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Young thespians

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Young thespians will gather from around the state at the second annual Utah Children's Theatre Festival on Saturday, July 31, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the northwest corner of the Cache County Fairgrounds in Logan. The event features drama workshops for children and adults, an art carnival and plays performed by children from various towns across the state as they gather to celebrate talent and have fun. The festival will host James Omar Hansen, a professor at Ricks College, who will perform and teach one of the workshops. The festival is for all ages, and families are encouraged to attend. Tickets are ,5.

The Utah Children's Theatre Festival is a nonprofit organization and event devoted to introducing Utah children to the art of theater, town by town. As participating communities produce plays, they also prepare to come to Logan to show each other their plays.

"Drama is a great way to boost children's self-esteem and confidence," noted Jessie Datwyler, director of the festival. Datwyler has directed children's plays in Nibley for many years. "It's a wonderful way to gather a community together for civic pride, " she added. "It celebrates both town and talent in a fun, exciting way." The towns represented at this year's festival are as close as Logan and as far away as Cedar City.

Some of the workshops presented during the carnival portion of the festival include stage combat, acting for kids, backstage technical secrets, directing, make-up and costumes. The workshops are intended for people of all experience levels and are free with admission. The carnival activities include puppet- and mask-making and a chance to sing with the karaoke machine.