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## **Cutting Edge Arts Program offers accessible theatre to those living with Aphasia**

The 2024 V.U.T.C. Young Company season is excited to announce the **accessible arts initiative!** The accessible arts initiative was created with the goal of ensuring that community theatre is accessible to individuals with communication differences, particularly those with Aphasia.

Aphasia is a language problem that can occur after a stroke or traumatic brain injury, and can impact an individual's ability to produce language (message out) and/or understand language (message in). Supports such as Supported Communication of Adults with Aphasia techniques from the Aphasia Institute, use tools like key wording, body language, and verification to help facilitate communication for individuals with Aphasia. This year's youth productions will be created with Aphasia friendly support, allowing those with Aphasia to be included in this year's festivities!

Lead by ***Kira Rosenbloom*** (the Artistic Director of The V.U.T.C. Young company and Masters Candidate in Speech-Language Pathology at the University of Toronto) and in collaboration with the Aphasia Institute, young artists will have the opportunity to participate in Aphasia and communication workshops where they will learn about Aphasia, how to support communication for individuals with Aphasia and take part in creating the supports that will make this years performance Aphasia friendly.

Upon completion, the VUTC Young company will perform plays they themselves have written, are acting in and directing on their performance date – 2pm, Sunday Sept 8 - in the 2024 ***Newmarket International Festival of One Act plays***. The festival runs from Sept 5-8 in 2024.

At The V.U.T.C. we believe that theatre is for everyone, and we are excited to not only be a part of this shift in our field, but to inspire others to join us in ***making the arts more accessible.***

**Find out more about The Very Useful Theatre Company and the Newmarket International Festival of One Act plays @ [www.oneactplayfestival.com](http://www.oneactplayfestival.com)**