

2023WaddleCarter-abstract

Abstract

In this study, I wanted to find evidence that suggests that community theater is an important and positive learning environment for young people. My goal is to see the comparisons between a school environment and a community theater environment and how it affects youth academically, socially, and mentally. To prove this, I worked at Muncie Civic Theater as a Stage Manager for their youth program and observed the young actors throughout the rehearsal process. I also gave a portion of the young actors a questionnaire that asked demographic questions as well as questions regarding what the young actors have learned while being a part of the program. My results of the observations and questionnaire showed that young actors who took part in the Muncie Civic Theater youth program were more confident and learned social skills because of their participation. I concluded at the end of this study that young people do much better socially and mentally if they participate in community arts programs than if their only learning environment was school.

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