

MISSOULA CHILDREN'S THEATRE

WHAT YOU WILL WANT TO KNOW

ANSWERS TO COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

AUDITIONS

MCT auditions are open auditions. An open audition allows all children within the specified age range to audition. There is no limit to the number of children who may audition and every child at the audition has an equal chance of being cast. Approximately 50-60 local students will be cast to appear in the show with the MCT Tour Actor/Director.

There is no guarantee that everyone who auditions will be cast in the play.

Casting the show will be at the sole discretion of the Tour Directors and roles will be announced at the end of the audition. Students wishing to audition must arrive by the scheduled starting time and stay for the entire two-hour session. The first rehearsal begins approximately 15-30 minutes after the audition.

All those who audition will be up and moving where the MCT Tour Actor/Directors can see them, normally in a square, circle or "U" shape. Wear comfortable clothing and closed toe shoes (no flip flops/sandals please).

Where will the audition take place?

The audition for the Missoula Children's Theatre production of The Little Mermaid will be held on Monday, July 6 from 10am to Noon at the Elizabeth Elementary School, 3rd Avenue in downtown Elizabeth Borough.

What ages should audition?

All MCT Tour shows are designed for students entering 1st grade through 12th grade. This is the optimum age range for our productions. There are roles especially suited for all ages, skill levels and experience levels.

Should the students prepare anything for the audition?

No advance preparation is necessary, but a smile \neq never hurts at an audition. They should just be ready to come and have a good time! Please remember that everyone must stay the entire two hours of the audition.

What time should the audition begin?

Auditions begin promptly at 10am. Please arrive between 9:30am and 10:00am to allow time for your parents to fill out your registration form, sign up for workshops, and pay your fee. Due to time constraints, anyone missing the initial audition will not be considered in the casting of the show.

Who are the Assistant Directors?

During the audition, four to six Assistant Directors (ADs) ages 10 and older, are selected to help teach and direct the show early in the week as well as take on technical responsibilities at performance time. Their logistical help and creative ideas are a vital part of our process and the experience of the ADs can be just as valuable as that of any cast member. They are normally older students, and they must take part in the audition session. It is a common misconception that junior high and high school students can only be involved in an AD capacity. Please note that there are roles in the show designed for older students as well.

REHEARSALS

Where do rehearsals take place?

Rehearsals will be conducted every day from 10am-Noon and 1230pm-230pm at the **Grand Theatre** (REHEARSAL SPACE #1) and **Elizabeth Elementary School** (REHEARSAL SPACE #2) in Elizabeth. Although not all cast members will be needed at every session, those auditioning must have a clear schedule for the entire week and if selected, be able to attend all rehearsals required for their role.

A detailed rehearsal schedule will be distributed at the conclusion of the audition. Cast members scheduled for the full 4½ hours of rehearsal will be asked to bring a sack lunch or snack. Lunch break will take place at Elizabeth Elementary.

Can parents and teachers watch rehearsals?

All of our rehearsals are open to parents and teachers. Be aware, however, that it may be fun for the students to surprise their parents at the end of the week by showing what they have accomplished! Please understand that we cannot allow guests to disrupt the rehearsals. Productive rehearsals depend on the focused work of the cast members involved.

LUNCH BREAKS

Those who are scheduled to stay for the afternoon rehearsal should bring a bag lunch. Theatre staff will escort children to the Elizabeth Elementary Multipurpose Room for lunch (a one block walk from the theatre). IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT PARTICIPANTS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO LEAVE THE CAMPUS AT ANY TIME UNLESS THEY ARE BEING PICKED UP BY THEIR PARENT. Please do not give your child lunch money with the intention of them walking to a nearby restaurant in place of a bag lunch. For those children who would like to purchase bottled water or a candy snack during their break the Grand Theatre concession stand will be open from 12-1230pm and 230-245pm.

PERFORMANCES

When and Where do the performances take place?

All those cast must be available for **all** scheduled performances.

The performances will be held on Saturday, July 11 at 3pm and 7pm at the Grand Theatre. The students in the cast will be called for dress rehearsal before the performance that day. Time of the dress rehearsal will be 11:30am-2pm approximately. We will order pizzas for dinner between shows for anyone who wishes to stay at the theatre between the 3pm and 7pm performances.

