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A Division of Winston-Salem Festival Ballet



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For Immediate Release

IMAGINE YOUTH THEATER ANNOUNCES AUDITION MASTERCLASS WITH BROADWAY PRODUCER MORGAN SILLS

PINEHURST, N.C., March 15, 2019 -- Imagine Youth Theater, a local non-profit children's theater program and a division of Gary Taylor Dance, is pleased to offer "Professional Auditions for Today's Musical Theater," an advanced level two-day, eight-hour masterclass for serious middle and high school musical theater actors with Broadway producer Morgan Sills. The class will run two Saturday mornings, April 6 and April 27, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at the Gary Taylor Dance studios.

Over the 2 days of this upper-level masterclass, each student will have the opportunity to hone 2 self-selected and memorized contrasting 32-bar selections. In an audition-like setting with live accompanist Alan Daubenspeck, Mr. Sills will work one-on-one with each performer to help bring their audition pieces to the next level. Masterclass enrollment will be limited to eight participants and will be conducted in a workshop setting so all students have an opportunity to observe and learn.

"We are so excited to have someone of Morgan's caliber coming into our program to coach our students and refine their work," shared Rita Taylor, Gary Taylor Dance Executive Director. "It's part of Imagine Youth Theater's mission to partner with professionals who can help advance these young actors and assist us in providing the best possible theater arts education to the community."

Mr. Sills is a Manhattan based producer/director who continues to work on and off-Broadway, on television, on tour, and in regional theater all over the country. His NYC credits include *Of Mice and Men* (Broadway, with James Franco & Chris O'Dowd), *Party Face* (with Academy Award winner Hayley Mills), *Shear Madness*, *The Two-Character Play* (with Tony & Emmy winner Amanda Plummer and Golden Globe winner & Oscar nominee Brad Dourif).

As executive producer of Judson Theatre Company in Moore County, Mr. Sills has worked with 18 stars of stage and screen over the past 8 years. Recent directing credits include *Forever Plaid*, *Wait Until Dark*, *Steel Magnolias*, and

Plaid Tidings at various theaters nationwide. During his 15 years as a professional actor, Mr. Sills appeared on stage and on television in a myriad of plays and musicals.

Imagine Youth Theater (IYT) is a division of Gary Taylor Dance and offers performance-based workshops for ages 7 to 17 specializing in musical theater productions. Additionally, IYT offers their “Imagine Broadway” program with Saturday Guest Director skill-building workshops, dance for musical theater classes, elementary chorus classes, and this year’s “summer stock” theater camp – *Frozen, Jr.*

To register or for more information about the masterclass with Morgan Sills and all other IYT productions and programs, see Imagine Youth Theater’s webpage: taylordance.org/imagine-youth-theater, call the studio at (910) 420-1025, or email IYT Managing Director Julia Latham at jlathamiyt@taylordance.org.

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