

MORTAL FOOLS

YOUTH THEATRE

THINKING ABOUT JOINING MORTAL FOOLS YOUTH THEATRE? IF SO, READ ON...

Welcome to Mortal Fools Youth Theatre!

At Mortal Fools, we focus on supporting children and young people's creativity, wellbeing and self-belief using the medium of drama.

We believe youth theatre can be a brilliant a vehicle helping young people to build their confidence and skills by engaging their creativity, to make sense of the contemporary world across them and as a means of supporting their mental health and well-being.

We know starting at Mortal Fools Youth Theatre and coming to your first session might make you feel a mix of excited, happy, nervous, intrigued, anxious and everything in between. **That's ok!** So, we thought it might be helpful to share what a Mortal Fools Youth Theatre session is like and what to expect, **so read on!**

Introduction to Mortal Fools Youth Theatre and joining us

Mortal Fools Youth Theatre is open to young people aged 7–19 years and they will work on a different creative project every term. You can see some of the projects our young people have worked on via our [YouTube Channel](#) and on our [current](#) and [past](#) project website pages.

We run weekly Youth Theatre groups split by age in Ashington – Northumberland, Tyne Valley – Northumberland, Online and a hybrid online and offline Youth Leader's group. We run our weekly youth theatre groups in Northumberland and online.

Across the year, our Mortal Fools Youth Theatre groups are often open to new members – we will always advertise when that is on our website and across social media. But you can get in touch with us at any time through-out the year to register your interest or to be added to a wait list.

There are **no auditions, no drama experience necessary and no fees** (donations are welcome!). All we ask for is a willingness to give things a go, passion for performing and lots of curious creativity. Our projects are varied, exciting, loads of fun and suitable for all!

To find out more email:

info@mortalfools.org.uk

or register a young person's interest via:

www.mortalfools.org.uk/register-with-mfyt

OUR GROUP RULES & VALUES

All our Mortal Fools Youth Theatre, sessions are under pinned with three rules, pinched from our friends at [Company Three...](#)

- Rule #1. Be kind**
- Rule #2. Be brave**
- Rule #3. Be yourself**

It's that simple – these rules make sure our youth theatre spaces are safe, fun, interesting and a space where folks can try new things, without worrying about feeling silly and feel seen, listened to and valued. These rules are why our groups are so brilliant and welcoming to all.

Interested in attending a Mortal Fools session?

Well, that's great news! Team Mortal Fools are on hand to answer any questions and to help you find out more. You can get in touch with us via info@mortalfools.org.uk or give us a ring via: 0191 580 1250

Before attending a Mortal Fools Youth Theatre session, you need to **register with us**. This is so we can get to know more about the young person interested in joining and get their contact details on file. You can do that **HERE**.

Once we've received **your registration form**, a member of Mortal Fools will get back in touch with you to agree the date of the first session with us, we'll also tell you about the current or upcoming project and share the group's location and session times with you. They will also talk you through the current Mortal Fools Youth Theatre projects and different ways you might like to get involved.

This chat is also an opportunity to share anything with us that you'd like us to know about before attending; you might want to tell us in a bit more detail why they'd like to attend, any accessibility needs, any neurodiversity, any health challenges... you can tell us anything that may help us support a new member when they attend.

We will follow up this chat with an email summarising what was discussed, the date of your first session, location, session time, photos of your Mortal Fools' practitioners (so you recognise their friendly faces at the session), what to bring to your first session and a suggestion of what to wear (i.e. comfortable clothes and shoes!).

Accessibility

Our professional Mortal Fools' Artists and Practitioners are trained and experienced in working with all different types of young people with various needs. We pride ourselves in being really clear with expectations, holding safe creative and supportive environments and we give communication in a variety of forms.

Our Youth Theatre session locations are accessible and we can adapt sessions and activities to attendee needs. We do work in SEND schools and environments too.

For our online sessions closed captioning is always enabled and we support attendees so they can participate meaningfully leaning into their learning and activity preferences.

YOUR FIRST MORTAL FOOLS YOUTH THEATRE SESSION (IN PERSON)

Ahead of joining your first Mortal Fools Youth Theatre session, we thought you might be interested to know what to expect. Our sessions and spaces are warm, friendly safe spaces – AND you'll have a lot of fun too – that's a promise!

