

JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Dear Maraya Family,

We hope you are enjoying the final weeks of summer and preparing for a wonderful new school year!

Thank you for the trust you place in Maraya Performing Arts. We're excited to announce our 2026–2027 season which will include exciting performances, expanded competition opportunities, student leadership development, and an even deeper investment in training, and artistic growth.

Please save this email and review the important opportunities, requirements, deadlines, and dates below.

SIX: Teen Edition

Tickets for *SIX: Teen Edition* will go on sale soon! We hope our entire Maraya community will join us in supporting our talented cast and creative team.

Performances: August 28–30, 2026

Location: Mater Dei Catholic High School

Information: marayaarts.com/six

Winter Showcase 2026

Our annual Winter Showcase gives every enrolled student an opportunity to celebrate their progress and perform for family, friends, and the community. Each class will prepare a routine during regularly scheduled class time, making consistent attendance essential.

Date: Saturday, November 14, 2026

Performance: 2:00 PM

Location: Wilson Middle School Performing Arts Theater

Participation Fee: \$150

Payment Deadline: August 15, 2026

The participation fee includes the showcase performance and a digital video recording. Tickets and costume fees are separate.

Please email info@marayaarts.com or text 619-714-2852 to confirm how you would like to pay. We can charge your card on file, or send you an invoice.

Showcase Costume Fees

The first costume is \$150, and each additional costume is \$95. For example, a student performing with two classes would pay \$245 in costume fees.

Costume fees include design, fittings, tailoring, steaming, and garment bag.

50% deposit or full payment due: September 1, 2026

Remaining 50% balance due: October 1, 2026

After the showcase participation fee is paid, families will receive their total costume balance and may select payment in full or 2 installments.

Featured Winter Showcase Opportunities

This year's showcase will include (3) featured opportunities: *Leap Day (mini musical)*, our advanced *Matilda* Musical Theatre Medley, and Spotlight Performances.

Students participating in any featured opportunity must also participate fully in all showcase numbers assigned to their regularly enrolled classes. Students may not participate only in a featured number while opting out of their class performances.

Consistent class attendance, rehearsal attendance, preparation, and full availability for required rehearsals, and the performance are mandatory.

Leap Day

Leap Day is open to eligible Maraya students, with only (15) spots available. No audition is required, but registration represents a commitment to the entire showcase process.

Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 4:00–5:30 PM

Rehearsals begin: September 2, 2026

Final rehearsal: November 4, 2026

Early-bird fee by August 1: \$350

Fee after August 1: \$400

Availability: (15) students

Students must:

- Participate in all showcase numbers assigned to their classes.
- Maintain consistent attendance in regular classes and Leap Day rehearsals.
- Attend all required rehearsals.
- Practice assigned material outside of class.
- Arrive prepared and ready to work.

Excessive absences, tardiness, missed rehearsals, or lack of preparation may affect casting or continued participation. Our creative team must be able to choreograph, block, and rehearse with students who are consistently present and prepared.

Because space is limited, please register only if your student can meet the full commitment.

Matilda Advanced Musical Theatre Medley

This advanced opportunity is open to Broadway Bound students ages 8–17 who are enrolled in at least three Maraya classes, including at least one dance class. (Musical Theatre, Tap, Jazz, Acro and/or Ballet)

Auditions: Saturday, September 19, 2026

Time: 11:00 AM–1:00 PM

Audition Fee: \$25

Participation Fee if Cast: \$400

Rehearsals: Fridays, 5:30–8:00 PM, beginning September 25

Availability: only (8) students will be cast

Audition Registration: marayaarts.com/marayafam

Students should audition only if they are ready to:

- Participate in all showcase numbers assigned to their classes.
- Maintain consistent attendance in three or more enrolled classes.
- Attend all Friday Matilda rehearsals.
- Attend all required technical and dress rehearsals.
- Practice music, choreography, and staging outside of rehearsal.
- Demonstrate discipline, preparation, teamwork, and professionalism.

Readiness for advanced material, consistent class attendance, and preparation will be considered during casting and throughout the rehearsal process. Excessive absences, tardiness, missed rehearsals, or lack of preparation may affect a student's role or continued participation.

View our award-winning Matilda Medley from the MTC Triple Threat Competition [here](#):

<https://youtu.be/RT0xq3Rcbi8>

Spotlight Performances

Students may audition to present a vocal solo or duet, dance piece, monologue, acting scene, musical theatre performance, or small-group number.

Auditions: Friday, September 18, 2026

Time: 4:30–7:30 PM

Audition Fee: \$25 per submission

Maximum Length: Three minutes

Audition Registration: marayaarts.com/marayafam

Five or fewer Spotlight Performances will be selected. Students may submit more than one piece, with a separate \$25 audition fee for each submission.

*If selected as a spotlight performer - the spotlight performance fee is \$75 (per number and per student).

Selected performers must participate fully in their regular class showcase numbers, maintain consistent attendance, attend all assigned rehearsals, and arrive prepared. They must also be available for all required technical rehearsals, dress rehearsals, and the performance.

New This Year: Center Stage Student Leaders

Maraya is introducing a new leadership recognition called **Center Stage Student Leaders**.

Students will be nominated by faculty based on attendance, dedication, work ethic, attitude, humility, artistic growth, leadership, professionalism, and commitment to Maraya's guidelines.

Students considered will generally:

- Take four or more classes each week.
- Have trained at Maraya for at least one year.
- Have participated in Maraya productions or performance opportunities.
- Demonstrate consistent effort, leadership, and support for others.

