What makes the Saturday Ensembles so special?

For nearly four decades, Saturdays at NCTC have been abuzz with activities for young people—from classes to showcases to full-blown productions. As students age up through the program, we are able to both meet them where they’re at and offer new challenges. So many kids have grown up with NCTC! Our dedicated staff works hard to make a connection with each ensemble member and to champion them through their growth in the program.

The community expectations are high of the Ensemble members. We expect older students to be mentors both by modeling their training and engaging with and supporting young performers. We challenge our younger students to enthusiastically try new skills, regularly perform works-in-progress for students and staff, and to actively see theatre productions. And we expect all of our students to treat each other with respect and to be mindful that they are working in a professional theatre environment.

Unlike other programs that offer performances in familiarly titled shows, we strive to earn the “new” in our name. Though sometimes based on known stories, we custom build experiences and performance pieces for our students, assuring that everyone has a meaningful place on the stage. Students are at the heart of all that we do. While our curriculum may be ever-evolving, our mission has stayed the same: Saturday Ensembles are a way of building a community for emerging theatre artists and a way in which we can celebrate them and their efforts.