

# Mini-Actors, Mega-Stages: Examining the Use of Theatre among Children and Youth in US Evangelical Megachurches

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## LSU DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS

### Mini-Actors, Mega-Stages: Examining the Use of Theatre among Children and Youth in U.S. Evangelical Megachurches

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Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

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#### Abstract

How do children and youth first encounter the performing arts? While schools may stand out as an obvious answer, a recent study conducted by the U.S. Department of Education shows that the percentage of public schools offering theatre classes dropped at both the primary and secondary level from 2000-2010 (Brenchley). Yet, even as arts offerings experience a decline in some public schools, many students are being introduced to performance through another venue – the evangelical megachurch.

Since the birth of the church growth movement in the 1970s, megachurches (defined as Protestant congregations that average at least 2,000 weekly attendees) have integrated drama and stage technology into worship services as a way to maintain cultural relevance in their target communities. These tools have also impacted the way megachurches approach their ministry to children and teens.

In this dissertation, I seek to integrate research from the fields of evangelical performance and Theatre for Young Audiences to examine the way churches use theatre as a tool for discipleship and evangelism among their youngest attendees. By visiting evangelical megachurches, observing performances, and meeting with ministerial staff and arts educators from Christian arts programs around the U.S., I examine the way children function as both actors and audience members in weekly educational meetings, large-scale theatrical spectacles, children and youth drama teams, as well as church-based performing arts academies. Through these programs, children not only learn theology but also become active evangelists in spreading the message of faith to others.

#### Recommended Citation

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Using a national sample, this study gathered information about video-gaming habits and parental involvement in gaming, to determine the percentage of youth who meet clinical-style criteria for pathological gaming. A Harris poll surveyed a randomly selected sample of 1,178 American youth ages 8 to 18. The main aim of the present study was to examine additive and moderation effects of gender and personality to explain individual differences in problematic gaming and video game genre preferences in adolescence. We suggest that digital gaming may play a compensatory role in the situation of social dysfunction and concomitant negative affect, and the individual with high anxiety levels may proceed to DGA. The Ages and Stages of Child Development. Children go through distinct periods of development as they grow from infants to young adults. During each of these stages, multiple changes in the development of the brain are taking place. What occurs and approximately when these developments transpire are genetically determined. Ages and Stages is a term used to outline significant periods in the human development timeline. During each stage, growth and development occur in the primary developmental domains, including physical, intellectual,

language and social-emotional. Under US law, he can only taste alcohol from the age of 21. However, fake id is now readily available for online purchases. Your teenager can buy them on id god sites and get them in a couple of days. We look at how media impacts youth and children from all types of background, explore the effects and consider solutions to what has become a global issue. Contact us at any time for more information to learn more about the variety of options available to you and what course of action could be the best option for your particular circumstances. Facebook. Twitter. 6. Film aimed at children and young people. 7. Film which sets out to make the audience laugh. 8. Film about the American Wild West, usually with cowboys, Indians and gunfights. 9. Film set in the future, and often to do with space travel, robots, etc. 10. Film where the characters and/or situations could not exist in real life. Often deals with magic and mystery, fantastic voyages. 11. A very dramatic film where tension and suspense is deliberately maintained and is a central feature of the plot. 12. In this film, the focus is on human relationships rather than action. 13. A film where the ma... 1. We sat ... the stalls. 2. The usherette showed us ... our seats. 3. There were two actors ... the stage. 4. You'd better ask ... the box office. 5. My favourite actress was ... play. We want our child to be intelligent, clever, and sharp, innit? Children are the Godsend gifts on the earth. Thus, their educational, ethical, and social developments are the priority of the family as well as the state. So, you can't deny the benefits of childhood education, the most important early childhood education. What is Early Childhood? If you want to distinguish the development phases of a child, you will find three broad stages. Early Childhood (birth to 8 years). Among these, early childhood is pretty much vital. This period is very crucial for a child's physical and mental development. It is the time when the blooming of the brain and growth of a toddler is at its peak. Concept of Early Childhood Education (ECE). Early Childhood Education is a branch of education theory.