

# news galleryweek

July 19, 2023

## Former students contribute to the Theatre Company's summer production



Three former Theatre Company performers have taken on major responsibilities for the preshow portion of the Theatre Company's summer production. Fresh off their responsibilities of conducting the Theatre Company's summer camp in June, alumni Lyra Paez, Tessa Hemphill, and Rahim Pullom direct the show – entitled *Once Upon a Time* – which will precede the production of *Into the Woods*.

Written by Paez and Hemphill, along with Charlotte Garcia Da Rosa, the Theatre Company's vocal coach, the preshow is set in an audition where performers are vying for a spot in Stephen Sondheim's musical, *Into the Woods*. A director, played by Ella

Marshall, and a dance captain, played by Tatiyana Valencia, put performers through their paces in a series of numbers from popular musicals, including *Little Mermaid*, *Aladdin*, *Mulan*, *Peter Pan*, and *Frozen*.

Lyra Paez, a second-year student at College of the Sequoias, spoke about the rewards of working with students as a writer and choreographer, "It's crazy how much it's impacted me," she said. "If you would have asked me a few years ago, I couldn't have imagined it. But working with Charlotte, Bethany (Rader), and McKenna (Friend-Hoffman), it's been so rewarding to be on this side of the production, directing the performers."



*Once Upon a Time* and *Into the Woods* opens tomorrow, July 20, at the Rotary Theater in Visalia. The small, 300-seat theater offers audiences a special connection to the cast of these enchanting shows. Evening shows will be offered July 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, and 29 beginning with the preshow at 7:00 p.m. A matinee show will be held Saturdays, July 22 and 29 – each beginning with the preshow at 1:00 p.m.

"We are blessed to have many Theatre Company alums return to help with our productions and OnStage programs at schools throughout the county," said Bethany Rader, Theatre Company director. "A special treat this year is to have Daniel Townsend return as our orchestra director. Alongside Charlotte, he also composed a special number to celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> summer show."

Ticket sales will be conducted online and shows are expected to sell out. A very limited number of tickets will be available at the door. Tickets are \$17.00 for general admission



and \$10.00 for Tulare County students, grades 1-12, with a valid ID. To purchase tickets, visit [tcoe.org/TheatreCo/Tickets](https://tcoe.org/TheatreCo/Tickets).

Photos above:

~ Theatre Company alumni Lyra Paez, Tessa Hemphill, and Rahim Pullom have some fun with the audience at the summer camp production of *Winnie the Pooh JR.* in June, which they also directed. Now college students, the three are directing the preshow, *Once Upon a Time* (photo below), which precedes the Theatre Company's production of *Into the Woods*, opening this week. *Once Upon a Time* was written by Paez and Hemphill with Charlotte Garcia Da Rosa of the Theatre Company.

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## Educational Resource Services offer numerous professional learning opportunities



Educators interested in staying up to date on the latest information and practices in education are invited to attend any of the many professional learning opportunities provided by TCOE's Educational Resource Services (ERS) staff.

Between now and the end of August, ERS has nearly a dozen options available in the content areas of math, technology, art, English language arts/development, and science. From integrating artificial intelligence or art into your lesson plans, to gaining understanding of mathematics from a student's perspective, there are trainings available for all types of educators.

Visit [tcoe.org/ers](https://tcoe.org/ers) to learn more and for a complete list of trainings available by content area.

## **Math**

July 26 – Make It Count: Inspiring Early Math Teaching and Learning, Grades TK and Preschool (<https://tulare.k12oms.org/147-233776>)

July 27 – Number Sense and Fluency K-2 (<https://tulare.k12oms.org/147-233744>)

July 28 – Number Sense and Fluency 3-6 (<https://tulare.k12oms.org/147-233745>)

September 7 – What's My Place? What's My Value?, Grades 1-3 (<https://tulare.k12oms.org/147-233769>)

## **Technology**

July 28, August 17, or September 5 – Artificial Intelligence: Unpacking Standards & Lesson Design with AI, Grades K-12 (July <https://tulare.k12oms.org/147-237090>), (August <https://tulare.k12oms.org/147-237093>) (September <https://tulare.k12oms.org/147-237099>)

## **Art (two-day event)**

August 2 and August 3 – JumpstART Academy, Grades 3-6 (<https://tulare.k12oms.org/147-235371>)

## **English Language Arts / English Language Development (two-day events)**

July 27 and September 6 – Building a Strong Reading Foundation, Grades TK-2 (<https://tulare.k12oms.org/147-234035>)

August 10 and October 12 – Make It, Take It!, Grades K-12 (<https://tulare.k12oms.org/147-234173>)

August 22 and August 29 – Writer's Workshop, Grades 3-6 (<https://tulare.k12oms.org/147-234116>)

## **Science (three-day events)**

August 30, November 6, and February 15 – Professional Learning Network Elementary K-6 (<https://tulare.k12oms.org/147-234773>)

August 31, November 13, and February 29 – Middle School & High School Professional Learning Network (<https://tulare.k12oms.org/147-234615>)

Photo above:

~ Arcy Alafa, ERS mathematics curriculum specialist, is pictured leading a professional learning training. This summer, ERS's curriculum specialists will conduct numerous trainings in a wide variety of content areas.

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