

GOLDEN TICKET THEATRE

Parent Handbook

Thank you for signing up for a Golden Ticket Theatre program! This packet is specifically for our parents and contains important information about GTT's policies and procedures, along with some helpful advice. We want every experience to be a great one for both our kids AND our parents. Please read carefully and let us know if you have any questions.

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AUDITIONS AND CALLBACKS

WHAT DOES MY CHILD NEED TO PREPARE?

30 seconds to 1 minute of a song that showcase their singing AND acting abilities the best.

Please have your child sing with ACCOMPANIMENT tracks only. This means there are no vocals singing with them. We need to know if they can hold pitch and rhythm all on their own and it is also hard to hear their voice when there is another person singing with them. If you have any trouble finding an accompaniment track or need suggestions, please let us know we can help!

Please email your audition track ahead of auditions to goldentickettheatre@gmail.com to help our audition process go fast and efficiently.

HOW DO I CHOOSE A SONG?

Your song is the moment to show us all you got. We want to see you show off all your skills that includes everything listed below. If you have a character from the show in mind, pick a song that represents that character well, you may even pick a song from the musical you are auditioning if you would like! But again this is the moment we get to see all you can do, so let us see your best! Musical theater songs are encouraged.

WHAT DO WE LOOK FOR IN AN AUDITION?

CHARACTER

- *Emotional, physical believability and commitment to character
- *Noticeable tactics toward an objective
- *Gestures, facial expression, movement that has a purpose and is consistent

SINGING TECHNIQUE

- *Pitch
- *Articulation
- *Rhythm
- *Tempo
- *Projection
- *Breath Support
- *Expression and emotion

OVERALL

- *Concentration and commitment to moment to moment choices
- *Integration of voice, body, and acting to create a believable character
- *Preparation, everything is memorized and well practiced
- *Confidence!!!!

WHAT SHOULD MY ACTOR EXPECT DURING AUDITIONS?

Everyone enrolled in our program is required to attend auditions in its entirety. First, we will start by introducing the teachers and guidelines for auditioning and how to be a supportive and positive audience member. Everyone will audition in front of one another. We believe this is a great learning opportunity to grow as performers. Yes, it can be unnerving to get up in front of our peers, but we are all a team and rooting for one another to succeed. Learning from observation is a great tool in the world of theater, especially among our youth!

After everyone performs their songs, the teachers will chat and ask some actors to read or sing from the script. Again, this will be done in front of everyone. Not everyone will be asked to read or called to read for the character they want.

AUDITIONS AND CALLBACKS CONTINUED...

HOW DO WE PICK WHO GETS TO READ AND FOR WHAT CHARACTER?

We base it all on what you did with that initial song audition! So again, pick a song that showcases you the best! A song that will hit on all the aspects we look for when watching your audition. We cannot stress that confidence plays a huge factor in how your audition will go. Practice in front of friends and family before to help ease those nerves.

CASTING

After auditions, a cast list is emailed to parents. Every child that auditions for one of our programs will be cast. We do not cast "trees" in our shows. Each member of the cast will sing, dance, and act on stage. Each member of the cast is important and crucial to making our show a great success!

Because each member of our staff has experience in the performing arts world, we understand better than anyone how a cast list can be both exciting and heartbreaking. When an actor doesn't get the part they've been dreaming of, emotions can run wild. Your child may feel they've performed better than what they've been cast as, that we are favoring certain students, or that they could have done better. This reaction is very normal, and always fades when we begin the rehearsal process.

We want to be clear that there is absolutely no favoritism involved in our casting process. Many times casting appears as though leading roles are given to a small group of people over and over again. It is important to understand that fairness goes both ways. Many students work very hard on their performing skills. They have great auditions, they are well prepared, and they stand out at callbacks. It would be unfair not to cast these students simply because they have performed in a lead role before.

The best way to console a crushed student is to **remain positive!** If you are excited for them, they will be excited too. In theatre, kids and adults alike face constant rejection. It is an unfortunate, but unavoidable side effect of putting on a show. If your child wishes to pursue performing as a hobby or career, it is vital that they learn to stay positive, improve, and never, never, never give up.

We are always happy to provide constructive feedback for any student about their audition or callback. We wish for the success of every student involved in our programs and ultimately want to provide an educational experience for them. Receiving constructive feedback is the best way to grow as a performer.

No parent interaction, positive or negative, will have any bearing on our casting decisions.

