

# **STORIES ON STAGE**

## **AUDITION INFORMATION**



Welcome to Peninsula Youth Theatre and auditions for our 2016-17 Stories on Stage! We want this to be a great experience for everyone involved, so please take a moment to read the following audition information.

### **Please follow these steps for your audition:**

1. Fill out all of the following
  - A. Conflict Calendar
  - B. Audition Registration & Emergency Information Form
  - C. Audition Sheet
  - D. Participation Agreement – Attached as a PDF to your registration confirmation email
  - E. Liability Release – Attached as a PDF to your registration confirmation email
2. Please arrive at the PYT Studio 30 minutes prior to scheduled audition time
3. Take your completed forms to the registration table.
4. You will be given an audition number tag, please wear your audition number on your right shoulder. You will be referenced by this number throughout the audition and callbacks.
5. Please bring with you a wallet sized (3.5" tall by 2.5" wide) photo of yourself from the shoulders up that has no other people in it. **YOU WILL NOT GET THIS PHOTO BACK.** You may also bring a resume if you'd like, but you are not required to do so.
6. Remain at the rehearsal studio until you are called to audition.

### **WHAT TO EXPECT AT AUDITIONS:**

Participants should come prepared to perform a memorized monologue (no longer than 1 minute) and participate in some improv exercises.

Ten performers at a time, in numerical order, will be called to audition. Please listen for your number to be called. Have respect for those who are auditioning and remain as quiet as possible while waiting. One at a time, you will be called forward to begin your audition. When you are called, introduce yourself in a nice, loud voice, and smile. Tell the directors the name of the audition piece you are performing. After you perform your monologue, return to your seat. Throughout, try to relax, and remember we all admire your ability and willingness to audition.

Once all actors have had an opportunity to perform their prepared monologues, one of the directors will lead the group in improv exercises. During this time, directors are looking for actors who are able to make big, bold choices, commit to a character, and demonstrate the ability to perform with their whole body – not just their voice.

If you have any questions, please ask someone wearing a nametag. These people are volunteers who have participated in prior productions, and understand PYT's policies and procedures. Directors will not be able to answer questions during auditions.

## **SOS AUDITION FAQs**

### **WHAT IS STORIES ON STAGE AND HOW IS IT DIFFERENT FROM MAINSTAGE PRODUCTIONS?**

Peninsula Youth Theatre's Stories on Stage program presents 45 minute long adaptations of classic children's literature at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts Second Stage. This program was designed specifically to promote a love of reading and help our more mature actors develop their craft with concentrated study under the focused

guidance of our professional directors. SOS actors will have the opportunity to work much more closely with our directing staff than they typically do during mainstage productions. Productions utilize minimal sets, props, and costumes. The prime focus of Stories on Stage shows are the story and the actors who are telling it.

### **WHAT IS THE DIRECTOR LOOKING FOR?**

Certainly directors are looking for talent, but that is only part of it. They are hoping to get a sense of who the actor is as a person and as a performer. This is part of the reason that actors introduce themselves and their audition piece. It gives the artistic staff a brief moment to see the person before he/she begins acting as someone else. They are also looking to see how well prepared the actor is. (Do they truly know their monologue? Do they know what the character wants/needs?). They make note of those who are engaged, make strong choices, and follow directions well. Being a pleasure to work with informs casting choices heavily.

***PRO TIP:** Where as in auditions for a mainstage musical, actors can tailor their monologues towards specific roles, SOS auditions present a different challenge. When you choose a monologue for your Stories on Stage audition, try to find something that will demonstrate a range of ability.*

### **WHAT IS THE REHEARSAL/PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE LIKE?**

Rehearsals for Stories on Stage shows are held on Sunday nights and Tuesday nights, typically from 6:30pm to 9:00pm. *Riding Freedom* and *Royal Princess Academy* each have a compressed schedule, so please look at their start times carefully. Each SOS show has one evening to tech (Thursday before opening from 6pm-10pm) and 4-5 performances. The typical performance schedule is Fridays @ 9:30am and 11:00am and Saturdays @ 11:30 and 1:30. During December we hold one Friday evening performance. Please review the dates on the conflict calendar carefully and be entirely candid about your conflicts. Due to the limited rehearsal time, every conflict must be considered with great care before an actor is cast.

