

Greetings! First things first: Welcome to Odyssey Summer Drama Workshop 2019!

We are looking forward to getting started this coming Monday, June 10th and can hardly wait to see you all again—can hardly wait for it to be warm again!!! Btw, if you are on this list—serve mistakenly this time around and wish to be removed this time around, please let me know. I usually keep folks on it until they request to be taken off...so will keep you on the list until you communicate otherwise (and sometimes even mistakenly beyond that, so please forgive). Speaking of communication, three things:

1.) I need a medical release form for each student—interns too—so, please make certain to mail them in with your registration—or at the latest that Monday; and
- 2.) Parents are asked to alert me if their students will not be in attendance on a particular day--just give me a call or text me (or if you simply have questions) at: 319-213-0147; and
- 3.). Also, if your student attends Kids Club, please make arrangements with them to either drop your child(ren) off/pick up OR we need to have permission to do so, paying particular attention to Kids Club Field Trip/Excursions. This is especially important given that we are moved to the Mt Vernon Uptown Theatre this summer. Please email Kids Club and copy me on correspondence concerning these arrangements.

Following are some typical questions and answers and some basic rules. Please read over and share as appropriate with your student --even if you are not a newbie. K

Dear Students and Parents of **Odyssey Theatre**,

Greetings! Welcome to our annual Summer Drama Workshop for the Young of Art. We realize that some of you have been with us for years and years, but others are brand new to the program. So, again, allow us to address some typical questions prior to the first day. All other questions will be addressed on the first day!

- ***When does the workshop begin?*** The workshop begins Monday, June 10th at noon and runs till 3 p.m. unless otherwise notified. The workshop runs Monday through THURSDAY only (excluding performance times).
- ***Where will we meet?*** We will be meeting in the Mount Vernon Uptown Theatre. Students may enter through the side or front doors (unless otherwise notified and should be picked up promptly at three p.m.
- ***How long will we meet every day?*** We will meet Mo, Tu, We, and Th from noon till 3:00 pm for the first two weeks and Monday through Saturday the third week. Please let us know if your student will NOT be there for some reason. Everyone misses for some activity every week or so...no fear there...just need to know so everyone can be accounted for and safe.
- ***What should I wear?*** Wear comfortable clothing and shoes that you can move/dance/tumble in--no platform, no heels, no clunky sandals--shoes for moving and dancing!!

- ***Will we have breaks?*** Yes, we will begin the day with a break and will take a short break every hour. So, please have a healthy snack and water bottle AND ONLY WATER—no juice or sodas or sugary drinks. We need no sugar highs and lows...so, please plan accordingly. Also, alert us to allergies. Interns are in charge of monitoring students over the break periods--and encourage others to share food, take the opportunity to get water, go to the bathroom and/or run around outside on for a bit to stretch the legs and the soul. However please note that students must pick up after themselves.
- ***Should I bring food or drink?*** Yes, again, please plan on bringing a LIGHT snack--no candy please--and some water--NO SODA please. Bring healthy snacks that will give you energy--not a sugar buzz! Feel free to bring a bit extra as a number of students end of sharing!!
- ***What role will I play?*** Do I get to choose? The role you will end up playing involves a number of factors, first and foremost your willingness to be kind, supportive and a team player. Second, it involves your attitude and third, your experience and ability and finally, what role you are best suited to play. While we pride ourselves on being fair, we will not give a student a role unless it fits--think of it like a shoe, it must be a comfortable fit--the right size. A student may get a part with lines or without lines, with dance numbers or without dance numbers--but everyone will be involved, and yes, everyone will sing--regardless of ability. The MOST IMPORTANT part is to make the very most of your role--and to be caring and supportive of others.
- ***-Is it a lot of work?*** Yes, theatre involves both play and work--lots of work and a good deal of patience. You must be willing to play hard and work hard and be prepared to wait patiently while others are on the stage. Theatre is about waiting your turn, supporting others and being a respectful audience member. Bring a book, your homework, something to keep you occupied while you wait quietly!!
- ***Can I bring videogames or portable ds systems or ipads or smartphones to play on during break or while I wait?*** No, we ask for many reasons that **you please leave all of these electronic devices at home, mp3 players, ds players, ipods, ipads, etcetera.** We understand that many students will have smart phones in order to contact parents but again we ask that you not use them during the rehearsal period; we encourage students to socialize with others by playing and running around, sitting and talking face to face, having a conversation, or sitting and reading or studying quietly. We continually encourage students to include everyone in their play...no one may be left out for any reason!!!
- ***-When will I get a copy of the script?*** Scripts are handed out during the first few of days of practice during summer workshop; we spend the early days getting to know one another better--that includes our techies.
- ***-What's the most important thing to know?*** Our most important rule is: BE KIND TO OTHERS!!!!!! No one is allowed to be unkind for any reason. Period. INCLUDE EVERYONE--no one should be left out, EVER!!
- ***-What if I'm not very good at acting or singing or dancing?*** No fear,

when you arrive, you will be included no matter what...we're here to learn and to have fun--everything else is extra!

