

School may be out for the summer, but classes continue at Hudson Valley Community College. The young students are participating in the Youth Theater Workshop.



Co-Director Liv Cummins said, "They learn so many skills -- literary skills, adaptation skills, storytelling, drama, character building. They obviously learn self-esteem and confidence-building skills."

The workshop takes students through the entire process of building a musical theater piece, from creating characters, writing the script, and developing songs.

Co-Director Sandy McKnight said, "Almost all kids have this actor inside of them, and we see it in their everyday behavior sometimes. But this is a way to focus it, get the energy in a positive direction."

The students already seem to agree with this message.

Mackenzie Carroll said, "You can always make up your own song. And you don't need somebody to do it for you, you can make your own play whenever you want."

William Hanley said, "I learned that anyone can just be an actor."

At the end of this two-week workshop, students will actually perform a final production number. During this whole process, they learn about teamwork, but they can also learn a little bit about themselves as well.

Cummins said, "They learn so much in terms of humanities skills, but also confidence building, confidence, just coming out of their shells, getting to know who they are and what their talents are."

This workshop is part of the kids summer camps program at Hudson Valley. And while this particular class has just started this week, it's already getting a passing grade from the students.

Mackenzie Carroll said, "The theater workshop is really cool, and maybe sometime other people can try it."

And learn about the actor in us all.


WATCH THE VIDEO

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