

## **ROS StageWorks: fun-filled theatre workshops**

In 2003 ROS (Ruislip Operatic Society) set up StageWorks, the Young People's Theatre Workshop, aiming to encourage children aged 7 to 17 to explore the wonderful world of musical theatre. With an emphasis on inclusivity and friendly support, its young charges enjoy an unparalleled level of individual attention and encouragement.

The Saturday morning sessions are run more along the lines of a club than a commercial operation, giving around 60 students - 30 each in the junior and senior groups - an opportunity to make new friends and have a lot of fun whilst learning about teamwork and developing some creative 'muscle'.

Artistic Director Les Dearlove says, "There are no auditions to pass and no exams to take; everyone knows that we simply want them to do the best they can on the day".

StageWorks continues to go from strength to strength, providing many youngsters with their first experience of theatre. They are thrilled to find themselves part of something so exciting, yet attainable, and the end of term show regularly provides new students with the first of many opportunities to tread the boards.

Run by a team of volunteers with – between them – decades of experience onstage and behind the scenes, each session focuses on different elements of performance. One week will see an emphasis on dance and movement, led by people who have choreographed some of the most recent ROS shows. Another Saturday session will concentrate on acting, which may involve improvisation, mime or some exercises using props. Completing the musical theatre trilogy, students take part in regular singing practice, learning to listen to each other and understand how to harmonise, in small groups or as a chorus.

For more information visit [rosstageworks.org](http://rosstageworks.org) or call Malcolm Unwin on 020 8866 3110.