

Cape May Stage

Cape May, NJ 08204

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Photo credit: Tina Giaimo

Pictured: Cape May Stage Youth Ensemble members: Rosie Johnson and Monty LoSasso

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Cape May Stage's Youth Ensemble Performs During Family Week

Want to see our area's theatrical stars of tomorrow? You can - on March 14th at 7 PM at the Cape May Elementary school.

That Friday evening, seven thespians comprising Cape May Stage's Youth Ensemble will perform the first act of Neil Simon's comedy, *The Good Doctor*. This event represents the climax locally of The New Jersey Theatre Alliance's 11th annual statewide event - *Family Week at the Theatre*.

Earlier this winter, Cape May Stage's Education Outreach Coordinator, Jessica Perich-Carleton assembled a group of seven promising student actors to form Cape May Stage's very talented Youth Ensemble. Youth Ensemble members, Amelia Liszak, Cameron Calhoun, Rosie Johnson, Monty LoSasso, Kyra Adams, Devon Bader, and Chase Bader, along with Director Holly Birch, met every week for two hours rehearsing, analyzing, and preparing for *Family Week at the Theatre*. Many of the Ensemble members were already familiar to Cape-May-Stage-in-Residence, having participated in a plethora of programs including Cape May Stage's popular *Summer on Stage: Youthstyle* acting camp.

Perich-Carleton comments, “Simon’s *The Good Doctor* has a vaudeville quality to it. I think both members and their audience will enjoy this kind of slapstick humor.” Simon is one of the most prolific and beloved playwrights of all time and the first act of this featured play includes classic scenes such as “The Sneeze,” “The Governess,” and “Surgery.” *The Good Doctor* served as Simon’s tribute to Anton Chekhov, arguably one of the greatest writers in Russian history. The play includes adaptations of some of Chekhov’s stories, with the common thread of a character called “The Writer” whose sole responsibility is tying all pieces of the play together.

Director Birch, whom audiences will remember from last season’s *Moonlight & Magnolias*, recommended the script to Perich-Carleton. Birch performed many of the same scenes during her high school years and found the material very funny and appropriate for the Youth Ensemble. While studying classic playwright Anton Chekhov’s genre of theatre, ensemble members also continue to work hard in creating costumes, memorizing lines, crafting characters, and experiencing the trials of live theatre.

Cape May Stage’s Youth Ensemble will present *The Good Doctor* on Friday, March 14th at 7:00pm at Cape May Elementary. Cape May Elementary is located on Lafayette St. in Cape May. This performance will be offered free to children and their families and is recommended for ages 12 and up.

For more information or to make a reservation for *The Good Doctor*, call Cape May Stage at (609) 884-1341.