



New to the Farmington Hills Youth Theatre?

Audition Process

- Recommended (Optional) – preregister at www.fhgov.com/youththeatre.
- Arrive during the audition timeframe and plan to stay for a minimum of 60 minutes.
- Computers will be available to register (if not pre-registered). Bring a current picture.
- Learn/review the choreography in the Prep Room. It will not be taught during the audition.
- Auditions will be done in groups of 8-10. **DO NOT** audition until you feel comfortable and ready. Take as much time as you need! We want you to have fun! Parents – if your performer is very nervous talk to one of our crew in the Prep Room – they can talk to them and help alleviate their fears.
- No one is allowed in the audition room that is not auditioning. Parents will be asked to wait outside the audition room.
- Auditions will have group and individual components. Choreography will be done as a group. Each performer will then sing the song and perform the monologue.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How can help my performer prepare for an audition?

A: Read through all audition materials provided in advance (www.fhgov.com/youththeatre). Make sure to review the correct audition materials to your age/grade. For junior shows, different grades will have different audition material. Review the dates of shows and rehearsals. We will do our best to work around conflicts, but your performer is expected to be at rehearsals when they are scheduled to be there!

When practicing, work on the character's personality, projection, and above all – confidence. If your performer is interested in an ensemble part they can pick any part to read!

Character – Let your performer decide who they believe this character is. Help them to use their imagination exploring the character. Does the character have a certain type of personality? Are they boisterous, timid, excited, sad, etc? Every character has a story – the challenge is to tell that story to the directors (and ultimately the audience).

Projection – When someone is nervous, they tend to “close” their voices. In other words, nervousness can often make a performer sound sheepish and quiet. Encourage your performer to speak louder than they think they should. Louder is always better than quiet.

Confidence – The more a performer practices for an audition, usually the more comfortable they will be when the time comes. Don't be scared – we want you to have fun! We will help all performers do their best and shine during the audition. (If this is their first audition, have them do a mock audition for family and friends. This will help them prepare.) Please note, there is also an audition workshop scheduled the week before auditions. This helps the performer to know the dance and songs and definitely boosts their confidence.

Singing – Practice!!! The better the performer knows the song, the more confident and enthusiastic they will be. Do not lose the personality of the character while singing.

Dancing – The dance will be taught in the Prep Room and at the Audition Workshop. Your performer can take as much time as they want to learn! Don't come into the Audition Room until they are ready! Have fun with the dance!

MOST IMPORTANT THING - HAVE FUN!!!! We are here to help!



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Q: What do you look for in an audition?

A: It is not necessary or even expected that everyone auditioning has previous experience in theatre - we love those kids that are trying this for the first time. Most important is enthusiasm, projection, vocal quality and an interest in being involved in the production. And please bring a smile!

Q: What if we can't make audition dates?

A: Please contact the Cultural Arts Division at 248.473.1856 or jguzman@fhgov.com ASAP. While we cannot guarantee that an alternative date/time will be made available, we will work with the directorial team to see if another date may work.

Q: Why didn't my child receive a call back audition?

A: First, there are only a few roles that are targeted for Callback! If your child did not receive a Call Back, **it does not mean they are not cast in the show**. Most performers do not get a call back (usually only 10 – 15% of performers auditioning). Call backs are used for a variety of reasons. This includes needing to see more from a particular performer or narrowing down specific role assignments.

Q: What do we do to prepare for a call back?

A: If your performer is called back, the email will have the information on what needs to be prepared. Some callbacks will require no preparation, some we might send a song or cut from the script. It depends on what the directors want to see.

Q: How do you cast a show?

A: During the initial audition, we rate each performer based on Script Read, Song and Dance as well as noting overall performance (projection, smile, confidence). We may also note if the performer might be a candidate for a call back. Call backs will be notified on the Monday following auditions. After call backs, the crew will discuss auditions and determine role assignments for all roles. **There are no small roles in a production - every single role is important to the integrity of the show.**

Q: When are we notified of cast assignments?

A: You will be given a "What Happens Next" paper at the audition. This includes the date of the notification. Notification is done via email, so it is important we have a good email during registration. Emails will indicate if your performer has been cast in a role, what is the role, which cast, directions for accepting the role along with other key information. You will be asked to accept or decline the offer within 4 days.

Q: May I discuss my child's audition with you?

A: We take notes on every individual that auditions. You are more than welcome to reach out to us to speak about your child's audition results after the first week of rehearsals. Please contact the Cultural Arts Division at 248.473.1856 or jguzman@fhgov.com should you have any questions. Your request will be forwarded to the directorial team.

Q: When are rehearsals?

A: We double cast every single role that we assign. What this means is that we have a "Cast A" and a "Cast B", and each is responsible for 3 of the 6 performances. Rehearsals schedules are dependent upon which cast and which role if you are accepted. Typically expect one weeknight rehearsal (either a Monday or Wednesday depending on cast assignment) and a Saturday afternoon rehearsal. Some roles will require more rehearsals. This may include rehearsals on both Monday and Wednesday and Saturday afternoon. We will work with your performer on any conflicts whenever possible. There may be changes to cast schedule based on complexity of the production, school schedules and holidays, etc. We provide schedules and communication about these dates with families in advance.