

Junior & Senior Drama Production's Frequently Asked Questions

How are shows selected?

We look at many elements when selecting shows including but not limited to performance space, budget, rehearsal timeframe, cast size, available crew & directorial staff size, is it something the directing staff is passionate about, and is it something the kids will have fun doing. If you or your child is not happy with the show selection for any reason, that's okay – you can join us for the next show!

Does my child/teen have to audition?

No, absolutely not. All enrolled participants automatically become part of the performance ensemble. Performers who would like to be considered for solos, line and larger roles are encouraged to audition. We do encourage each and every one of them to audition because it helps them gain confidence and they may surprise themselves! But if its going to create crippling anxiety or a watershed of tears, maybe pass on it this time, but keep encouraging them to try in the future.

What is expected of my child for an audition?

Depending on the show (musical or straight play) they will need a portion of a song from the vast library of musical theater or a 1 minute monologue. It is best that they choose something and rehearse it a good deal before the actual audition day (which means no "night before" or "day of" selections) so that their confidence can shine through. It is VERY IMPORTANT that they choose musical theater songs and not pop songs as the styling is very different and most pop music is inappropriate for musical theater purposes.

For the audition you performer should introduce him or herself as well as the audition piece they have selected. For example:

"My name is John Doe and I will be performing "Oh the Thinks You Can Thinks!" from Seussical the Musical, by Ahrens and Flaherty."

After their selection is done, they should thank the directing staff and await further instruction whether it is a request by the director to try something new, or dismissal because the director has seen enough for he moment. Neither result is good or bad so don't read anything into it.

What is the audition packet & why do I need it?

The Audition packet contains several forms with information that is imperative to our production staff and also contains valuable resources for you. It provides your contact information, children's allergy/ medical info and rehearsal conflicts to our stge manager so s/he may keep organized records of all current participants. It also give you and your

performer a few tips on things to focus on for auditions, and includes background information for the director as well as the absolutely vital conflict sheet.

How important is the conflict sheet? What if something comes up?

The conflict sheet gives you space to write in ANY activities that might coincide with rehearsal and performances. The director takes this into very serious consideration when casting the show because s/he needs to determine if s/he is able to work around those issues. If conflicts rise after the casting is completed, you must let the stage manager know immediately and it is at the director's discretion to determine whether recasting is necessary.

We're missing a performance. Can we still participate?

Theater is like a team sport. Every individual contributes to the final product and it is unfair to all the other participants as well as the directorial team to lose one element of that. Imagine putting together a puzzle and discovering you are missing a piece or watching a baseball game without a shortstop.

What if my child is unhappy with their role?

The casting is almost always an upsetting process. Kids get their heart set on a role and it may or may not pan out. Chances are a lot of thought was put in to casting your child in a role that they can succeed and learn from. Although it may be breaking your heart to watch your little one cry, the best thing you can do is explain that theater needs all the different roles filled and emphasize how excited you and the rest of the family/friends will be to watch them perform in whatever role. Focus on the positives: "Oh Sally is in the same group as you are!" and then politely ask the director if there is any time where you and your child might get feedback on their auditions so that you know what to work on to improve their chances for the next show. (By the way, the WORST thing you can do is call the director and ask if your child can switch parts.)

Who is the main point of contact during the rehearsal process?

The Stage Manager.

What happens during rehearsal?

They will be singing, dancing, staging scenes, probably playing some theater games, socializing and working toward constructing a fabulous product with a lot of other kids and creative people. However, in a class that is production based, some roles require more work. We try to teach the group numbers first so that the kids always have something to rehearse, but sometimes we have to focus on smaller scenes. Such is the nature of this type of class. A rehearsal schedule may be created in order to more efficiently use the time allowed. If so, it will be handed out by the stage manager and any further questions should be directed toward her/him.

What does “closed rehearsal” mean?

Rehearsal is JUST for the performers & directorial team. No parents/friends/out of own guests are allowed to sit in at any time during the rehearsal process. The rehearsal environment established a lot of trust, camaraderie and promotes exploration and creativity which can be intimidating and potentially distracting when external eyes are watching. Plus, we want you to be surprised when you come and see the show!

What is tech/dress rehearsal? What should I expect that week?

Tech and dress rehearsals are where we incorporate all other elements that are not actors. Sets, props costumes, lights, sound are all included. It is often a very stressful time for the directorial team as well as the actors. Expect lengthier rehearsals may run overtime and forgotten necessities like bobby-pins and hairspray.

What is strike? Why do I need to be there?

Strike is when we tear down and clean up the entire show. Laundry bags are generated, set pieces are deconstructed, etc. It is a much faster process when we have all hands on deck. It is as much a part of the theater performance process as any other element so don't skip out on it!