

Young Americans to present performing arts workshops at HHS

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Young Americans, a company of 40 performers, ages 18-22, and six staff members will be coming to Holyoke Jan. 31-Feb. 2 to present three days of workshops in voice, dance, acting and all aspects of the performing arts for area students in grades 4-12.

Workshops will culminate in a public concert featuring the Young Americans and all participating students at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 2 in the Holyoke High School Auditorium.

Goals of the group encompass encouraging music education in schools, training young people in performance and strengthening character. Workshops will include performance techniques for TV, theater and stage; voice care; tap to classical to jazz dance; musical theater skills; staging choreography; audition techniques; microphone technique; sound engineering; and ensemble and solo singing technique.

Young Americans have visited nearly all 50 states and have traveled internationally including Austria, New Zealand, Canada, England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Ukraine, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Japan.

Included in Young American alumni are Vicki Lawrence (star of Carol's Family and the Carol Burnett Show), Patrick Hilsabeck (played the Phantom in the Phantom of the Opera), Cheri Eichen Steinkeller (producer of Cheers), Steve Anderson (sound engineer for the Superbowl, Emmys, Grammys and Academy awards), Jason Olthoff (staging director and choreographer for the Olympics) and Diana Kavilis-Morris (lead in Evita, Chorus Line and Miss Saigon).

Holyoke families will be hosting the Young Americans and staff in home stays for the three days. Anyone interested in housing members of the Young Americans can contact Julie Elliott at 854-5294.

Young Americans are being hosted by the Holyoke Schools and sponsored by the Holyoke Music Parents Association. For further information regarding this outstanding opportunity for youth please contact Pat Wiebers at 854-2284 or Marcia Dalton at 854-3411.

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