



nw children's theater & school

WINTER 2020

second stage stories

The Nuesa Family



Maxine and Jason Nuesa (12 and 13 years old) are current Second Stage students, and they agree that their experiences at NWCT over the past five years have helped them grow in ways they didn't expect. Here's what they (and their mom, Melanie) have to say about their journey so far:

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT NWCT?

Maxine: Everyone is kind and welcoming, and the environment is fun and friendly! Each show and class is different and each experience is unique.

Jason: I love being able to learn the craft of theater with this amazing community of staff and students. You also get to learn a lot about yourself!

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT SECOND STAGE?

Maxine: I'm a part of Kids' Co., NWCT's touring ambassador troupe. Traveling

to retirement homes is a lot of fun, and I love spreading the joy of theater. You connect with you community through art.

Jason: In Studio NW, you meet twice a week for the whole school year. During this time, you really bond with each other. By the time you complete the spring musical, you've become a family.

HOW HAS SECOND STAGE CHALLENGED YOU?

Maxine: Because we are always performing somewhere new with Kids' Co., and some venues are very big while others are very small, I've had to learn to adapt to a lot of different situations, which was challenging at first. During my time in Studio JR, I was also particularly challenged by Shakespeare; but all of the teachers were very encouraging, and it helped that everyone in Studio JR was in it together, helping each other along.

Jason: Everything was a challenge at first because I didn't know anything when I started! Now, I crave theater. The most challenging program I have been a part of is Summer Days, where

NWCT's Second Stage programs provide advanced training for dedicated kids and teens who have the desire and drive to strengthen their theater skills. Participation in these programs are by audition or invitation. While students in these programs have access to more performance opportunities, the benefits of Second Stage — and all theater programs — reach much further.

Being a part of a NWCT Second Stage program builds a community of actors with shared interests, yet varied backgrounds. Working together builds compassion, and the opportunities to create art for others builds confidence and offers a sense of purpose. Students are inspired to face challenges — they develop resiliency and problem-solving skills. They are encouraged to share their unique artistic voice in a safe space; and through this they learn compassion and acceptance — for themselves and others.



I love being able to learn the craft of theater with this amazing community of staff and students.

— Jason Nuesa

Theater has also helped me be more confident in school, particularly speaking in front of my teachers and peers.

— Maxine Nuesa



we had just one week to put on a full musical—one week of blood, sweat and tears! It takes a lot of willpower and strength; but it's worth it. The biggest lesson I learned from Summer Days is it's okay to make mistakes along the way—it's all part of the process.

WHAT SKILLS HAVE YOU LEARNED FROM THEATER?

Maxine: NWCT is very diverse, and theater teaches you to how collaborate with many different types of people. Theater has also helped me be more confident in school, particularly speaking in front of my teachers and peers.

Jason: You gain reading comprehension through theater. You have to understand and analyze the characters and their motives. It helps you identify how people work and different social structures. You also learn how to adapt to different situations, work together and support each other.

AND WHAT DOES MOM THINK ABOUT HER CHILDREN'S INVOLVEMENT IN THEATER ARTS?

Melanie: At NWCT, my kids have grown so much—they are always encouraged to try something new. They've developed great time-management skills. I tell them, "If you are going to do theater, you have to balance this with school and chores." And they love it so much that they find that balance.

Theater has also helped them learn how to work with many different types of people at an early age. They learn professionalism and teamwork: They rely on their team members, but

they also have to hold themselves accountable.

I initially signed Maxine up for classes because she has wanted to be a singer since she was five. Jason watched his sister for a year, and then decided to jump in as well. We stay at NWCT because it is their second home—a safe community where they make great friends and memories. They always look forward to coming, even when they are tired. The culture is positive, and I never have to worry when they are at the theater.

We
welcome
you!



NWCTS.ORG • 503-222-2190

Ready to Give Theater a Try?

We have classes for all ages and levels throughout the school year, plus school break and summer camps!

Interested in Second Stage?

Auditions for Kids Co., Studio JR & Studio NW are June 1-4, 2020. Registration begins March 1.

Want to See Maxine and Jason Perform?

They are both in their FIRST Mainstage shows this year! Catch Jason in *The Jungle Book*, February 8-March 1, 2020, and Maxine in *Seussical*, May 2-31, 2020.