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STARS ON STAGE FAQ

STARS ON STAGE, KIDS : Grades 1-6

STARS ON STAGE, JR.: Grades 7-12

STARS ON STAGE PRO: Students combined with professional actors (ages may vary).

Thank you for your interest in the Forum Theatre's Stars On Stage Program. This program is designed to give budding actors a fun and exciting education in all aspects of producing live theatre. While the emphasis of this course is on performance, it is also important to have an understanding and respect for the entire production team. Your child will learn the fundamentals of what each team member's responsibility and contribution to the final production will be. *Some examples of this are: What does a technical director do? Why is set and lighting design important? Why do we wear make-up? What does a stage manager do? See - It takes a village!*

Auditions:

Auditions will be held prior to commencement of each semester. At the audition, the student will be expected to prepare a short musical theatre selection to sing. They may either sing with a karaoke CD or A cappella (without music). Upon arrival at the theatre, you will be asked to sign in and fill out a registration form. Auditionees will be brought into the theatre in small groups, in the order that they signed in. Parents will be allowed to come into the theatre for a few moments and meet the production team to ask any questions. Parents will be then asked to leave the room and the students will be seated in the audience. One by one, the students will sing their selection. Once all the students are finished singing they will be taught a group dance number. Some of the students may be asked to stay a bit longer, should the director want to see or hear anything else then, while the other are dismissed. This is NO indication of how well your child did.

Why is an audition necessary? Auditioning can be scary - we know, but it is a part of the process. We are looking for kids that have the right attitude, potential, a love for theatre and guts! We seldom refuse any students, but it's important to be sure that the student is ready and willing for the challenges that lie ahead.

Casting:

We won't actually assign the roles until after the classes begin. Our reason for this is two-fold. Firstly, we often don't get to see just what the child is capable of at auditions, because of nerves, lack of time or other distractions. When casting children, it's very easy to over or under-estimate someone based on one brief audition. The first couple of sessions is dedicated to really directing the kids, letting them try on different hats, so to speak, and letting them sing for various parts. It gives all of us a much better understanding of the demands of the role and if a child is ready to take it on.

Secondly, we want to teach the kids that every contribution to the production is important – whether it's the star role, a secondary role, lighting technician or costumer. A key goal of the class is helping them understand that it takes many gears to make this machine work and if we are missing even one, it won't run properly. We are hoping to attract kids that are here because of their love of theatre and are open to the concept of team play.

What to expect in class: Time from each class will be allocated to meet guest speakers, meet the design team and learn about the different responsibilities of each production team member (i.e. Lighting design, set design, costume design, makeup, etc.) We will also learn physical & vocal warm-ups and theater exercises. Your star will learn about character development and be asked to create a history for his/her character. The rest of the class will be dedicated to the task at hand: mounting a full-scale music-theatre production in a real theatre. This will be an experience that will make memories and friendships that last a lifetime.

Dress Code: Students should come dressed in comfortable clothes or dance attire. Please NO crop tops, short-shorts, mini-skirts or messages that could be perceived as offensive. No sandals, flip-flops or open shoes. Preferably sneakers or dance shoes. Some of the older students may be required to purchase "character shoes" - a staple for all aspiring actors.

Snacks: Snacks/ Beverages are permitted. If you would like to send refreshments with your student, you may. Please do not send anything requiring reheating or refrigeration. We will take 15 min. breaks each hour and your student will have an opportunity to have a snack at that time.

Closed Rehearsals: We realize that you would love to watch your little one practicing on the stage, however we do not allow any spectators. It becomes very distracting for the cast.

Tech-Week: This is when all the elements of live-theatre come together. The entire cast is required each evening of that week.

SHOW TIME! Cast members are required to be at the theater 90 minutes before CURTAIN (show begins) (this is their CALL TIME). It is important to be prompt.

Ticket Sales: Tickets for cast members and your family are available at a discounted rate.