



Cast Newsletter – Tech Week and More!! April 27, 2009

Are We Really There?

Yes, almost! Next week is our first Tech Week for Cast A and Adult Casts. All of our actors have been working so hard, it is a joy to see how much they have progressed and are enjoying the process of theater!

There is a lot of information covered in this. PLEASE be sure to read everything, as there is crucial information in here!

We're estimating that the play will run approximately one hour and forty-five minutes (this includes intermission).

What is Tech Week?

"Tech Week" is the theater term for the intense week of rehearsals before the weekend of performances.

Tech week rehearsals are MANDATORY!

They are important for performers and tech support staff to be able to feel comfortable on stage with the lighting, sound, sets and costumes. It is important to attend each one to know where to go safely and with confidence. Please do not plan on picking up your child early or miss any rehearsals (unless sick or feverish). It is important to show up on time. If you are coming from another school, have your snack on the way.

We will start rehearsal promptly at 4:00 PM.

Parents: If you have a backstage job, it is important for you to know where to go and what to do. Please be on time and ready to do your job.

When is Tech Week?

A schedule is attached and posted on the website. Cast A will rehearse May 4-7. Cast B may come and watch ONE dress rehearsal that week. Cast B will rehearse May 11-14. Cast A may come and watch ONE dress rehearsal that week. Please let your actor know that if they are coming to watch a dress rehearsal, the

expected behavior is be a respectful audience member – stay in seat, no talking, etc. If a child is unable to behave, he/she will be asked to leave or will be taken to extended care. This will allow our producers and supervisors to focus on the cast working on the production.

Sunday, May 3, we will be moving lighting, sound, and sets into the MP room and setting up the extension stage (an additional stage in front of the current one).

By Monday's first tech rehearsal, we will be developing lights and sound as we rehearse, moving set pieces around, and taking a look at the whole picture.

Monday's rehearsal will not be a dress rehearsal so everyone can get used to the newness of the stage, sets, lighting and sound for the first time.

Tuesday through Thursday will be dress rehearsals so that the cast can get used to quick changes, etc. No make-up is needed for Tuesday rehearsal, but is needed for Wednesday and Thursday.

Preschool/Pre-Show Performers

Tech/Dress Rehearsals are Wednesday, May 6 and 13 from 3:30-4:00 p.m. in the MP Room.

Adult Cast

Tech Dress Rehearsals are Monday, May 4, Thursday, May 7, and Thursday, May 14 from 6:30-9:00.

Backstage – Tech Week and Performances

During Tech weeks and performances, our stage manager, Michelle Neff, will be in charge of the stage and backstage area.

Both the stage and backstage will be open to cast members and support staff ONLY. Please let your child know that there will be plenty of volunteers backstage to help if needed, but that you (if you're not working backstage) will be in the audience cheering them on. Thank you in



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advance for your help with this – backstage can get very busy, and we need everyone’s help with this!

Cast Photos

Individual head shots of actors (for display), as well as a group cast photo, will take place as follows:

Cast A: Tuesday, May 5

Cast B: Tuesday, May 12

Pre-Show: Wednesday, May 6

Adult Cast: Thursday, May 7

Make-Up

We have a short amount of time between call and curtain, a lot of actors to get ready, and only a few makeup artists! We need parents to apply base face, eye and lip makeup prior to arrival for Tuesday-Thursday dress rehearsals and performances, as follows:

Basic Foundation and Eyeliner –

ALL Characters: Apply a basic foundation (a shade darker than the skin), and eyeliner

Mascara:

Lily, Hanigan and Grace
Orphans (only if desired)

Lip Color:

Male characters: brown shade
Lily and Hanigan: red shade
Women characters: wine/maroon shade
Orphans: pink shade

Character Effects:

We’ll provide the rest, but having the basics taken care of will make the character transformation (aging/youth effects, Sandy, Puppy, etc.) go much faster and easier for all!

Confused? Need Help?

For those interested, there will be a short class on the basics of theater makeup during Tech Weeks at 5:30 each day.

Need Makeup?

Karen Bellantoni is offering to obtain Kryolan

makeup kits for those interested. A separate email will be sent regarding this.

