

## **Frequently Asked Questions for Muncie Civic Youth**

### **What is the Muncie Civic Theatre Youth program?**

- The Muncie Civic Theatre mission is to enrich our whole community through theatre performance, education, and outreach. As part of the Muncie Civic Theatre, the Muncie Civic Theatre Youth program strives to provide quality theatre education programming for youth in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Our programming is collaborative and inclusive. Using popular musicals and dramas our program is designed to teach acting, dancing, singing, interpersonal communication, and teamwork skills at an age-appropriate level.
- Our Youth program encompasses four areas: Preludes for grades K-4, Act I for grades 3-6, Act II for grades 7-12, and Encore, an audition-based program for varying age groups.

### **Why is there a cost to participating in the program?**

- Muncie Civic Theatre is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. All productions “cost” money including youth productions. Your tuition fees help to cover all kinds of costs associated with the program.

### **What does my Tuition Cover?**

Your tuition helps to cover the costs of:

- Rental rights for the production
- Theatre education lessons during the rehearsal process. Students don’t just “Put on a show”; they learn all about theatre while gaining valuable life skills.
- 2 ticket vouchers to be redeemed for tickets for the production for which your child is registered. For families with more than one participant, you will receive 2 ticket vouchers per child registered.
- A production t-shirt
- A script
- Production music

### **Does my child have to audition to participate as a performer?**

- If your child is in Act II or Encore, students go through an audition process, but we do our best to accommodate those that are new to the stage and nervous about the process.
- If your child is in Preludes or Act I, they participate in games and engaging theatrical exercises that help the production team see where best to place your child during the production in which they are registered.

### **If my child auditions, what do they need to prepare?**

- Our audition process typically includes singing, dancing and reading through part of a scene from the production for which your child is auditioning. Please note that if the production is a play, there is no dancing or singing, unless noted.
- Sheet music excerpts, and sides (a part of the script for the audition) will be emailed to registrants approximately two weeks prior to the audition, or within 48 hours of registration if registering close with less than two weeks until the first day.
- For Act II productions, a video of the choreography portion may be linked as well.
- Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the music, sides and dancing that pertains to them, prior to auditions.

**What can I expect when I come to auditions?**

- Auditions will start promptly at the stated time, so arriving at least 10 minutes early is a good idea.
- Typically the performers will be divided into groups to work through singing, reading sides, and learning choreography.
- A cast list will be emailed by the Wednesday evening following the auditions. All communication is sent to the email(s) provided at the point of registration.

**What does it mean to be “called back”?**

- A production team develops a “call back list” that consists of students from which they have determined they need more “information”. That “information” could include more singing to determine vocal range, more acting to help with characterization or chemistry with other actors, or more specific choreography. Performers may feel like not getting a call back means that they will not get a specific role, but this is not necessarily the case. Directors are “casting” throughout the process and may have already determined a role for a student and therefore do not need to call him/her back.

**Will my child be “cut” from the cast?**

- Our program is educational, so all students who are registered in our Prelude, Act I, and Act II youth productions will be cast into the show they register for.
- The only exception is our Encore program which is an advanced part of our youth program.

**When are rehearsals?**

- Rehearsals for Prelude, Act I, and Act II are typically every Saturday until the week of performances unless otherwise stated. Encore rehearsal schedules can vary depending on the cast and crew's conflicts. Often Encore rehearsals will be 2-4 evenings from Sunday-Thursday from 6pm-8:30.
- Tech week rehearsals typically start on the Monday prior to the weekend of shows.
- Summer camp rehearsals differ as they take place during the weekdays (daily for two weeks).

**What do the kids do during all that rehearsal time?**

- Depending on the age of the performer, rehearsal times may last between three and six hours. That can seem like a long day! However, due to the limited amount of time to put on the production and learn bunches in the process, participants are kept busy throughout the entire rehearsal process.
- Our Muncie Civic Theatre Youth program includes dancing, singing, and acting. But it also includes opportunities to develop some very important life skills: public speaking, making eye contact, working with teams, developing leadership skills, developing effective communication skills, building confidence, and more!
- Rehearsals may include theatre educational games and learning all the music, choreography, blocking and lines for the actual production.
- We strategically place breaks and fun activities into the rehearsals, but the kids are busy all day long.

**What about missing rehearsals? My child has other commitments.**

- We understand that children keep busy schedules, but in order to be fair to the entire cast and still have a production that is cohesive, we ask that students miss no more than two full rehearsals. This is “counted” in hours. For example, if a child is two hours late and the rehearsals are four hours per day, they have six hours remaining that they can miss.
- Please note that we ask that students do not attend rehearsals if they are sick. Illnesses can spread through a cast quickly and impact the quality of a production.
- **ALL** Tech Week rehearsals are required, barring illness or emergency.

### **What about costumes and makeup?**

- Parents are responsible for making sure their child has the appropriate costume. Costume costs are not covered with tuition. However, we provide the parents with a detailed list of needs for their child with pictures and links of optional purchasable items.
- A costume list is sent to parents by the 4th week of the program.
- When needed, we try to provide parent “work days” to help parents create parts to their child’s costume.
- Many items can be found at second-hand stores and embellished if needed.
- We ask parents to provide basic stage makeup (foundation, mascara, eyeliner and lipstick and makeup wipes in a marked bag) for their child to use during tech week and performances. Many of these items may be purchased at the dollar store if needed. We recommend that students do not “share” makeup, hair accessories, or combs/hair brushes.
- For shows with difficult face makeup (animal shows or fairy tales etc.) extra makeup and face paint may be provided.
- Directors will be clear on what your child needs for hair and makeup prior to Tech Week.

