

CURTAIN CALL

Tyrone Moore, Daniel Victory, Sloane Teagle, and Mason Chandler make up the cast of The Wiz



**YOUNG ACTORS GAIN EXPERIENCE AT SUGAR LAND'S
BROADWAY BOUND YOUTH MUSICAL THEATRE**

Written by Crystal Rawls
Photography by Suzi Issa

Transformations take place on the stage of the Majestic Theatre in Sugar Land. It's where a shy little girl becomes the envied star or a lonely teenage boy finds the strength to sing out loud. It transcends socio-economic status, bringing children of all ages and backgrounds together. It's a place of dreams, the home of the Broadway Bound Youth Musical Theatre (BBYMT).

THE OPENING ACT

The story of BBYMT begins when Monroe Moore found his footing on the stage at just six years old. He excelled in theatre, and after college, he went to New York City to live his dream on Broadway for two years. Moore fell in with the theatre party culture, though, and decided the best place for him was home. "Things went really fast for me," says Moore.

Back in Texas, Moore channeled his artistic strengths into the Home School Arts and Recreation Program (HARP) for children at the YMCA. Under Moore's instruction, the students excelled and began to land leading roles throughout the Houston area. When the group grew to 60 students, Moore realized something more was needed to expand their talent. He partnered up with a friend to create a program to reach out to all children, ages five through 18, offering them the opportunity to grow, push their limits, and succeed.

BROADWAY BOUND

Youth Musical Theatre offers the chance to learn from experienced teachers, performers, and technicians while having fun. Every session (fall, spring, and summer), Broadway Bound offers classes to children and youth ages five through 18. Classes are held once or twice per week in a studio theatre located at 3410-A Hwy. 6 in Sugar Land.

Classes may include, but are not limited to:

- Intro to Theatre
- Dance
- Drama
- Music
- Musical Theater
- Auditions and Callbacks
- Comedy and Improv
- Behind-the-Scenes
- Stunts and Combat
- Film and TV
- Makeup

Posing as Tiger Lily and Arrow Head
are Kara Harris & Mason McDaniel

PETER PAN

CHICAGO

Heather Lloyd and
Ashlee Wolfe as
Velma and Roxie

ALICE IN WONDERLAND



Dinah Martin as Alice

Hayley Beirmeister, Sonny Woodcock, and David Lloyd from Seussical the Musical



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Moore gathered a volunteer Board of Directors from every social, economical, political, and racial background to serve as one to support the arts and encourage Sugar Land area youth. "I know I had to go through everything I went through in New York to be able to do this," says Moore. And so BBYMT's Majestic Theatre was born.

DEDICATED ACTORS

Parents and students both admire the commitment to excellence displayed by the staff of BBYMT. Moore, along with Associate Artistic Directors Tyrone Moore and Amelia Rico, and Kay Hunt, a Fort Bend ISD voice teacher, works to bestow an appreciation of the arts as well as important life lessons to the children in BBYMT. "Children of all skill levels and backgrounds are challenged and supported while developing their mental, physical, emotional, social, and creative potential through the joy and discipline of live theatre," says Moore.

Participation in BBYMT is not always easy. The rehearsals can be rigorous – and the students love it. Lindsey Garrett, a junior at Foster High School in Richmond, has been with the company since the age of six. "There are long rehearsals, sometimes all day Saturday or Sunday. But we all know that in the end, it's good. And Monroe is always so inspiring, even if it's a bad rehearsal, it always comes together," says Garrett.

Moore and his team have established strict guidelines for BBYMT participants, allowing the discipline learned in the company to spill over into everyday life. "We perform report card checks," says Moore. "We want to make sure kids are not

*Lindsey Garret and Jan Caviel star
as Annie and Ms. Hannigan*

ANNIE



*Karina Ruiz, Aaron Harrison,
Tepanga Fontenot, and Max Friedman*



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only responsible performers and dancers, but also responsible academically.”

Classes are limited to approximately 30 students, maintaining personal instruction, although BBYMT tries not to turn any child away.

Erin Hearon, mother of 12-year-old Mollie Hearon, has seen her daughter grow more confident through participating in BBYMT. “Her dream is to be on Broadway, and I believe Monroe has put her one step closer to her dream,” says Hearon. “He never told Mollie it would be easy to get there, but he promised her she will enjoy the journey.”

Like many BBYMT parents, Robin Jones volunteers much of her time to the company. With two children and one grandchild enrolled, Jones believes in the mission of BBYMT, and in Monroe Moore. “He’s just not like anyone I’ve ever met,” says Jones. “He takes on amazing things for these children. He pulls out from them something they didn’t even know was in there. I can’t imagine any child doing this and not gaining from it.”



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GREASE



*Derrick Dixon and
Amanda Jacobsen as
Danny and Sandy*

BLOSSOMING ON STAGE

With hard work comes great rewards. "Being in this business, there are a lot of high and low moments as with anything," says Moore. "However, one of the things that stands out the most for me is the magic of the art. It is so rewarding to be part of a child's discovery." Moore adds, "Whether that is the shy boy who's too afraid to make eye contact with a person he is communicating with to discover that he can get in front of an audience and demand applause with his powerful voice, or the overweight little girl who is constantly bullied at school about her weight who discovers there is a place where she is one of the most beautiful dancers. These small gestures of discovery serve as a large impact on my life and the youth involved in our company."

Jones' 15-year-old son, Nick, went through a difficult time when his parents divorced. Theatre became a positive outlet for him, where he felt accepted and safe. "He has really grown. He has a powerful voice," says Robin. "Moore keeps kids on the straight and narrow that would otherwise not be there. He finds a way for all of them to feel good about themselves."

Moore also seems to empathize with his students. "Not all children have the privilege of having two parents," says Moore. "We have kids from all kinds of social, racial, and economic backgrounds. We want to show that it's okay to come here and feel safe. It's a haven where they can come here and be who they are."

For more information about BBYMT, call 281-879-1055 or visit bbymt.org.

In the coming years, BBYMT is hoping to find an even larger facility in which to make the arts accessible year-round for children, as well as adults. SLM

CRYSTAL RAWLS, a Sugar Land area resident, is a marketing specialist and freelance writer.

*Brennan Blakenship,
Melissa Davis, and Joshua
Humphrey make up the love
triangle of Wicked*



**TRIBUTE
TO WICKED**

2009 PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

The Enchantment of Beauty and the Beast
April 3 - 18

Once on this Island
April 23 - May 18

Nunsense the Musical
May 29 - June 6

Camp Broadway Bound incorporates all facets of the theatre arts into a fun and friendly summer camp experience. Each camp apprentice day will be filled with theater workshops using a Broadway-style theme. Workshops include audition skills, basic stage direction, musical theater, voice, dance, and drama. Other activities include high energy games, set painting, costume creation, and rehearsals for the Showcase for family and friends.



**NUTCRACKER
THE MUSICAL**

*Sydney Blankenship
as Mistress Clara*