

PACE Audition and Casting Information

In an effort to help our new students and parents better understand the process of being involved in a theatrical production, we put together some information about what happens from auditions to casting the production. PACE staff members are professionals or alumni of our program, so we understand what it means to venture into that uncertain world of the theatre.

At PACE, we care about children and their future, and want to make the experience of being involved in a show fun. At the same time we strive to provide a professional theatre experience. This means we have high expectations and truly believe every student is capable of meeting those expectations. Our audience members often tell us they are amazed at the professionalism of our student productions. Many PACE alumni have gone on to be well prepared for high school and college theatre study or paid positions in theatre. Whether or not students intend to pursue theatre beyond high school, being involved in a PACE production is a life changing adventure for students to embark upon that will enhance his/her life for years.

Before the audition:

- A production is a big time commitment and successful rehearsals depend on actors being present. It is very difficult for directors and other actors alike to work around unscheduled conflicts so carefully consider your schedule and what you are capable of doing. Remember that your choices affect everyone in the production, so please let us know any and all conflicts before the audition. Directors base casting decisions in part on availability. When a student accepts a role, it means someone else did not get cast in that role. It is unfair to misrepresent conflicts at auditions and if that happens, it will be taken into consideration at future auditions. Of course, illness or family emergency are acceptable reasons to have an unscheduled conflict. Plans with friends or a rescheduled school dance are not.
- Understand that tuition for a production is \$250.00. PACE is a non-profit 501(c)(3) educational organization funded primarily through tuition, ticket sales and outside contributions. A typical production costs PACE \$15,000 - \$20,000 to put on the stage. We rely on timely payment of tuition to pay for our rehearsal space, performance venue, production staff, costumes, t-shirts, cast party and much, much more. Financial need based scholarships are available, but must be completed prior to auditions. Forms may be found on the PACE website.
- Be ready to volunteer. We employ some staff to direct production activities but volunteers help defray costs. Simply put, our productions would not happen without volunteers. We require each student over the age of 14 to volunteer at least 5 hours with one of our production committees and we request family members help in some way as well. There are a variety of opportunities, so it is easy to find a way to help that works with your skills and availability. We suggest parents who are unable to volunteer make a \$25 donation to our scholarship fund.
- Be prepared. Even if a student has prior experience, it will not guarantee a part if they are not prepared for the audition. Read the audition information for *this* production on our web site carefully. Each audition is different so make sure you know what to prepare for this production. Have plenty of rest and a good meal before auditions.

At the audition:

- Students should have their audition form and schedule conflicts filled out completely.
- Students should wear comfortable, loose fitting clothing they can move in.
- Be on time. For some auditions students may be expected to be there the entire audition time, or multiple nights. For others, students may arrive at any time during the auditions and leave after their audition. Students must know what is expected at the production for which they are auditioning and then be prompt.
- Be positive, have a smile on your face, and be confident, but don't be pushy. "Mama Rose" is a bossy stage mother from the musical *Gypsy* who pushes her child into performing in a negative manner. Shirley Temple's mother would sit off camera and say "Sparkle, Shirley, Sparkle." We have all seen some of these parents. Sometimes we may have even acted this way without meaning to and stepped on toes, or pushed too hard. Please do not suggest a role for yourself or your student--this is left to the discretion of the directors. Parents and students often don't realize that they can hurt their chances of being cast with negative or pushy attitudes.
- Be loud. Be loud. Be loud.
- Be patient. It is impossible to predict how long an audition will take.

Call Backs

- By callbacks, the director has already made some decisions about roles. If a student does not get a callback it may be because they will not get a role, but it also may be because they are already cast in a role.
- Please be patient at callbacks and understand that casting decisions take time. Students may read many times for one part, read one time for one part, or read for many different parts. This can be very stressful, especially if a student does not get to read for a part he/she wants, but it is part of the typical theatre process.

Announcing the Cast

- This is also a very stressful time for young people because they may not get the part they want. You know best how to comfort your student but the following may also be helpful:
- We have many reasons we cast the way we do. We consider singing/acting ability, prior experience, number of conflicts, vocal volume, size, age, gender, fit with other actors. A role that may seem perfect to you may not work in the big picture for the director. As directors, these decisions are very hard to make, especially when we have worked with a student in other shows. Trust the director's judgment and do your best to support it. As actors, we know what it means to be turned down for a role. Have a good cry if you need to, and then move on.
- No line counting. This is when students discuss how big their part (or another student's part) is compared to another part. This is unacceptable. We are trying to teach students life skills and to be positive role models, not to see themselves as "stars".
- Every role is important, because everyone contributes. Be positive, embrace that role, and have fun with it! No student ever "just sits around" with us. Whether the student is singing, dancing, acting or observing others, they are in learning mode. PACE kids often say some of their favorite times on stage have been in the chorus, or supporting roles.
- Remember students are always auditioning. Directors notice student attitudes, both in star roles and in chorus and supporting roles. That attitude will be taken into account at the next auditions for that director.

PACE Audition Form
(PLEASE PRINT NEATLY and ATTACH A PHOTO)

Name: _____

Home Phone: () - Cell Phone () -

DOB / / Age School

Would you accept any role? Yes No

If no, what role(s) would you accept?

Would you be willing to cut and/or dye your hair for a role? Yes No

How did you hear about this show? newspaper website other

Have you been involved in other productions? Yes No

If so, tell us about them (you may attach a resume)

PACE Emergency Information

Student Name _____ DOB _____

Father/Guardian Name: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ - _____ Cell Phone (____) _____ - _____

E-mail address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Mother/Guardian Name: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ - _____ Cell Phone (____) _____ - _____

E-mail address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Emergency Contact : _____

Best Number: _____ Alt. Number: _____

Consent Form and Minor Release

- I give permission for my child to participate in (*circle one*) Fall / Winter / Spring 2011 PACE classes and/or productions.
- I hereby authorize and consent that PACE shall have the absolute right to copyright, publish, use, sell or assign any and all photographs, portraits or pictures, television spots, movie films, videotapes and/or sound recordings, or any part thereof, that have been taken of my child, or in which my child may be included in whole or in part.

Parent signature

date

PACE Medical Release

- If you or your child is involved in a PACE Youth Theatre class or production, you are hereby advised that our organization does not carry Workman's Compensation Insurance for participants or volunteers. If you or your child suffers an injury while participating in our production, you will be personally responsible for your medical or injury related expenses.
- I agree to hold PACE, and/or their assignees, harmless in the event of an injury or accident.
- I agree a PACE staff member or volunteer in charge may give my child minor first aid and over the counter medications including:

Tylenol (acetaminophen) yes no

Advil/ Motrin (ibuprofen) yes no

Antibiotic ointment for minor scrapes and cuts yes no

- I agree a PACE staff member or volunteer may seek emergency medical attention for my child if a parent or emergency contact cannot be reached.

Physician's Name: _____

Preferred Hospital: _____

Insurance Company: _____

Policy #: _____ Phone Number: _____

Medical information (allergies, medications, etc.....)

Parent signature _____
date