- **-How will I know what to do? What's blocking?** As I said: it's about learning. Trust me, you'll learn what you need to know...and when you don't we remind you again and again and again, it's okay not to know...it's okay to ask. There's no such thing as a silly question. Blocking, is when you learn stage directions and learn where you enter and exit for your part, and where you stand and what you do when you are on stage.

-When is the actual play? The play performances are Friday at 2pm and again that evening June 28th at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, June 23rd at 2pm and 5pm (after which we will have STRIKE (clean up) and enjoy a cast/crew gathering. Actors, interns and parent volunteers must all arrive ONE and ONE/HALF HOURS to TWO HOURS PRIOR TO SHOW on Friday and one and one half hour prior to show on Saturday.

- **-What kind of costumes will I wear?** We will supply costume pieces and props, but this summer we are asking that each student bring three things: some kind of blue jean shorts, white socks, tennis shoes, and a plain solid-color t-shirt—no lettering or logos. We ask also you supply hair ties, makeup: rouge, lipstick, base, eyeliner--everyone must wear makeup under the stage lights, males and females alike).
- **-When do I get to intern?** Interns are invited to work with us when they are entering HS and may intern throughout high school. We encourage students to be involved and learn all aspects of theatre...if you're interested or know someone who is, no experience necessary...we will train interns! We will rarely invite some going into 8th graders to participate as junior interns—as an exception but normally regard anyone 5th through 8th grade to be a tech student in training who must register as a student just like actors...as you are learning.
- **-What do the interns get to do?** Interns learn all aspects of stagecraft over time, including: lights, sound, stage management, assistant stage management, assistant directing, front of house, coaching/assistance of actors.
- **What do Tech Students learn?** Our staff work with students to teach them safety protocol, basic design and execution of lights, set, painting, costumes, makeup, etcetera. Tech students will learn by doing when appropriate but are not allowed up on the catwalk until they are in 7th grade. Tech students are also not allowed on the Lift or allowed to use saws.
- **-What if I miss a day or longer?** Everyone must miss at various points for various reasons (sickness, other commitments). Some miss the first week or the middle week. It happens. No worries. Do your best to be here when you are healthy, stay home when you're not, but when you are not--no matter the reason, please give us a call or drop an email so we do not worry about you and your whereabouts. Many students participate in Orchestra or a dance class and we encourage students to attend these...except perhaps during our final week of practice...as those are very

very important. Also, I will send out a full rehearsal schedule with any additions, etcetera in the first several weeks to note costume fittings etcetera.

- **Do we meet over weekends?** We will meet on Monday through Thursday of the first two weeks and then on Friday and Saturday during week three for the performances (with students coming one and a half to two hours prior to each show). Interns are invited to additional hours during weeks two and three to work on set and are invited but not required to attend tech calls. We will add some additional hours during week three to fit costumes...likely, Monday and Tuesday after practice in week three. Lastly, students requesting larger roles will be asked to stay later or arrive earlier.
- **What if I get sick for the actual play?** Of course that has happened, but let's focus on staying well...by eating healthy foods, getting plenty of sleep, washing your hands often throughout the day and drinking lots of water...and share food, but not drinks...and wash your hands after you go to the bathroom...and before you eat.
- **I'm in High School and I want to be in the play as an actor? Can I still be involved onstage and does it cost anything as a HS actor?** Actors in high school and HS interns pay no tuition. Tuition is charged only for ES and MS students--whether tech or acting. That said, there are ALWAYS scholarships available for students who need a break or full tuition remission.
- **What are the THREE PLUS RULES OF ODYSSEY?** We have **THREE RULES** at **Odyssey** that we live and work by:
 - 1.) RESPECT SELF;
 - 2.) RESPECT OTHERS;
 - 3.) RESPECT THE SPACE...

PLUS, have FUN!! Nothing else matters. If we work together and include every one, the magic happens and the play will be a success. I know with all of my heart!

Other than that, it is only important to share if there is ever anything that a student feels uncomfortable doing, they need only say: "I ROOTABAGA OUT, please!" and they will be exempt from the activity no questions asked.

Please, if you're new to **Odyssey**, confirm with a short email that you've received this note...as sometimes the email addresses are difficult to read on the registration forms. And speaking of registration, we ask that your deposit be paid before the end of the first day of the workshop and that your balance be paid by the end of the second week. As always, if you need assistance and/or special arrangements, please just let us know. Lastly, if you know of a child in need who would otherwise be unable to participate, please let families know that scholarships will always be made available to encourage everyone's participation!

Any other questions, just give us a call or email KARLA for info: [319-213-0147](tel:319-213-0147) or email us at: Steffran5@gmail.com

Looking forward to seeing and/or meeting and greeting you all!! Feel free to share this with others. Peace.

Onward to warmer days,

Karla
Odyssey Theatre for the Young of Art

"Don't be reckless with other people's hearts. Don't put up with people who are reckless with yours." Kurt Vonnegut Jr.