

Children's Theatre of Annapolis

What is Expected When You Audition

Age requirements:

Actors ages 8 through 14 (as of audition) may participate. No experience is required, but selection is by audition. Actors are cast based on their ability and suitability for the parts.

Auditions:

Actors should come at the beginning of the audition with completed audition registration forms and a current photo. The forms are available online and at the audition. If an actor needs a photo, one can be taken at the audition. Actors may be given an assigned time for their audition after they register. Actors only need to come to one day of auditions.

Auditions require singing, acting and dancing, *at the director's discretion*. Auditioners should come with sheet music of a song they are prepared to sing or a compact disc/cassette tape recording as accompaniment. *No vocal recorded music or a cappella singing is allowed*. A piano accompanist will be provided.

Auditioners should wear attire appropriate to movement and dance. Dance shoes, character shoes and sneakers are acceptable, but **NO** open toed shoes, flip flops, crocs or bare feet are allowed.

Audition forms require parental signature before an actor can be cast in a show. CTA shows involve parental participation in a variety of forms, including: *backstage help, rehearsal assistance* and many other areas. A parent meeting will be held after the cast is selected where all job descriptions will be presented. Parents may be requested to provide all or part of the actor's costume.

Callbacks:

Some actors auditioning will be asked to return for a "callback," that is, a second look. The called back actors may be asked to sing a song from the show and to do more extensive readings than in the "regular" audition phase. Please remember that an actor may still be cast even if not called back, and an actor may be called back but still not cast. For example, an actor who only wants to play the lead role will not be cast if the director decides that someone else is more suitable for that role. On the other hand, the director may still cast an actor whom she did not call back

Ensemble: Yes or No?

When you fill out an audition form for any CTA show you will come across the question, "Will you accept ensemble? Yes or No." Please do not say "yes" unless you truly intend to accept an ensemble role in the production. While we understand that just about everyone wants the lead role, the ensemble is an integral part of every production and participating in the ensemble gives every actor valuable experience.

If you really feel that you will be too unhappy to perform in the ensemble if someone else gets the part you want, please, just say "No" to the ensemble question before you audition. While you will be given equal consideration for the roles you are interested in playing, please remember that you have a far better chance of getting cast if you are willing to accept any role or ensemble part offered to you as opposed to only wanting particular roles. The fewer roles you indicate you will accept, the fewer the director's options for casting you.

Time commitment:

Participating in a production is a big time commitment. Be sure you are prepared to commit to all rehearsals and mandatory dates before you audition.

For the parent of cast members, there is also a time commitment. As CTA is an all volunteer organization, we rely upon parents to provide the much needed support to make each production a success. Each parent is required to attend meetings, volunteer time to the production, ensure that their child arrives to rehearsal prepared, meet with the costume coordinator, and provide costuming support. This is a commitment each parent must make in supporting their child in the production. Please be sure you, as a parent, are also aware of the commitment to the production before your child auditions.

Theatre is a cooperative effort and every part of the team is essential! Examples of the many areas needed for a production are as follows:

- Actor ◦ Tech Help ◦ Set Builder ◦ Make Up
- Director ◦ Back Stage Monitor ◦ Musician ◦
- Stage Crew ◦ Costume Designer ◦ House Manager ◦
- Box Office ◦ Light Designer ◦ Choreographer ◦ Props

With commitment from each of us, and respect for each other, it is a very rewarding experience.