

Student/Parent/Guardian Permission Form Olathe South Theatre Production Policies

Casting:

Auditions at Olathe South are competitive. We cast students that do the best on the day of the audition. 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. Putting together the team for each show is a complex puzzle. You have to fit the pieces together in a way that allows for all students to shine. Sometimes you get the lead, sometimes you are on production staff, sometimes you are in the ensemble, and sometimes you don't make the show. Learning how to endure the rejection, continuing to work on your craft, and coming back to audition are the way to succeed in theatre.

Casting students is exciting, but cutting students is painful for everyone. It is the worst part of a theatre teacher's job. Dealing with rejection is a part of theatre. It can be difficult to understand for students and parents. If you want to be involved with Olathe South Theatre, you should be prepared to accept any role in the cast or production staff. If you are open to the possibilities, there are lots of ways to be successful in theatre.

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

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 balance 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 no 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 much 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."

Production Fees:

All students in plays and musicals are assessed a \$50 production fee. This fee subsidizes any meals provide during rehearsals, consumable theatrical supplies, costume rental and cleaning, crew attire, and a link to the official photographs taken at the final dress rehearsal by a professional photographer. It also helps pay for additional theatre professionals to teach our students about hair & makeup application, costumes, lighting, sound, painting, and scenic construction. All fees are paid through the district payment system.

Rehearsals:

Rehearsals are from 3:15-6:00. Monday-Friday. There are full day rehearsals on the two Saturdays before the weekend of each show.

Show Week:

Rehearsals the week of the show are from 3:15-9pm. Call time for the cast and crew on performance nights is 5:30pm. 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, reset the stage for the next night) except on closing 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, they will not be eligible to audition for the next show.

Tickets: Tickets for plays and musicals can be purchased at the door, but they can also be purchased online through the Olathe South website. These tickets help offset the cost of the production. We appreciate your support of Olathe South Theatre.

Optional Items: Students need to provide their own theatrical makeup and shoes. Stage make-up kits typically cost about \$25. You can buy them through the Olathe South, A to Z Theatrical, KC Costume, or online theatrical suppliers. Students have the option of purchasing a cast t-shirt for \$15. Students may also 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.

Parent Night: Our final dress rehearsal is open to parents. This is a great opportunity to see your family in your costume, as well as get pictures of the show that you might want to post on social media to promote the show. 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 a student is absent from school due to illness, they need to 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. If a student misses school on Friday, they will not be able to perform at Saturday performances.

Expectations for Students in Theatre:

Be Prompt – All students need to be in the theatre prior to the start of rehearsal and the posted call times for performances.

Be Prepared – Students need to bring their script and a pencil to every rehearsal. All cast members must have their lines, blocking, vocal parts, and choreography memorized by the designated due dates.

Be Respectful – Students who choose to participate in Olathe South Theatre are expected to follow the Educational Theatre Association Core Values. <https://www.schooltheatre.org/about/mission/corevalues>

- People Matter
- Strive for Excellence
- Work Together
- Be the Person you Want to Work With

Follow School Rules – All school rules as found in your planner will be followed. If in doubt, check the Olathe South student planner.

Students who do not adhere to the above expectations may be removed from a production.

Student's Name: _____

Show(s): _____

Date: _____

Conflicts:

Please list any dates you cannot attend rehearsal. PRIVATE LESSONS, DANCE CLASSES, REHEARSALS FOR OTHER EVENTS, DRIVER' ED, NIGHT SCHOOL, and JOBS 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 you have additional conflicts at a later time, you 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 the director 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, and understand that I may be removed from the show if I have an unexcused absence."

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): _____