- We encourage you to arrive to your first session in comfortable clothes and shoes and to come a little early so we can settle you in.
- You can bring a drink or a snack if you'd like to – there will be time for a break during the session.
- When you arrive you will be greeted by a friendly member of the Mortal Fools staff team – they will be one of the facilitators leading the Youth Theatre session. There are always at least two facilitators in each session.
- One of Mortal Fools staff team will check that we've got your emergency contact details before parents head off.
- You will be shown where the toilets are in the building and will be made familiar with the space.
- You will be shown where to put your bag, coat and you might have brought some water or a snack for the break – we will make sure those things are all kept safe.
- At the very start of your first session, a member of the Mortal Fools team will give you a warm introduction to the group.
- We will then go round the room and introduce ourselves; this gives you a chance to get to know your group members and the practitioners running the session (this will usually be done in the form of a game e.g. My name is Aimee and I like Apples!)
- A typical Mortal Fools session lasts around 1.5 hours – during this time you will have the chance to play fun games, get creative and imaginative with other young people.
- Towards the start of the session, the facilitators will agree with the group, what will be happening across the session, what we need to achieve in the session and what time breaks are.
- Across the session, we might do movement and/or memory games, creative play, reflective tasks, free writing, discussion-based activities, performance and listening to each-others' contributions.
- All our games, activities and tasks will be clearly explained to you and if you don't understand anything, don't be afraid to ask a member of Mortal Fools for help.
- Some points of the session will be high energy and other parts of the session will be quiet and slower.
- You may be asked to work with others during the session or you may be asked to contribute individually. No contributions are ever silly or wrong; if you get stuck or are unsure, the Mortal Fools practitioners and the other members are there to help and support you.
- During the session, we will have a short break, for about 10 minutes. You can use this time to go to the toilet, eat a snack, drink some water to keep you hydrated and of course, chat to Mortal Fools Youth Theatre members and get to know them.
- At the end of every session, we ask for anonymous feedback (we ask you to pick 3 tokens that summarise how the session went for you e.g. You felt a sense of achievement, you felt nervous, you felt engaged etc.) This is because your wellbeing is very important to us, and we want to make sure we are working with you in the best way we can and also that you enjoyed it.
- Our Mortal Fools staff team will wait with any young people/children until they are collected from the Youth Theatre venue.

YOUR FIRST MORTAL FOOLS YOUTH THEATRE SESSION (ONLINE)

Our online Mortal Fools sessions are very similar in structure as above. Our online sessions and spaces are warm, friendly safe online spaces, full of creativity.

Note: We recommend using a large-screened device (Desk top, laptop, iPad) for Mortal Fools' Online Youth Theatre Participation. If you don't own an appropriate device, we are currently exploring how we support participation via a device library or using device at one of our office spaces.

- Ahead of your first Mortal Fools' Youth Theatre session, we encourage you to pick a non-cluttered space at home or a space familiar to you to take part in the session.
- You may (if you're able) be asked to stand up, move around, make some noise and for that you need a comfortable space.
- We do all our sessions via Zoom and pre-session – you will have been sent the Zoom log in and password. When you log in and enter your Zoom details, you may wait in the digital waiting room until the session is started by your Mortal Fools facilitators..
- You will be greeted into the digital space by a friendly member of the Mortal Fools staff team – they will be one of the facilitators leading the Youth Theatre session.
- There are always at least two facilitators in each session.
- One of Mortal Fools staff team will check that we've got your emergency contact details before parents head off. Parents can always stay close by.
- At the start of the session, the facilitators will agree with the group, what will be happening across the session, what we need to achieve in the session and what time breaks are.
- They will also tell you how you can participate across the session using the functionality of Zoom. If you're not familiar with Zoom – our Mortal Fools' practitioners are on hand to support.
- At the very start of your first session, a member of the Mortal Fools team will give you a warm introduction to the group.
- We will then go round the digital room and introduce ourselves; this gives you a chance to get to know your group members and the practitioners running the session (this will usually be done in the form of a game e.g. My name is Aimee and I like Apples!)
- A typical Mortal Fools session lasts around 1.5 hours – during this time you will have the chance to play fun games, get creative and imaginative with other young people.
- Across the session, we might do movement and/or memory games, creative play, reflective tasks, free writing, discussion-based activities, performance and listening to each-others' contributions.
- All our games, activities and tasks will be clearly explained to you, including how you participate digitally (e.g. write in the chat, raise your hand, unmute and shout out) and if you don't understand anything, don't be afraid to ask a member of Mortal Fools for help or just write it in the chat.
- Some points of the session will be high energy and other parts of the session will be quiet and slower
- We know Zoom can be a bit tiring, so we make sure we have a mixture of activities and to have several breaks through-out the session.
- You may be asked to work with others during the session or you may be asked to contribute individually. No contributions are ever silly or wrong; if you get stuck or are unsure, the Mortal Fools practitioners and the other members are there to help and support you.
- At the end of every session, we ask for feedback (we ask you to pick 3 tokens that summarise how the session went for you e.g. You felt a sense of achievement, you felt nervous, you felt engaged etc.) This is because your wellbeing is very important to us, and we want to make sure we are working with you in the best way we can and also that you enjoyed it.
- Our Mortal Fools staff team will clearly round off the session and sign off from Zoom.

AFTER YOUR FIRST MORTAL FOOLS YOUTH THEATRE SESSION

- A member of Mortal Fools will be in touch with you about how things have gone, ask for feedback and to ask if you'd like to become a member of Mortal Fools' Youth Theatre.
- They will again confirm the term dates and project timeline with you, to ensure you understand what is expected and to confirm commitment to the group.

We hope you have found this resource helpful and that it has satisfied some of your Mortal Fools Youth Theatre Curiosity.

If you have any other questions, please get in touch via info@mortalfools.org.uk or give us a ring via: **0191 580 1250**

Follow us on:



@mortalfoolsUK

www.mortalfools.org.uk