



AUDITION INFORMATION FOR THE ACT! FOR YOUTH PROGRAM

Staff and Production Team

ACT! for Youth is the performing arts program for youth in grades K-12 offered by Wilson Arts. Productions are open to children in kindergarten through high school who live in Wilson County, or whose parent(s) live or work in Wilson County, or those who are contributors to Wilson Arts at the family level or greater. Shaun Braswell is the permanent, full-time salaried staff member who works for Wilson Arts as its Theater Arts Coordinator, and he provides managerial oversight for the ACT! for Youth program. On a per-show basis, Wilson Arts also hires contract production educators, including the director and other educators (as needed) including but not limited to: a music director/educator, a choreographer/educator, a costumer/educator, and a make-up/hair educator, to work with the youth for that specific production. Wilson Arts (Arts Council of Wilson, Inc.) is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization reliant upon grants, individual donations, and earned revenue. Many volunteers (including parents) also give their time to make ACT! for Youth a success. It takes a village and we are so thankful for ours!

Preparing for Auditions

Audition Forms and Parental Waiver Forms are posted on the Wilson Arts website approximately one month prior to the auditions for each show. You may download these forms at: <http://www.wilsonarts.com/actforyouth>. These forms must be filled out in advance. Scholarship applications are available to those students in financial need. Contact shaun@wilsonarts.com for more information regarding scholarships.

Parents are not required to stay the entire time for auditions but may stay if they wish. Students are welcome to leave after their audition session, or they are welcome to stay throughout the audition night to view, learn and gain experience from other performers.

The audition form online allows you to request an audition time. You will only be contacted in the event that the requested audition time is full or audition dates/times are changed by Wilson Arts.

Auditioning Process

What is an audition? *A short performance to show the talents of someone (such as an actor or a musician) who is being considered for a role in an ACT! for Youth production.*

Auditions will follow a routine schedule for each show, with auditions held on Monday and Tuesday evenings. There will be a 6:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. time slot for each evening, totaling 4 time slots. Those interested in auditioning *should* sign up for a time slot beforehand as noted above. If for some reason there is an overwhelming response to an audition call and all time slots are filled in advance, extra slots may be added to accommodate additional performers at the discretion of the staff.

Walk-ins who do not sign up for a specific audition time will be accepted based on availability unless otherwise stated. No more than 30 persons will be allowed to audition within a particular time slot, meaning that there are only 120 total time slots available for each show. Walk-ins are not guaranteed an audition.

Video auditions may be submitted ONLY if special permission is requested (with a valid reason why the participant cannot make one of the scheduled audition times) and obtained **before the first audition date for the show** from Shaun Braswell, Theater Arts Coordinator. If permission is granted, video auditions will be accepted if they are sent to shaun@wilsonarts.com by no later than 5 p.m. on the first audition day for the show (Monday).

The director and production staff look at a variety of factors when casting a production. These can include appearance, behavior (at auditions and in a previous ACT! for Youth shows), number of conflicts, talent (singing, acting, dancing) as it pertains to the role in the show they are auditioning for and how that aligns with the director's vision, interpretation of the script, and chemistry between actors, among other things. Involvement with the organization, personal relationships, and longevity in the AFY program are NOT a factor when casting the show.

Callbacks

A callback means that the director saw something in your audition that he or she liked and is considering casting you in a role. This process helps the production staff make final decisions regarding casting, and may consist of more direct use of the material from the production (songs, dance, lines, etc...)

Select youth who audition for a show may be "called back" on the Wednesday or Thursday immediately following the audition days for each show. At a callback audition, actors generally sing songs from the show, read scenes with other actors who have been called back, and sometimes are asked to dance. If a person who auditioned is not called back, it does not necessarily mean that they will not be cast. Callbacks begin at 6 p.m. and end by 9 p.m. The schedule of callbacks will be determined by the production staff after the second night of auditions. Callbacks cannot be rescheduled.

Notification Process

This is the process by which all who auditioned receive notification of whether or not they have been cast in a production.

Final decisions regarding casting will be made immediately following callbacks by the director **and/or** the production team. Shaun Braswell, Theater Arts Coordinator, will be present for auditions to ensure the process is fair. ALL parents of youth who auditioned will receive an individual e-mail by 8 a.m. on the day immediately following auditions and callbacks to inform them of whether or not their child(ren) received a role in the show for which they auditioned. Everyone who auditioned will also receive an e-mail around the same general time frame. **Parents must respond on behalf of their child(ren) by 9 a.m. on the following day.** This means if a role was offered, parents and children have 25 hours to accept or decline the role offered. When parents respond to the e-mail, each e-mail will receive a reply from Shaun Braswell, Theater Arts Coordinator, letting them know that their decision has been received. Between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. on Friday, the director and Shaun Braswell will fill in the roles not accepted by parents/child(ren) as well as the roles in which a response was not received. **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU RESPOND PROMPTLY IF YOU WISH TO SECURE AN OFFERED ROLE.**

General Public Cast Posting

Wilson Arts will post the cast list for the general public after 5 p.m. on the Friday after auditions on our website at www.wilsonarts.com/actforyouth, as well as on our Facebook page: @WilsonArtsNC