

Theatre Ink Presents

The Third Annual Playwrights' Festival

Audition Packet

May 27, 29, 2010

In the Little Theatre

Auditions: March 29, 30

Callbacks: March 31

Please sign up for one audition
slot

Questions? Send us an email at
playwrightsfestival@gmail.com

Or, see Mr. Brown
adam_brown@newton.k12.ma.us

Playwrights' Festival

Audition Form

Name: _____ Date of Birth: ___/___/_____
Address: _____ Zip Code: _____
Grade: _____ Home: (____) ____ - _____ Cell: (____) ____ - _____
E-mail: _____
Parent/Guardian: Name: _____
Phone: (____) ____ - _____
E-mail: _____

Will you accept a role in any of the plays? **Yes** **No**

If not, please indicate the plays in which you are interested:

Kármán Line

The Good News

Home

Carousel

The Incident with the Margarine

Salvation

The Antique Shop

The Curator

If not cast, would you like to work backstage? In what capacity?

What would you bring to our team?

Is there anything else we should consider?

Please provide any other pertinent information (e.g. allergies)

List all weekly conflicts between April 1st and June 1st from 3PM – 9PM:

Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Fridays	Weekends

Please list all one-time conflicts between April 1st and June 1st, including weekends:

Note: while we work hard to accommodate conflicts, you must be fully available from May 10th through May 29th in order to take part in this production.

The Audition Process

Please prepare two monologues for your audition – one comedic, one dramatic. Although it is not required, we **highly recommend** that you memorize your chosen monologues. Your monologues should involve one character trying to affect another – there must be something at stake for the speaker. If you are having trouble finding a monologue, send us an email.

Mr. Brown is always happy to work with auditioners. You can reach him at:

adam_brown@newton.k12.ma.us

A Word: We do not expect to see complete, polished characters in auditions. What we want to see are actors who take risks and make imaginative choices with their pieces. Make your monologue unique! Do something new! Most of all, surprise us with your originality and skill. We want to see actors who are open to interpreting their characters in different ways—actors who learn through experimentation. Break a leg and have no boundaries!

Theatre Ink Casting Policy

Both student and staff Directors always strive to cast fairly, with the guiding objective of assembling the overall cast that will best serve the directorial vision for the show. This requires many hours of careful analysis by the Directors and Mr. Brown, who take their responsibility in this area very seriously. Mr. Brown watches every audition and participates as a mediator and guide through every casting process.

Theatre Ink casting decisions are not based on seniority (grade level in school), or years of participation in the program. This is a firm programmatic value arrived at after years of assembling casts, and seeing the exciting results that come from having students collaborate across the grade spectrum from freshman to senior, each cast solely on his or her fit for a given role as revealed through a rigorous and thoughtful audition process. Auditioning for a show can be competitive and sometimes daunting. In keeping with the program's emphasis on theatre as a vehicle for learning and individual development, Mr. Brown is available to coach and support students as they seek to improve their speaking, presentation, and performance skills through the audition process.

DIVERSITY: Theatre Ink values and celebrates diversity of all kinds. Encouraging diversity of participation is an overall goal of the program. Theatre Ink actively encourages all students to participate in productions as members of cast or crew. All students who audition are considered equally in an inclusive environment and in accordance with Theatre Ink casting principles. Theatre Ink hopes to be a reflection not only of the varied backgrounds and experiences of Newton North's staff and students but also of diverse world cultures, life experiences, and theatrical traditions. By carefully selecting a range of different shows each year we strive to tell theatrical stories that represent the richness of our world while offering a wide range of opportunities for all students.

ON CASTING: Casting is a very complex process. In the end, the Directors must choose the students who best fit the roles in many dimensions, both by the individual skills they present in audition, but also in the dynamics that develop between actors who will be creating the driving energy of the show in scenes together. Such dynamics are a large part of what is explored in the "Callback" round of auditions. For students, auditioning is an exciting, yet difficult, process that can bring about greater success, whether cast in the production or not. The more a student auditions, the better they will become, especially if they seek and receive feedback and guidance. The feeling of "rejection" over not getting cast seems disappointing at first, but we strongly urge you to encourage your child to get right back to work as soon as possible so they can sharpen their skills for a future audition. In theatre, as in life, all of us experience both disappointment and success. Our goal is to teach our students how to deal with both, so when they leave Newton North High School they will be well prepared to navigate their way toward success in a complex world.

TO PARENTS: Due to the large audition pool Theatre Ink shows typically experience, your child's audition does not guarantee him or her a role in the show. If your child is not cast (and also if he or she is cast), we strongly suggest that (s)he meet with the Directors and/or Mr. Brown to obtain valuable feedback while it is freshly in mind, in order to further develop skills for future auditions. While disappointment for some is an inevitable part of the experience in any competitive tryout situation, be it an academic, athletic or artistic pursuit, one of the hallmarks of Theatre Ink is that **there are many other ways to get involved** working on the production if you are not cast in an on-stage role. These include technical crew (set design and construction, lights, sound) working with Mr. Barrington-Haber, Theatre Ink's Technical Director; or on the many other teams, such as props, costumes, publicity and makeup. There are also opportunities to be a student producer or stage manager, which you can discuss with Mr. Brown or the Directors. If slots of interest are not available in the current show, please consider looking into such opportunities in an upcoming show. The wide range of types of shows, and the large number (11-12 per year) is designed to make as many theatre arts opportunities available to as many students as is feasible within the resources provided by the Newton Public Schools. We also strongly encourage each student to take a Theatre Arts and Speech class -- offered as an elective to all grade levels-- and go to Improv Club during X-blocks. These theatre education experiences will further enhance your child's skills in these areas and give them more confidence for the audition process. The wonderful spirit of camaraderie and collaboration that develops during shows is equally shared by on- and offstage participants. Talking to students who have worked in various roles and jobs will confirm this for your student. Keep an open mind, and seek out a new experience!

