

Most Everything You Always Wanted To Know About . . .

Temple HS Musical Theatre Productions

Temple High Thespian Website — www.ThespiansR.Us

This is general information about musical theatre productions at Temple High School. This is the first version of this document, and is subject to revision and change.

AUDITIONS

Audition forms will be available at the audition. They are also available online and can be filled out in advance.

This is a chance for you to show the director(s) how you can fit into his or her concept for the musical. This also involves your attitude and how well you can work with the group.

Musical theatre auditions typically consist of

- (1) a singing audition,
- (2) a dance audition and
- (3) reading from the script (selected students)

For the singing audition, an accompanist and a CD player are furnished. You can sing a cappella, but that doesn't show the director how well you can follow musical accompaniment.

Select a song that shows off your voice. Don't pick a song that has notes that are too low or too high. You don't have to sing the entire song. If a song has a slow introduction, skip it. Start at the part of the song that best shows your talent.

The directors don't need to hear an entire song to get an idea of your singing voice. If they stop you, it just means they've heard enough to make casting decisions.

Students wanting to work on the production staff should turn in their forms at auditions. The form allows students to indicate their assignment preferences.

CASTING

Casting the roles is a combination of many considerations. It's not based solely on who sings the best, or who dances the best. Sometimes physical appearance is a consideration for some roles. How one character interacts with another can also make a difference.

The cast list is typically posted online following the audition process. Actors who are not cast may indicate on the audition form if they would be willing to accept an assignment of the production staff.

STAGE MANAGER

The Stage Manager coordinates all aspects of the production, and during a performance, he or she will be in charge of the show.

The Stage Manager takes attendance at all rehearsals and workdays, distributes tickets and collects money.

REHEARSALS

Typically, there is a preliminary rehearsal schedule available when you audition. The audition form will ask you to list your conflicts with that schedule.

An actor with a lot of scheduling conflicts will typically not be cast in a major role.

It is very important to attend rehearsals. If you must be absent for any reason, you must let the Stage Manager know **in advance**.

During the final two weeks before the show opens, you **may not** miss any rehearsal without advance special permission from the Director.

Rehearsals are typically after school. Schedules will be posted on the Thespian website. The initial printed schedule will change, so you must check the website or listen for announcements of schedule changes.

Depending on your role, you may not have to attend every rehearsal. The schedule will list what each day will involve, such as "Block Pages 20-40," "Dance Rehearsal," "Musical Rehearsal," etc.

During the first weeks, rehearsals will probably last until 6:30 or 7:00 p.m. During the last weeks before the show opens, they may last longer.

Saturdays are usually work days. All the cast members are expected to attend work days and help with the production.

The final weekend before the show opens is called "Tech Weekend." This involves both Saturday and Sunday, and sometimes these "technical" rehearsals go late into the night. This is when all the sound and light cues are checked and added, and all the other technical aspects of the show are final checked.

You should place your copy of the script and/or music into a binder and bring it to every rehearsal. Also bring a pencil, because you will want to write down blocking or other notes. You use a pencil for blocking notes because you may need to make a change.

Many times after a rehearsal, directors will give "notes" of mistakes or other things that need attention. You should write down notes that pertain to you, so that those things can be fixed and not be repeated.

CALL BOARD

In addition to checking the website, you should also check the Call Board in the theatre hallway for the latest announcements and any schedule changes.

MEALS

During the final week before the show opens, we will have some long rehearsals. We ask parents to help prepare meals for the group so that no one has to leave the building for a meal break. The Culinary Arts Department at the school allows us to use their facilities to help heat and/or store food items.

You will be asked to contribute some money (usually about \$20) to help cover the costs of these meals.

You will also be asked to bring a 12-pack of water or soft drinks for use during these meals.

T-SHIRTS

There will be a specially-designed t-shirt created for the show. There will be a sign-up sheet where you can list your shirt size and place your order. Shirts will be offered to cast and production staff members at a discounted price. Ordering a t-shirt and not paying for it will cause your name to be placed on the school's "fine list."

PARENT HELP

There are many opportunities for parents to help with the production. Some of these include:

(1) **Meal assistance.** Normally, a couple of parents coordinate all the student meals during rehearsals and will need volunteers to work one of the nights to help prepare and/or serve.

(2) **Production.** Many times parents help with costume sewing, set construction, acquiring props, publicity or other production areas. We even have parents of students that have graduated that still come to help out.

(3) **Purchasing ads.** The musical has a printed program containing paid advertising. Parents, friends or relatives who manage or own businesses can help support the program by purchasing ads in the program. The advertising information and sales sheets will be available on the website for downloading.

(4) **Ticket sales.** Many parents help by selling tickets at their work, or by offering their business as a ticket location.

PROGRAM ADVERTISING

The publicity committee is in charge of selling ads in the printed program. Information about the ads will be available on the website for downloading.

We don't allow "Congratulations Suzy" or "break a leg" vanity ads in our programs, however students can appear in a photo in the ad as long as they are dressed in their costume from the show.

The printed programs will also contain biographical information about each student along with a headshot. The publicity committee is also in charge of this information and taking the headshot photographs.

TICKET SALES

The Stage Manager will issue tickets to students for advance sales. Students must treat these tickets just like cash, because they will be responsible for the value of the tickets.

Advance-sale tickets and/or money must be turned in to the Stage Manager by 4 p.m. on the day the show opens. After that point, the student will owe the "at-the-door" value for the tickets not turned in.

TICKET SALES LOCATIONS

Because it is difficult for the general public to get to the theatre room to buy advance tickets, we like to have ticket sales locations at other places in town. We want to make it easy for the public to buy tickets in advance, so if you have suggestion for a ticket sales location, please let the Natasha Tolleson know.

COSTUMES

We don't charge actors for their costumes, but (depending on your specific costume), you may be required to have your costume professionally dry-cleaned after the show is over before returning it to the school. Failure to return your costume will cause your name to be placed on the school's "fine list."

PERFORMANCES

No one is permitted backstage but cast and production staff. Cell phones are not permitted backstage.

Actors may not eat or drink while in costume.

Actors may not go out into the student center wearing costumes or make-up. After a performance, you must change before greeting the public.

Many members of the cast and production staff receive gifts (flowers, candy, cards, etc.) at performances. A table is provided in the student center for these items.

STRIKE

Sunday after the final performance, everyone (**and that means everyone**) helps with the "strike" of the show. Many times, parents also come to help with the strike. The "strike" involves tearing down the set and putting everything back in its proper place.

CAST PARTY

Sunday evening, following the strike, everyone is invited to the Cast Party. We've had cast parties in homes, in church buildings or at commercial businesses. Parents usually coordinate the cast party. More details will be given in the days before the party.

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