Due to contractual obligations there should be no photography during the performance. There will be a time for photos immediately following the show.

How much are tickets to the show?

Parents should be aware that the \$50 registration fee does NOT include tickets to the show. Tickets are \$8 and can be reserved by calling the Grand Theatre box office at 412-384-0504. Both shows are open to the public. Box office opens 1 hour prior to the performance. Doors open 30 minutes prior. Seating is first come, first serve (no reserved seats). Babes in arms are free, otherwise anyone taking up a seat must purchase a ticket.

WORKSHOPS

What are they?

Three theatrically based enrichment workshops are included with your residency week. Each workshop is an age-appropriate, educational, interactive exploration of the performing arts through hands-on activities, coached by the MCT Tour Directors.

When are they?

THEATRE GAMES- A workshop for parent and student! Incorporating innovative exercises and theatre games, this hands-on, fun-filled workshop is designed as a guide to tap the creativity and spontaneity of children of all ages. **TUESDAY, JULY 7, 245-330PM** - (Parents of all ages accompanied by their Missoula student in grades 1-12. Also open to adult educators, and anyone who works with kids- limited to 30 people)

LET'S MAKE-UP- This participatory workshop teaches students by demonstrating corrective, old age, and fantasy make-up. **WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 245-330PM** - (Grades 1-12, limited to 60 students)

CHAMELEON IMPROVISATION- Participation is emphasized as students learn to act without a script. **THURSDAY, JULY 9, 245-330PM-** (Grades 3-12, limited to 30 students)

MCT MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission Statement of Missoula Children's Theatre

We live in a highly competitive era. Youngsters are introduced at an early age to the critical realities of our achievement- and success-oriented society. From academics to athletics to social interaction, children are pressured to get the best grades, to score the most points, to have the most friends. At the same time, segments of our society tend to view the arts as a luxury, a frill, an extra-curricular activity running a distant second to the popular status of sports. Add to these conditions the natural curiosity of the child, the tendency toward self-exploration, the adolescent impatience to put away the things of the child and emulate adult role models – for better or for worse. Pressure. MCT approaches children with a full awareness of these conditions and strives to use participation in the performing arts as a vehicle to develop the lifeskills (social skills, communication skills, self-discipline, a strong work ethic, an understanding of the team concept and self-esteem) necessary to answer the challenges of our time.

Although MCT's programs tour to major metropolitan centers, MCT remains dedicated to providing financially accessible arts experiences to all communities, regardless of size or economic status. Many of the communities served by MCT are isolated, culturally deprived and/or economically depressed. Live theatre participation, qualified drama teachers and educationally sound music programs within the curriculum are often non-existent or low on the priority scale. Constructive opportunities in the performing arts are rare, and the chance to spark a new interest often goes unkindled. MCT's programs can and do provide the kindling to ignite the flame of interest.

Within each MCT cast, girls and boys are equal; the disabled become able; the shy experiment with bravery; the slow are rehearsed to perfection; and the gifted become part of the whole. The lesson they learn is that all of them are necessary for the show to go on. Few arenas exist where responsibility is taught and learned so clearly. MCT provides a unique opportunity to learn the lessons of group dynamics while excelling as an individual – a lesson from art that carries into life.

Unsolicited testimonials to the practical value of MCT participation are received on an almost daily basis. A stronger performance in a geography oral report, better grades, a healthier rapport with teachers and classmates, confident self-control in that first job interview, an increased sense of tolerance and respect for others, tunnel-vision enthusiasm for the most challenging project, a blossoming imagination and sense of individuality, a perceptible sense of emotional and physical well-being--a happier child; these are among the positive results of MCT participation often noted by parents and educators alike. Yes, MCT provides a top-quality entertainment experience for audience members. Yes, MCT nurtures and challenges the abilities of those rare children with career performance ambitions and potential. Yes, MCT provides a healthy and wholesome ambassadorship for the arts and opens the door to new life experiences and aesthetic pleasures. But, the primary goal of MCT – indeed, the organization's mission – is

the development of lifeskills in children through participation in the performing arts.