KIDSTAGE Mission
KIDSTAGE is a youth development program focused on building “Skills for Theatre Skills for Life.” Our mission is to provide a program for young people which uses theatre arts to teach creativity and responsibility, to encourage teamwork and personal integrity, and to foster self-esteem and appreciation for live theatre.

KIDSTAGE Inclusion Statement
Village Theatre KIDSTAGE believes that everyone benefits from an inclusive, multi-cultural environment of students, staff, and programming. We welcome people of every ethnicity, race, faith, sexual orientation, gender identity, income, and ability.

About Summer Independent
KIDSTAGE Summer Independent is the pinnacle of the KIDSTAGE program. It is open to students going into 9th grade in the fall through age 20. The Summer Independent production is produced, designed, and directed entirely by young artists, undergraduate level and below. Professional mentorship is provided by Village Theatre artists and staff.

About Jasper in Deadland

**Book by** Hunter Foster  
**Music and Lyrics by** Ryan Scott Oliver  
**Directed by** Jeremy Steckler  
**Choreographed by** Amaya Zhané  
**Music Directed by** Niko Hudecek

Featuring a thrilling pop-rock score by Ryan Scott Oliver, a script written by Hunter Foster, and inspired by the mythical tale of Orpheus and Eurydice, *Jasper in Deadland* follows the trials of teenage swimming phenom Jasper. He feels like he is lost in the world, where he is failing classes, gets kicked off the swim team, and his family situation is rocky at best. When his best friend goes missing at their favorite cliffside meeting place, Jasper has no choice but to jump after her, into the world of Deadland below, to try and save her.

**Auditions**
Audition videos submitted online to KIDSTAGE Production Management (submit videos online)

**Audition videos DUE:** May 11

**Callbacks**
June 7 12:00-8:00pm

**Rehearsals**
June 23-July 29
Generally: Tues.-Fri. 6:00-10:00pm & Sat. 12:00-6:00pm

**Performances**
July 30-August 16 at Cope Gillette Theatre

**Tuition**
FREE! 10hrs. of production work required in lieu of tuition (in addition to rehearsals)

Why was *Jasper in Deadland* selected?
*Jasper in Deadland* was selected to complement the more traditional song-and-dance and family-friendly nature of our SummerStock production. The show provides an opportunity for students to delve deeper into the lives of teenagers as they navigate and explore important and mature themes such as suicide,
depression, physical and mental abuse, drug abuse, and anxiety. It tackles these themes through the lens of a modern take on the Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice as the characters explore the importance of hope, diligence, resiliency, self-discovery, and the realization of self-worth. The show challenges actors with demonstrating newer and modern staging styles and techniques while singing a contemporary rock musical score.

**Project Needs**
We encourage actors of all genders, ethnicities, abilities, skill levels, body styles, etc. to audition and to be considered for any and all of the following roles. We are seeking experienced performers (grade 9 – age 20) with strong pop/rock singing abilities. As performers may play multiple roles in the show, the Directing Team will be looking for actors that make bold and distinct character choices.

**Character Breakdown**

**JASPER:** Character age 17, awkward, loner, comes from a broken home, hard to connect with others and has difficulty expressing his true feelings about Agnes. (Tenor, edgier rock sound helpful)

**GRETCHEL/AGNES:** Character age 17, also comes from a broken home, Agnes becomes Gretchen when she forgets her memories, presents as an alternative/indie rock cool chick in Deadland, sarcastic, puts on a tough front to cover up her wounds. (Belty alto/mezzo, edgier rock sound helpful)

**MR. LETHE:** Character age 30s, egomaniac CEO, sells water from the River Lethe that erases memories, flamboyant in a fun yet scary way, must have some gravitas. (Baritenor)

**LITTLE LU:** Character age 20s, Little Lu is a dangerous and funny redneck hick that runs Mr. Lethe’s bottling factory. (Flexible vocal range)

**HEL:** Character age 20s-30s, Hel is an operatic oversized underbrained Norse God. A henchman of Mr. Lethe. (Soprano)

**LOKI:** Character age 20s-30s, Loki is an operatic oversized underbrained Norse God. A henchman of Mr. Lethe (Tenor)

**BEATRIX:** Character age 2000s, Beatrix is a 2,000 year old wacky but loving and understanding transit worker. (Alto)

**AMMUT:** Character ages 20s-30s, Ammut is an Egyptian goddess who is part leopard, part crocodile and part hippo, a sassy civil servant. (Belt, must have some edge and some soul, vocal part doesn't matter as long as actor can wail)

**HATHAWAY:** Hathaway is Mr. Lethe's trusty assistant who is secretly in love with him.

**PERSEPHONE:** Character age 20s, Queen of the underworld, brings springtime back to the world of the living. (Alto/mezzo belt)

**PLUTO:** Character age 20s-30s, weepy ruler of the underworld in desperate love with Persephone. (Baritone)

**VIRGIL:** Character age 20s, a former lawyer who craftily works their way up from lowly attendance taker to Persephone's divorce attorney. (Baritenor)
EURYDICE: Character age 20s-30s, the spirit of the River Lethe. She is trapped in the River following her attempted escape from Deadland with Orpheus. She accompanies Jasper on his journey, ultimately saving him when he needs it the most. (Alto)

CERBERUS HEADS: Character ages timeless, this three-headed operatic beast guards the gates of Deadland for Pluto, deciding who gets to enter. (Mezzo-Soprano, Tenor, Baritone)

ENSEMBLE: The show offers many diverse and featured roles in Deadland that the directing team is looking to craft around the actors. Actor-musicians may also be incorporated into the show, so please state on your audition form if you are a musician and if you would be interested in playing an instrument and acting in the show. Above all else, bring your energy, ingenuity, and honesty to the audition room. Bring whatever makes you different and what you love.

Contact
For more information about auditions, please visit: https://villagetheatre.org/everett/ks-auditions.php

For questions, please contact: Aaron Alonso – KIDSTAGE Production Manager, Everett at aalonso@villagetheatre.org.