

BROADWAY KIDS STUDIO

A PASSION FOR PERFORMING

By Margot Lyons Puleri



Broadway Kids Studio has perfected the magic recipe to make stars out of childhood performers. Singing, acting, dancing and performing can be taught and even taught well, but that does not mean the child will embrace the arts. After meeting with BKS owner and Artistic Director, Michelle Ameerally, it became clear that their secret ingredient is passion. Passion that comes from Michelle and her team of professionals who take the time to understand each student, to see each student's potential and then help them unlock that potential at their own pace. There is no pressure put on any student, there is simply opportunity to improve in a safe, encouraging environment. This allows the child to find their path, hone their skills and develop their own passion for performing in their own time frames.

Founded in 2006, Broadway Kids Studio has seen dozens of their students go beyond BKS to make careers out of their passion for performing. BKS students have gone on to land leading roles on Broadway Tours, become members of pop musical groups, and acted in both leading and supporting roles on television shows.

One such student, Mariangeli Collado, began with BKS at age 7 and Michelle has been her private vocal coach since. Remembering Mariangeli's first few weeks, Michelle said, "Her vocals were extravagant! It was amazing to hear this tiny person who could sing double the octaves of most people. But she was shy and was lacking performing skills, so we got her into group singing and dance."

Fast forward a few years as she gained the skills, experience, confidence and the passion to perform, and Mariangeli starred as the youngest performer on the YouTube series HitStreak at age 10. She recorded a cover of Adele's "Skyfall" that launched her popularity and went on to do a cover of Katy Perry's "Roar" which landed her 25 million viewers and over 29,000 subscribers! At age 12, Mariangeli was chosen as a member of the all girl group L2M (which stand for "Listening 2 Music") signed by Warner Brothers. L2M recorded "Girlz" which was featured in the LEGO® Friends original movie entitled Girlz 4 Life. Mariangeli's character in the movie is Olivia. Mariangeli has spent the last year flying between Los Angeles, New York City and Ft. Lauderdale, but no matter where she is or how long she is gone, she can't wait to get back to Broadway Kids Studio and her extended family there. "Mariangeli is so sweet, uber talented, humble and so appreciative," said Michelle. "We are so proud of who she is as a person, even more than her talent. These are the things we work so hard to instill in our students," Michelle added.

A few other young phenoms within the Broadway Kids Studio family are Emily Taylor Kaufman, Maisy

Surman, Issie Swickle, and Sophia Carson. Emily Taylor Kaufman was recently selected by the Phil Collins "Little Dreams Foundation" which fulfills the dreams of aspiring musicians, artist and athletes. She performed as the lead in Hairspray and in the supporting cast of a variety of other musicals. Maisy Surman, a student of Michelle's for the past 7 years, also a triple threat, was a featured singer in Neil Goldberg's, "WE" celebrating Broward County's 100th Anniversary. Issie Swickle, previously featured in the Sports & Activities Directory, performed as the lead in the national Broadway tour of Annie. Sophia Carson, now age 23, honed her voice, acting and dancing with Michelle's help and has gone on to appear as one of the main characters, Evie, in the Disney Channel Original Movie, Disney's Descendants and was a guest star on the television series Austin & Ally.

Broadway Kids Studio is a full service performing arts studio with over 7000 square feet of performance space. BKS offers group classes and private lessons in singing, acting, dancing, and musical instruments (piano, drums, and guitar). Additionally, BKS offers one of the most affordable and innovative After-School programs anywhere in the United States. Their After-School Program includes up to 15 group classes a week and pick-up from some local area schools. BKS also has seasonal performing arts camps and performance opportunities for the aspiring young professional looking to take that "next step." These include Dance Competition and Dance Company Teams, Star Performers for vocalists and musicians, and year-round auditions for their Shows (straight plays and musical productions).

Some of their productions take place on-site in their very own Black Box Theater. BKS students also have access to a fully equipped recording studio and Pro-Tools certified sound engineers ready to help you record your next hit!

Broadway Kids Studio Summer Camp is a huge hit with campers and parent alike!

The focus is learning, allowing everyone an equal opportunity to perform, and having fun. Due to their foundation in education, all students learn all aspects of the performing arts. This summer, choose from Creative Camp (ages 5-13) performing Willy Wonka Kids and Disney's Aladdin Kids or Broadway Performance Camp (ages 8-18) performing Disney's The Little Mermaid Jr. and Bring It On, The Musical.

To learn more about any of the performing arts programs, camps and competitive teams schedule a tour by calling 954-693-7500. Broadway Kids Studio is located at 9042 West State Road 84 in Davie (behind Round Up). www.BroadwayKidsStudio.com.