PRACTICE AND MEMORIZATION

Your actor, whether in a lead role or a featured chorus spot, will be responsible for memorizing their lines, choreography, and lyrics. Practicing is an essential part of the team effort in performing a musical. All of our actors are expected to have their lines and lyrics memorized by a specific deadline. Help your actor be prepared by practicing the following tips:

1. LINE DRILLS

Line drills are a helpful way to make sure your actor has both their lines and their cues down cold. It is extremely helpful to quiz your actor by reading the lines of the other people in the scene. It is also helpful to have them sing the group songs or recite the lyrics. Go through the lines over and over again, as fast as you can until they become second nature.

2. WRITE IT DOWN

If your actor is having trouble remembering certain lines, have them write them down. Sometimes writing and seeing the words on paper helps the actor process them and recall them more accurately.

3. WEBSITE AND HARMONIES

We do have two and three part harmonies in many of our songs. In order to help our actors practice these harmonies we post practice tracks on our website they can sing along with. These tracks can also be downloaded from our website to their personal electronic device for easier practice. It is important that they practice with their specific harmony track only. Harmony is tough! Especially at such a young age, so this is extremely important they practice at home as well as in rehearsal.

4. DANCING TOO!

Not only do we have lines and songs to memorize, there are full dances as well! If a student is confident in the choreography, it really makes a difference in the quality of the group numbers. Ask your actors to show you what they've got!

5. STAGE FRIGHT

It is a completely natural reaction to have a little bit of stage fright. The very best way to overcome this fear is to practice performing in front of as many people as you can. The more you do it, the less frightening it becomes!

6. VIDEO

The best way to see what you look and sound like during your lines, songs and dances is to video yourself doing them. You can see yourself from the director's point of view and it helps a ton! Try watching it with the sound turned off too to see if your character and expression is being portrayed as best they can.

PERFORMANCES

We are so proud and excited to present live performances to our great audiences, and a TON goes in to making sure this endeavor goes smoothly. We set a call time for the actors to arrive at our performance space about an hour to an hour and a half before the start of a show. The cast will all sit in assigned seats backstage while the show is in progress. They are permitted and encouraged to have a water bottle backstage, but no snacks in costume. Make sure they get a good hearty snack for energy before a show!

TICKETS

Tickets will first be available online to those participating in the program. We will email out a link and give plenty of notice when tickets will be available to purchase. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. On a later date we will open tickets to the public for purchase. Tickets will be both available online and at the door.

VOLUNTEERING

We always need volunteers during the week of our performances. If you are interested in volunteering, or would like to offer your talents or resources to helping make our show great, please contact goldentickettheatre@gmail.com with the subject heading "VOLUNTEER". Volunteers receive one free ticket. Things we have needed help in the past include tickets, pre show preparation, makeup, hair, ushering, concessions and strike.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We have accounts on the following sites. This is where we post all our upcoming information and progress updates! Please follow us!

www.facebook.com/goldentickettheatre

www.instagram.com/goldentickettheatre

www.twitter.com/goldenticketllc

www.goldentickettheatre.com

ABSENCES

If your actor has to miss rehearsal for any reason, please let us know as soon as possible by calling or texting 303-514-4298 (Chelsey). You may also inform us via email at goldentickettheatre@gmail.com. The sooner we know an actor will be absent, the better we can adjust our rehearsal schedule. Attendance is EXTREMELY important when making a musical come together. Any absence is felt by the whole cast. During tech/performance week attendance is mandatory.

FAQ/IMPORTANT INFO

Q: I came to the school and the doors were locked. What's the deal?

A: The doors to the school remain locked until the end of our rehearsal. If you need to retrieve your actors prior to this time, please let us know in advance. You are welcome to wait for them in the car loop or at the front doors. The golden rule that will be told to the kids is that if they don't see their parent they need to come directly back inside.

Q: What should my actor wear to rehearsal?

A: It is very important that all actors wear clothes and shoes they can move in. We rehearse on a carpeted surface. They will not be allowed to take off their shoes.

Q: Can my actor bring a snack to rehearsal?

A: There is allotted time for snack directly before rehearsal begins from 3:30-3:45 pm. Snacks are not provided. Please choose a snack for your child that doesn't make a huge mess because we are in the school's space. Water bottles are always permitted and encouraged. No other drinks allowed.

Q: What else should my actor bring to rehearsal?

A: Script, pencil, water bottle and a positive attitude!

Q: How do my comp tickets work?

A: Each actor receives one complimentary ticket to the show. When buying tickets online there will be an option to select "comp ticket" as part of your purchase. If buying tickets at the door, let them know your child's name and that you would like to use your comp ticket.