Performing Arts Camp prepares the way for stars

Jones bringing big names from the Big Apple

BY ETTIE NEWLANDS
ETTIE.NEWLANDS@MYHORRYNEWS.COM

Broadway is coming to kids who may never get to Broadway.

For the fourth summer, Kevin Jones Performing Arts Camps will be in Myrtle Beach, and this year, Jones is bringing some big names down from the Big Apple.



Jones

The $50 per day camp, which will teach singing, dancing and acting, is June 25-30 for first graders through graduating seniors.



Houdina

It will be at Cypress Camping Resort in Myrtle Beach Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. – noon. A culmination of the week, a showcase performance, will be June 30 at 11 a.m.



Fatica

For more information, or to register, visit www.kjpas.com or call 843-251-9542.

Jones, who has owned Kevin Jones Performing Arts Studio for two decades, offers the camp "to seasoned performers as well as kids who just want to have a fun summer," he said.

This summer, Jones is bringing Broadway stars Mary Jane Houdina and Michael Fatica to teach the campers.

Houdina is what Jones describes as "a true Broadway diva" who has performed in 11 Broadway shows, including the original "Annie," and helped choreograph dozens of other shows.

"She's worked with everybody," Jones said.

Fatica has performed in five Broadway shows, and was the dance captain in "Newsies."

"He's going to teach them original Broadway choreography to the real versions of shows he's been in," Jones said about Fatica.

"There's no place in this country where kids can work with people who are the caliber of Mary Jane Houdina and Michael Fatica without a $3,000 to $5,000 price tag," Jones said.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Kevin Jones Performing Arts Camps are scheduled for June 25-30. Registration is open now. Campers learn singing, dancing and acting from professionals.

"We're bringing Broadway to these kids instead of them going to Broadway."

The day camp has a place for everyone, no matter what their level, Jones said, adding, "I'm not looking for all my kids to be Broadway stars."

What he is looking for, he said, is, at the very least, for them to learn poise and self-confidence.

"This equips them to get a part in their high school production," Jones said. "They'll get a part in community theatre. They'll know how to get out there and audition for a professional film or television role.

"These kids will learn audition techniques so they'll get a call back."

Jones also has a residential summer camp in Virginia, and his studio in Myrtle Beach where he gives private lessons.

Even if his studio students or campers don't go on to professional theatre, Jones said what they'll take away from his sessions are life skills.

"When they get up and stand on that magic X on a stage, even getting up in front of a class to give a report, they'll have confidence.

"They'll have skill sets in public speaking and they'll know how to be in front of people," he said.

A fan of Theatre of the Republic and of Carolina Forest High School's and Socastee High School's drama programs, Jones said it's a shame there is a lack of funding for the arts in this area.

"Most schools don't provide anything like that for the kids, so there's no real interest and no real theatre. We equip them, but without funding for the arts in this area, what is there for them to do?" he said.

Jones is hopeful that his private lessons and his summer camps will encourage young people to pursue the arts professionally.