Tips & Instructions for Tech Week ***Water***

Please be sure to pack your child a water bottle to keep hydrated during the rehearsal. We suggest a “green” bottle, reusable with your child’s name on it.

Snack

Please be sure to pack your child a healthy snack to get them through rehearsal. It should be non-sticky, NO NUTS, and protein if possible. Snacks should also be low in citrus and dairy, to help actors maintain their voices.

Sleep and Rest

Your child will need a good night’s sleep every day of tech week, and rest periods. Homework can be done when not on stage during tech week. If you feel this is all too much for your child, let us know.

Dress Code

Absolutely no flip flops, sandals or any other open-toed shoes, for safety reasons. Your child cannot go on stage with these shoes or barefoot. Check the costumer’s guide (sent via email, also on website) for the shoes your child wears with their costume. They should wear them to get used to them anyway.

Dress your child in loose, comfortable clothes for Monday’s tech rehearsals. Tuesdays through Thursday they will leave their costumes at school, in a labeled bag, so they will need to come in street clothes with the undergarments worn under their costumes for quick changes.

“Backstage Bag”

Please prepare and label a bag for your child that contains a quiet activity or two (homework, book, finger weaving, etc.), a robe



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or large shirt (to cover costume during snack time), and a snack and water.

Backstage – Foreshadowing

Help us by foreshadowing for your child that the backstage area needs to be as clear and as quiet as possible during plays. When actors are not on stage or getting ready to enter the stage, they will be in a classroom. We will have crew come to get them for scenes. Noise from the backstage area carries to the audience!

There will be parents working backstage to help the actors. Please let your child know that unless you are one of these working parents, you will not be backstage during rehearsals or performances.

Tickets and T-Shirt Money

Tickets and T-shirts: please DO NOT give ticket or shirt money to Barb or Katie. They are busy getting the casts ready to go on stage and arranging final details.

Ticket money goes to Trish Shukwit, and t-shirt/DVD money to Jill Hoover. Tickets will cost \$5 for children under 12, \$10 for reserved seating (first three rows), and \$8 for general seating.

Sunday Special Teas!

Each Sunday performance will have a special event tea one hour before the show. This event will be hosted by Barb and Katie and will be held in the preschool. It is a very special tea luncheon limited to 30 guests.

Sunday, May 9 will be a Mother's Day Tea, and Sunday May 17 will be a Spring Tea. Both teas will start at 11:30 each Sunday.

Tickets are \$15.00 each by reservation only. Tea Tickets do not include a show ticket. Tickets can be purchased with show tickets.

Videotaping

You are more than welcome to come and videotape on Wednesday or Thursday during

your child's Tech Week. Please note that if you are doing your own recording, you will not be able to connect to the sound board (it is reserved for the official videographer), and filming can ONLY be done from the back of the room, in order to avoid interference with our cast, staff and audience members.

In order to make the audience experience as distraction-free as possible, we are requesting that the only the official videographer record during Friday/Saturday/Sunday performances. You can still order a DVD of the recording. How? Glad you asked.....

DVDs and Cast Photos

You can still order photos and DVDs. Each cast member will receive one 4x6 head shot. Additional head shots or cast shots are as follows: 4x6 (.50 each), 5x7 (2.50 each), 8x10 (6.00 each) or 4 Wallets (3.00 each).

Please specify which version you would like, and if you are ordering "Children's", whether you would like edited or unedited. If you need your DVD before summer, please order unedited.

Options:

Children's (both casts): \$10 Edited/\$5 Unedited
Adult Cast: \$5 Unedited (only option)

Orders and checks (payable to Katie D'Arcey) go in the "Hoover" hanging file (3rd grade).

Program Advertising

Do you have a business that you would like to promote and/or would you like to send a special message to your favorite actor(s) via the *Annie Jr.* program?

Advertising space is available in the program. Business ads are \$100 (full page), \$50 (1/2 page), \$25 (1/4 page) and \$15 (business card)

Message Ads for actors are \$10. for 20 words or less. For info, contact: Betsy Meras at bykjmeras@aol.com.