GET INVOLVED! If you and/or your child are/is not satisfied with the casting decision and wish to inquire as to the reasons for it, the first step is for the student to meet with the show's Directors. If further discussion is desired, the student should then meet with Mr. Brown. If, after those meetings, you and/or your child do not feel you received valuable feedback or information you are satisfied with, you are then encouraged to make a joint parent/student appointment with Mr. Brown. Please be assured that a student's future participation in Theatre Ink will not be jeopardized in any way by seeking to have concerns addressed according to this established process.

Student signature _____ Date _____

Parent signature _____ Date _____

Theatre Ink Production Agreement

(Please read and fill out the following Theatre Ink Agreement)

I agree to the following terms in this agreement and promise to abide by the conditions and expectations set forth by my director, choreographers, music director, technical director, producer, and fellow cast and crewmembers. I will dedicate myself as a true team member to this production process in order to present a show that we as a cast, crew, and production team will be proud of.

1. All actors, technical stage crewmembers and musicians should have fun working on this production as collaborative artists. We expect a positive attitude, open communication, and ownership from beginning to end.

2. All actors, technical stage crewmembers and musicians must be in good academic standing to participate in and remain in this production. All actors, technical stage crewmembers, and musicians are expected to be in school during the day in order to participate in rehearsals and performances after-school. It is also required that a progress report be completely filled out every two weeks and returned to Mr. Brown via your stage manager. You will not be allowed to attend rehearsal if this is not turned in on time.

3. All participants must be passing a minimum of 20 credits each marking period or they will be removed from the process when the report card is issued. N's in a class do not count as passing.

4. All actors, technical stage crewmembers, and musicians must be on time to all scheduled rehearsals and technical crew duties. If late for three rehearsals, you may be cut from the production.

5. All actors, technical stage crewmembers and musicians must be present at all scheduled rehearsals. Rehearsals will generally be Monday through Friday from 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Some weekend rehearsals may be requested in advance. If you have three unexcused absences from rehearsal, you may be cut from the production. *In order to be excused you must have a legitimate note explaining why. Valid excuses are an illness, a death in the family, etc. It is also important to turn in all notes to the director and notify them directly in advance if you cannot attend a rehearsal. In case of emergency, you must call 617-559-6306 and leave a message.* Communication is the key to good relationships during a production.

6. All actors, technical stage crewmembers, and musicians will keep the rehearsal spaces, stage, dressing rooms and costume room clean throughout the rehearsal and performance process. There will be no food or drink allowed on the stage at anytime. Water Only!

7. All actors, technical stage crewmembers, and musicians are responsible for their props and costumes. If props or costumes are damaged or lost while in your possession, you are responsible for the replacement cost.

8. All actors, technical stage crewmembers and musicians will use the rehearsal process productively. Actors who are waiting to work on stage should be memorizing lines, reviewing blocking, dances, music, or reading materials related to the production. *You are a student first, so you must stay current with your class assignments. We strongly encourage you to do homework at rehearsal if there is time.* Please bring snacks and water in case you are hungry.

9. All actors, technical stage crewmembers, and musicians must stay in the rehearsal area during a rehearsal unless given permission to leave. Your presence may be called upon at anytime while you are at rehearsal.

10. All actors, technical stage crew and musicians must be supportive of each other's roles in this production. It is important to communicate with one another in a respectful manner. Whether onstage or offstage, all roles in this production are equally important.

11. All actors will complete 8 technical theatre shop/stage crew hours during the rehearsal process. This may include painting, set construction, lighting, costumes, props, or other related areas as designated by the technical director or producer.

12. All actors, technical stage crewmembers, and musicians are required to take part in a full stage strike directed by the technical director, Michael Barrington-Haber, on the Monday and Tuesday (if necessary), after the production. All cast and crew will remain until the strike is complete and the stage, costume room, dressing rooms, music rooms and shop is cleared and cleaned. *Anyone who misses strike will not be allowed to work on the next show unless they put in the hours they missed with the technical director.*

The spirit of this agreement is to ensure that all actors, technical stage crewmembers and musicians are treated fairly as creative, collaborative artists who are working towards the same goal. Mr. Adam Brown, Director of Theatre Ink; Mr. Michael Barrington-Haber, Technical Director, and your Directors will enforce this agreement to the best of their ability in the spirit of a high quality theatrical production process.

This production can be an incredible experience if the entire cast, crew, musicians, and production staff work together, create together, and have fun together!

Actor/crew musician name _____

Actor/crew/musician signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____