### **HOW DOES CUT CASTING WORK?**

As you may know, PYT typically casts all participants in our Main Stage productions. Stories on Stage, however, is a different program which operates in a different way. Due to the limited number of roles in each show, Stories on Stage directors reserve the right to cast only those who are best suited for the roles in their show. If you (or your child) are not cast in a role this season, that does not indicate a lack of talent; it just means that you either had too many conflicts or you (or your child) did not fit the director's vision of the characters in his/her show.

### **WHAT IS THE PARTICIPATION FEE?**

The fee is \$100 per production. If you are cast in multiple productions of the program, you will be billed for the additional productions. Full payment is due for the full season by the initial parent meeting. If you do not want to be cast in multiple productions, or have a limit on the number of productions you wish to participate in, please indicate that on the conflict calendar.

### **WHAT IS PYT'S REFUND POLICY?**

If you cancel an audition appointment with 24 hours with written notice to [lhatten@pytnet.org](mailto:lhatten@pytnet.org) you will receive a prorated refund less \$10 to cover the costs charged by the credit card company and the online registration system. Should you not attend your pre-scheduled audition, and make no arrangement for a make-up audition, you will receive a prorated refund less \$20. Since Stories on Stage is a limited cast opportunity, if your child is not cast in any production you will receive a full refund.

Should your child decide not to participate, for any reason AFTER casting, you must inform the Producing Artistic Director in writing AT LEAST 4-WEEKS PRIOR TO THE FIRST REHEARSAL in order to receive a prorated refund. PYT will retain \$35 of the registration fee toward expenses associated with the audition and casting process. You can drop off a letter to our offices or you can email the written notice to: [lhatten@pytnet.org](mailto:lhatten@pytnet.org). There are no refunds for DROPS made

less than 4-weeks prior to the first rehearsal as there is an extensive amount of work that must be done to recast a part once casting decisions have been made.

### **WHAT IS THE CONFLICT POLICY?**

It is critical that you list ALL potential conflicts for rehearsals on your Conflict Calendar. Be sure to consider school, family, work, travel and religious obligations. For Stories on Stage, all actors will be needed and called to each rehearsal. Assume that if you do not have a scheduled conflict, you will have rehearsal. **Please note: NO CONFLICTS ARE ALLOWED DURING TECH REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES. Actors who add conflicts after casting may be asked to leave the show.**

PYT looks at the Conflict Schedule you submit as a commitment you make to attend all the rehearsals to which you are called with the exception of the dates you've indicated you have a conflict.

Though we understand that emergencies happen and there are occasionally other things that must take priority over rehearsal, we cannot stress strongly enough how important rehearsal time is to this process. It is not only critical to your learning and performance, but to the learning and performances of those with whom you share the stage. Please understand that when you audition for a production, you are making a commitment to your directors, your fellow actors, and yourself to be at rehearsals and performances. A typical SOS rehearsal schedule has only eight rehearsals before tech. As such each rehearsal is critical.

### **ARE THERE REQUIRED PARENT PRODUCTION SUPPORT HOURS?**

No. Stories on Stage does not require a minimum hourly commitment from parents. We do, however, request some assistance from parents and families to ensure that the kids have the support they need. We frequently need help with putting together simple props and costumes, and we always need assistance transporting the set to and from the theatre, and picking up and delivering food to the kids during the break between their Saturday performances. Without such help, maintaining this program would not be possible, so your support is greatly appreciated.

### **PARENT MEETING:**

A mandatory meeting for all parents will be held on Sunday, September 18 , from 6:30pm to 7:30pm at PYT Studio A. At this time, parents will receive important information about the Stories on Stage program.

Please note that for any cast member, ONE parent needs to be the contact responsible for all paperwork and payments. Cast members age 18 and over may be responsible for all paperwork and payments if the family requests it.

### **FIRST REHEARSAL:**

Please note that SOS actors will be called to a mandatory full company meeting on September 18 from 6:30pm to 9pm.

**Thanks for coming out to audition for Stories on Stage here at PYT!  
Break a leg in your audition!**