

## **WHY SUMMER CAMP?**

***Jessica Leigh Tyler, one of MPH's 2019 Matthews Playhouse Summer Camp Co-Coordinator's gives us her take on Summer Camp and the Performing Arts!***

Sweet summertime. School is out for two months. What do you mean school is out for TWO MONTHS?! As a kid, I loved summer camp. It was a break from the routine of school, but structured enough to keep me engaged...and not drive my mom crazy! Being a fan of singing as a child, musical theatre was a natural choice for me when it came to any extra-curricular activity. All I knew was I liked to sing. What I gained out of taking a step and trying a class at Matthews Playhouse was so much more. I learned the art of public speaking, which later helped me land internships and jobs. I learned how to be creative and think outside of the box, which is a highly desired skill in today's world. I learned how to be collaborative and work with others. I learned to be more independent and gained confidence. I learned to problem solve. I learned how to memorize. Not only did I learn the skills of an actor, but I learned the skills of life. Want to give theatre a try? Summer camp is the BEST place to start!

***...Jessica has a BA English/Drama—Queens University of Charlotte; Graduate Certification Theatre Education (K-12) and Middle Grades Language Arts from UNCC. Jessica first fell in love with theatre right here at Matthews Playhouse at the age of 14. Through teaching summer camps, she fell in love with teaching theatre and pursued it as a career.***

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