### **What is Tech Week?**

- Tech Week is the week prior to the performance(s) where we have nightly rehearsals and begin to add all the elements to the show: lights, sound, props, costumes, makeup, and set.
- There are many elements that have to be “just right” for the show to go on, and each actor has to be a part in order to know “where to go when.” This is essential to having a safe and productive production.
- Dress rehearsals, with costumes and makeup, are a part of this process as well.
- Tech rehearsals are Monday - Thursday evenings, usually beginning at 5:30 and ending between 8pm-9:30pm (times depending on the age of the actors and the length of the show). ALL tech week rehearsals are required.
- Students should arrive fed and ready to go.
- This is an exciting, yet exhausting week. So we suggest you try not to schedule other activities throughout this week, including the performance weekend.

### **What should I expect for the Performance Weekend?**

- Performances are typically Friday at 7:00, Saturday at 2:30, Saturday at 7:00 and Sunday at 2:30. This can vary depending on the number of casts for a production and what other needs the theatre has during the weekend of performances.
- Actors are typically “called” one hour to 90 minutes before the performance and arrive already in costume and make-up.

- After the show, your child will usually be dismissed through the back doors of the theatre into the parking lot. Each child's name will be called to celebrate and recognize their performance.

### **Can I Volunteer?**

- Yes! We, as a not-for-profit organization, love our volunteers!
- We have volunteers that offer all different areas of expertise. Our volunteers may work directly with the student performers, assist parents and guardians (sign in/out), work "behind the scenes" during the rehearsal process, help with costume creation, lend hands with set construction (and tearing down the set), and more!
- We ask that those who wish to help with students meet with our Education Director to set up a plan and expectations. Contact [bridget@munciecivic.org](mailto:bridget@munciecivic.org)
- All of our Production Team volunteers are expected to have background checks.

### **Is Summer Camp the same?**

- The Summer Camps are similar to our fall/spring productions but have more of a "camp" feel and schedule.
- Summer camps take place during weekdays (daily for two weeks).
- Prelude and Act I students may have camp "counselors" and be assigned to small groups throughout the time.
- Rehearsals may have a different start and end time, but still go the allotted 3 or 6 hours, depending on their age group.
- Our performance schedule will typically be shorter than other youth productions with possibly only one performance per cast.

### **Is my child ready for this experience?**

- The Muncie Civic Youth program is a wonderful, inclusive experience for children, but we want to make sure you have all the information you need to make the right decision about if your child is ready or not.
- There is not a "magic" age or grade when all kids should begin participating. Children must be enrolled in kindergarten to participate in our Prelude program.
- Please click this link for: [Child Readiness Questions and Parent Tips](#)

### **Can my child participate if he/she has an intellectual or physical disability?**

- Yes. The Muncie Civic Youth program is an inclusive experience for children. We have many participants with all different kinds of abilities. Questions specific to your situation should be directed to the Education Director at: [bridget@munciecivic.org](mailto:bridget@munciecivic.org).
- Also, consider checking out our Barrier-Free program, which is program specifically designed to allow everyone of all abilities the chance to perform in a production. For more information, contact [tracena@munciecivic.org](mailto:tracena@munciecivic.org).

**My child has been in many stage productions. Is there another theatre experience you recommend?**

- Our Muncie Civic Youth program has students involved with all levels of experience. Some of our students are doing a show for the first time. Others may have been in 20 other shows (or more!). The program is designed to fit the needs of all different “levels” of students.
- Some of the Muncie Civic Theatre mainstage and studio shows may cast children. Audition information for these shows are listed online ([munciecivic.org/engage/audition-info/](http://munciecivic.org/engage/audition-info/)) and include age ranges for particular roles. Please note that the mainstage and studio show experiences are very different from the youth program.

### **What is the difference between mainstage shows, studio shows and youth theatre?**

- Mainstage and studio shows are cast through an audition process. In most cases, not everyone who auditions will be cast.
- Some mainstage and studio shows may have roles for children, but many do not. And sometimes characters that are children may be played by young adults.
- Lead roles are cast near the age ranges posted online (for example, Ariel had to be 17 years old or older for the mainstage production of *The Little Mermaid*).
- The process for mainstage and studio shows is more intense than youth theatre. Rehearsals are usually Monday - Thursday from 6:00-9:30 p.m. or later. Tech Week is also longer in duration, days and time.
- Actors are expected to behave at all times and rehearsals can have long amounts of down time while waiting for specific scenes to rehearse.
  - Directors try to reduce the downtime, but in mainstage or studio theatre, it cannot always be avoided.
  - In contrast, youth theatre has almost every moment of rehearsal filled with rehearsing, fun educational opportunities and theatrical games. Down time is minimal and rehearsal lengths are geared to age level.
- Actors learn through the process, but there is no educational element or specified curriculum to these productions. The focus is on presenting the best production possible.
- Show performances run for approximately three weekends. It’s a wonderful experience, but expect to be immersed in theatre for at least 6-8 weeks.
- There is no tuition, but tickets need to be purchased to see the show.

### **Can my child be involved in the Muncie Civic Youth program without being a performer?**

- The theatre is not just about performers. Each production will need volunteers that are not performers: stage managers, directors, costume designers, makeup and hair designers, set designers, lighting/sound designers, and more! Please contact our Education Director at [bridget@munciecivic.org](mailto:bridget@munciecivic.org) to discuss how your child can get involved in these areas.

### **How can I donate to the Muncie Civic Youth program?**

- Please contact Managing Director, Brittany Covert at [brittany@munciecivic.org](mailto:brittany@munciecivic.org) or (765) 288-7529 to discuss donating to the Muncie Civic Youth program.
- Thank you for considering our program!

If you have any more questions, please feel free to contact our Education Director at: [bridget@munciecivic.org](mailto:bridget@munciecivic.org).