



# FAMILY GUIDE TO SALTWATER PERFORMING ARTS

## THE PROCESS

Every theatre group is going to approach producing a show different ways, but you can generally expect the following:

- Audition announcement
- Auditions and Callbacks
- Emailing of the cast list
- Rehearsals
- Dress rehearsals
- Performances
- Strike
- Post-show blues

## AUDITION ANNOUNCEMENT AND PREPARATION

Before signing up for auditions, families need to know that:

- Being in a Saltwater play requires a commitment of time and energy from both the family and the participants. Finding conflicts in your family's schedule with the Saltwater schedule is important, so you can let the directors know in advance. If full commitment to the play is a struggle for your family, your child may want to take on a less time-consuming role. Remember every person plays an important part in the production.
- Your child will have the opportunity to either work as a back-stage crew member or to be an actor/actress. (More information on this will follow.)
- There are many ways in which the family can also get involved in the productions. One way is to offer support and guidance to your actor/actress. Families should volunteer their time to help make sure that this production goes smoothly. Without family members volunteering this program would not be what it is today.

## REVIEW THE FOLLOWING FUNCTIONS WITH YOUR CHILD TO DETERMINE WHAT JOBS ARE OF INTEREST

- Stage Manager—helps the directors in areas of the show
- Stage Crew—helps backstage during the show
- Actor—performs in the show
- Props—helps design and build props
- Sets—helps build and paint the set
- Sound—helps with the sound crew

Theatre is a group effort, but at the end of the day it's important to remember that it's the director's role to guide the production and to see the big picture. In all of the Saltwater's productions, everyone is volunteering their time and energy to make this the best production possible. Remember there is a lot of "blood, sweat, and tears" that go into each and every production. When everyone works together, it is such a rewarding experience for the volunteers as well as the participants.

Remember, our goal is not to create a "star", but to provide your child with needed lifelong skills and to have fun!

## **AUDITIONS**

During an audition, the participant will be asked to do the following:

- Sing 30-45 second part of a song of their choice
- Prepare a 30-45 second monologue (a scene in which only one character speaks)
- Dance a choreographed piece

Additional Information about audition requirements can be found on the SMCT website.

## **AUDITION TECHNIQUES**

Important techniques to remember when you are auditioning:

- Be prepared: Make sure that your song and your monologue is memorized.
- Smile and have fun with the audition. Let your personality shine through.
- Do your best even when faced with a difficult challenge. Show the directors that you can handle it.

## **CALLBACKS OR A SECOND ROUND OF AUDITIONS**

The directors may choose to have callbacks. This is when the participants will be given a new song to sing, and will be asked to come back in to perform that song for the directors. This will give the directors another look at the auditionee to make sure that they are choosing the most suitable person for that role.

Not all roles will have a callback, so don't worry if you do not get asked to come back in. The directors may have made a decision on certain roles. As soon as the directors have completed the cast list, it will be emailed out to the cast members and parents / guardians.

## **WAITING FOR THE CAST LIST**

Please be patient while waiting for the cast list. The director's will email it out as soon as it is ready.

## **ANNOUNCING THE CAST**

When the cast list comes out, please remember that this time can be difficult for your child. They may not get the role that they said they wanted in their audition, but just remember that every role is important. If your child is upset, ask to talk to one of the directors to find out what they can do to help them with their future auditions.

## **ENJOY YOUR ROLE**

- Trust the directors. The directors must assign roles to an entire cast. This is a very difficult task. They must think of the play as a whole not as individual roles.
- All roles are important no matter how big or small.
- Research your character. What characteristics make up your character? How can you portray that character best? Why is this character important to the story? Why were they created?

## **REHEARSALS**

Now that we have our cast, it is time to get to work. Here are some general ideas and or information on ways to help your child be successful:

- Place a copy of the rehearsal schedule on the refrigerator or family bulletin board. This schedule is in the form of an email on the cast email system, and is also posted on the Saltwater web site.
- Make sure your child arrives ON TIME for rehearsals and lets the check-in person know that they are here.
- Make sure that your child is dressed appropriately for the rehearsals. Please see audition packet for more information.
- If your child is a minor, we must have on file your approval for someone else to pick up your child after rehearsal, if you will not be the one picking them up
- There might be some downtime during rehearsals, so encourage our child to bring something quiet to do. Homework, a book or other quiet activities help the directors, and the actors get the most out of each rehearsal.
- Healthy snacks and water are a must. Keeping your performer hydrated is very important.
- Talking to your child after rehearsals is a great way of knowing what you can do as a parent to help them. It could be memorizing lines, choreography, or helping working on a set piece.

## **COSTUME HINTS**

When your child is being fitted, make sure he or she wears appropriate clothing. Girls can wear a tank top (with a shirt over it) and shorts. Boys can wear a t-shirt and shorts.

Please remember that this is a costume. It may not look exactly how you want it to look, and it may feel a little uncomfortable. Due to double casting, two actors/actresses will be wearing this costume. It is made to "fit" both. Remember, the people that are making all the costumes for the productions are volunteering their time.

## **PRODUCTION NIGHTS**

How exciting, we have made it to opening night. Please encourage your child. Give them praise for all the hard work and dedication they have put into this production. They will be nervous, excited, anxious, and scared. Reassure them.

Saltwater has several performances on each weekend which can be a very difficult time after having a couple of weeks of daily dress rehearsals. Again, please let them rest as much as possible, keep them hydrated, and give them nutritious foods.

## **POST SHOW BLUES**

Once a show comes to a close, those involved usually experience post-show blues. The friendships they've made and the dedicated work have all paid off. But now there is a big void, no rehearsals, no constant contact with fellow cast and crew. These feelings are very natural, and you should encourage your child to discuss how they feel. Remind them that they have proven that when they apply themselves to a task, they will achieve success there. They have learned skills that will help them in all their future endeavors.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

These shows come together because of our robust volunteer base. If you wish to assist with this production, you must first complete a criminal background check

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR ALLOWING SALTWATER TO BE A PART OF YOUR CHILD'S LIFE. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE NEXT AUDITION.