Center Stage Leaders will receive a special Maraya jersey identifying them as trusted student leaders whom students and teachers may approach for encouragement and support.

They will be expected to model Maraya's values, welcome other students, contribute to a positive studio environment, maintain strong attendance and effort, and participate in the annual showcase.

The first Center Stage Leaders will be selected beginning September 15, 2026. This recognition must be earned and is not automatically renewed each year.

Maraya Competition Team

Maraya plans to participate in (2) competitions during the 2026–2027 season:

Turn It Around Tour (new this year!)

April 9–11, 2027

Anaheim, California

MTC Triple Threat Competition

May 13–16, 2027

San Diego, California

Competition Team participation is by faculty invitation. Invitations will be sent by September 15, 2026.

Students will not prepare a separate audition. Their audition is the work they demonstrate in class throughout the year.

Faculty will consider students who take four or more classes each week and demonstrate consistent attendance, discipline, preparation, artistic growth, respect, and a positive contribution to the studio community. Taking the recommended number of classes does not guarantee an invitation.

Competition Team students perform for professional adjudicators from Broadway, TV/Film and academia in the following categories:

Acting: Monologues, partner scenes, and small-group scenes

Vocal Performance: Ballads, uptempo songs, solos, duets, and small-group pieces

Musical Theatre: Production numbers incorporating acting, singing, and dance

Invited students may compete in solos and/or small-group ensemble numbers in one or more categories. Placement will be based on each student's strengths, readiness, training, commitment, and the needs of the team.

Competition Team membership is selected annually and is not automatically renewed. Competition Fees, rehearsals, costumes, travel, and lodging information will be provided directly to invited families.

Opportunities Are Earned at Maraya

At Maraya, meaningful opportunities are earned through consistent work. This includes Competition Team invitations, featured roles, Center Stage Student Leader recognition, and advanced performance opportunities.

Talent is important, but talent alone is not enough.

Attendance matters. Preparation matters. Attitude matters. A student's response to feedback matters. How they treat and support others matters.

Our goal is not only to develop talented performers. We are building responsible, disciplined, resilient, collaborative, hardworking, respectful, and compassionate leaders.

An Important Season Announcement

After careful reflection, we have decided to produce (1) large, mixed-age youth musical every 2 years rather than annually. We will produce (1) annual Winter showcase annually in November with featured performance opportunities (mini musicals like Leap Day and/or an advanced musical medley like Matilda).

Producing a high-quality full musical requires significant preparation, including theatre rental, performance rights, staffing, fundraising, rehearsal time, and administrative support.

This biennial schedule will allow us to prepare more intentionally—both financially and artistically—while investing more deeply in training and performance readiness

Rather than producing *The Little Mermaid* during the upcoming season, we will spend another year strengthening our students' foundational skills so they are prepared to earn roles, tackle challenging material, and perform at their highest level.

Our next large, mixed-level youth musical is planned for the 2028 production cycle.

Looking Ahead

Bayanihan: For Life, For Blood

Our 2026 production of *Bayanihan: For Life, For Blood* will take place on September 12. Students have already been selected for this year's production.

We plan to offer new participation opportunities when the production process returns in June 2027.

Winter Showcase 2027

Our studio-wide Winter Showcase will return in November 2027 and continue as an annual Maraya tradition. It will once again include class routines, a mini musical, featured performances, and an advanced musical theatre medley.

Important Dates at a Glance

- ☐ **August 1, 2026:** Leap Day early-bird registration deadline
- August 15, 2026:** Winter Showcase participation fee due
- August 28–30, 2026:** SIX: Teen Edition Performances
- ☐ **September 1, 2026:** Winter Showcase costume deposit or full payment due
- September 2, 2026:** Leap Day rehearsals begin
- September 7, 2026:** Studio closed for Labor Day
- September 12, 2026:** Bayanihan: For Life, For Blood
- September 15, 2026:** Competition Team and Center Stage Leader invitations sent
- September 18, 2026:** Spotlight Performance auditions
- September 19, 2026:** Matilda Medley auditions
- September 25, 2026:** Matilda Medley rehearsals begin
- ☐ **October 1, 2026:** Remaining Winter Showcase costume balance due
- October 12, 2026:** Studio closed for Indigenous Peoples' Day
- ☐ **November 11, 2026:** Studio closed for Veterans Day
- November 14, 2026:** Maraya Winter Showcase at 2:00 PM
- November 23–29, 2026:** Studio closed for Thanksgiving Break
- ☐ **December 21, 2026–January 3, 2027:** Studio closed for Winter Break
- ☐ **January 4, 2027:** Regular classes resume
- ☐ **April 9–11, 2027:** Turn It Around Tour in Anaheim
- ☐ **May 13–16, 2027:** MTC Triple Threat Competition in San Diego
- ☐ **September 1–5, 2027:** Planned Return for Bayanihan
- ☐ **November 2027:** Maraya Winter Showcase

Please remember that production, competition, costume, travel, rehearsal, and participation fees are separate from regular Academy tuition unless otherwise stated. Complete information will be provided before families commit to invitation-based opportunities.

Thank you for being part of the Maraya Family. Your trust and support make it possible for us to create a place where students feel challenged, encouraged, seen, supported, and valued.

We look forward to another season of creativity, excellence, friendship, leadership, and unforgettable performances.

Warmly,

Miss AJ
Anjanette Maraya-Ramey
Founder, CEO & Artistic Director