

Parent/Guardian Permission Form

Olathe South Theatre Production Policies

Casting:

Auditions at Olathe South are very competitive. We cast students that do the best on the day of the auditions. Not every show has roles that fit every student. One of my former students who is a professional actor, did not get the lead in the musical his senior year. He was clearly our best actor, but he was not right for the lead role in the musical. Several times, our best performer has gone from being considered for the lead to not making the show at all. This is hard to explain and even harder to deal with when it happens to you or your child. Putting together the cast/crew of a musical is a complex puzzle. You have to fit the pieces together in a way that will help all of the kids shine in each particular production. Sometimes you get the lead, sometimes you are in the ensemble, sometimes you are on crew, and sometimes you don't make the show.

This can be difficult to understand for students and parents. It is the worst part of a theatre teacher's job. Casting students is exciting, but cutting kids is painful for everyone. Unfortunately, dealing with rejection is part of theatre. If you want to be involved in Olathe South Theatre, you need to be excited to audition for any role, and willing to be a part of the crew.

Learning how to endure the rejection, continuing to work, and coming back to audition are the way to succeed in theatre.

In the Repertory Theatre classes, we read *Audition* by Michael Shurtleff. Mr. Shurtleff was a legendary Broadway and Hollywood casting director. He wrote this book to help other people learn about the audition process. The following are two short passages from the book that deal with not being cast. I share these passages with students, but I think they are also important for parents to hear as well.

Why Didn't You Get the Role?

"Actors must not worry about why they don't get a role; they should only concern themselves with doing the best ... audition they know how to do. ... Many times I have heard directors say about an actor: 'That is the best audition we'll ever see of that role. Too bad we can't cast him.' Their regret is genuine. But there has to be a valance in casting—the parts must fit like a jigsaw puzzle—and there are times when the best auditioners don't 'fit.' An actor cannot concern himself with that; there lies madness. Just go ahead and audition well, cry a little when you don't get the role you want, but never ask why. The why is usually a series of imponderables over which the actor has not control."

How Do I Find Out Why I Wasn't Accepted?

"There is no value in finding out why you weren't accepted; you'll rarely learn the truth, anyhow. Since all the considerations in casting are relative, what good will it do for you to find out you're too short for the leading lady or too tall for the leading man? The solution would be to go home and cut your leg off or put on a pair of stilts; neither will help you. Casting is a very subjective process for the auditors, naturally, no matter what objective criteria they use. Given readings of equal excellence, they are more likely to decide because 'I like her.' There's nothing you can do about that, so it's better not to concern yourself with it. The reasons for not choosing you are likely to be myriad and complex, from the fact that you look too like another actor already cast to their subjective reaction of not liking your looks or the timbre of your voice to the fact that you remind them of their first wife—reasons you can do nothing to control or alter."

Rehearsals:

Rehearsals will be from 3:15-5:45, Monday-Friday. There will be one all day Saturday tech rehearsal the week before the show for the stage manager, assistant director, and light and sound operators. The actual time will be determined the week before this rehearsal.

Show Week:

The Friday before the show and Monday through Wednesday the week of the show, rehearsals will be from 3:15-6:45. Thursday-Saturday, call time for the crew will be 6pm. The cast and crew are free to leave as soon as they have finished their post-show responsibilities (i.e. cleaned the dressing room, put away the microphones, or reset the stage for the next night.)

Performance Dates: The dates, times and locations of the performances are listed on the Olathe South theatre website. They will not change.

Social Events: Olathe South Theatre does not sponsor cast parties or other activities beyond the scheduled rehearsal and performance times.

Closing Night & Strike:

All cast and crew are expected to stay to help with strike. Strike is the term for tearing down the set and cleaning up after a show. Students will never be asked to stay past midnight, but Strike can sometimes last that long. If a student does not stay for strike, he or she will not be eligible to audition for the next show.

Tickets: You can purchase tickets for plays at the door the night of the show. Tickets for musicals can be purchased at the door, but sometimes can be purchased online through the Olathe South website. Tickets to all of the shows are \$8 a piece. These tickets help offset the cost of the production. We appreciate your support of Olathe South Theatre.

Photographs: The theatre department hires a photographer to take pictures of the plays. If you would like to buy these pictures on a flash drive, you can write a check to Olathe South for \$20. You will get the flash drive about a week after the show. Parents are welcome to attend the final dress rehearsal of the show and take photographs. Flash photography is not allowed during the performance, as it can be disorienting and sometime dangerous to the students onstage.

Additional Costs: Students will need to provide their own theatrical makeup and shoes as outlined by the costumer and choreographer. Stage make-up kits typically cost about \$25. Students have the option of purchasing a cast t-shirt for \$12. Students may choose to participate in the "break-a-leg" buddy gift exchange the week of the show. The gift limit is \$5, but homemade gifts are the most meaningful. There are no other costs for students to be a part of Olathe South Theatre. If there is ever a financial need, please contact Mr. Hastings for assistance.

Video Recordings: Due to copyright restrictions, the video recording of plays and musicals is prohibited. Please help us protect our relationship with the publishing and royalty companies for our shows by not videotaping our show.

Illness:

If your son or daughter is absent from school due to illness, please email Mr. Hastings at dhastingsos@olatheschools.org by 2:50pm. If a student misses more than half of the day, they will not be able to attend rehearsal or performance that evening.

Student's Name: _____

Show(s): _____

Date: _____

Conflicts:

Please list any dates your son or daughter cannot attend rehearsal between now and closing night. Exceptions will be made for Olathe South band, choir, orchestra, and drill team performances only. PRIVATE LESSONS, REHEARSALS FOR OTHER EVENTS, DRIVER' ED, NIGHT SCHOOL, JOBS, and COLLEGE VISITS are NOT acceptable conflicts. This includes doctor's appointments, if they are not listed at this time, except in the event of unexpected illness. Some casting decisions are made based on availability of the students to rehearse. Priority is given to students without conflicts. **If your son or daughter has additional conflicts at a later time, they may be replaced in the cast/crew.** There can be no conflicts the Saturday prior to the show (for the stage manager, assistant director, and light & sound operators) or during show week (for anyone in the show). **If a student misses a rehearsal, without informing Mr. Hastings by 2:50pm, they may lose their role in the show. Only conflicts listed at this time will be excused.**

"I agree to all of the policies stated above. I understand that if I have an unexcused rehearsal absence, I may be removed from the show."

Student Signature: _____

"I give my child permission to audition and/or interview for crew. I understand that if my child has a conflict not listed on this form, they may be replaced in the cast/crew. I agree to the Olathe South Theatre Production Policies."

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature(s): _____

Parent/Guardian Email Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone Number(s): _____