdays 1:30pm–4:00pm	Saturdays at 1:30pm–4:00pm	Saturdays at 10:00am-12:30pm	Tuesdays at 4:15pm-6:30pm
Tech Rehearsal	Wednesday, 5/27 4:30pm–7:30pm	Tuesday, 5/26 at 7:00pm–9:30pm	Tuesday, 5/26 at 4:00pm–6:30pm	Wednesday, 5/20 at 4:30pm–7pm
Performances	Friday, 5/29 6:30pm and Saturday, 5/30 7:00pm	Thursday, 5/28 6:30pm and Sunday, 5/31 4:30pm	Saturday, 5/30 4:30pm and Sunday, 5/31 7:00pm	Thursday, 5/21 6:30pm and Saturday, 5/23 4:30pm

Dates Subject to Change

FULL SEASON REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE CALENDAR

This link lists the [FULL SEASON REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE CALENDAR DOC](#). All students must attend the full rehearsal session unless you are notified by the director ahead of time. All groups will have a tech rehearsal on a weekday in the week leading up to weekend performances. See [schedule](#) for dates.

WHERE DO REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES TAKE PLACE?

Weekly rehearsals take place at our studios at 30 Grant Avenue near Union Square. Performances (and tech rehearsal) will take place in either our Garret theater (Toni Rembe Theater fifth floor) or the Rueff stage at A.C.T.'s Strand Theater. We actively encourage public transit as the commute is often impacted by traffic in and around the downtown region.

- **CAR:** There is a drop off zone immediately in front of the 30 Grant St entrance.
- **BART:** The Montgomery and Powell St Stations are a short walk, and many students commute together before and after class.
- **MUNI:** Any Muni service that runs on Market St or Geary will bring you a short distance from the 30 Grant St studios



AUDITION INFORMATION

To be considered for the 2025-26 season, please do the following:

1. Read this Cabaret Info Sheet & FAQ in full
2. Complete [this Audition Form](#) in full by **Tuesday, August 19th at 12pm**

Note that at the end of the audition form you will be asked to go to a Sign-Up Genius link to select an audition group with date and time. **Important:** Audition forms submitted without properly registering for a group slot OR signing up for a slot without completing the audition form will not be considered completed audition applications.

Audition Requirements: This information lives in the [Audition Form](#), which everyone must complete in order to be considered.

In addition to a current photo and resume, students will be required to sing and dance:

- **If new to the Cabaret Program:** two contrasting 32-bar cuts from musical theater songs of your choice (approximately one-minute each)
- **If returning to the Cabaret Program:** one 32-bar cut from a musical theater song of your choice
- A group dance/movement call

