



Priory Theater Information

Actors

Technical Specialist

Backstage Support

Be part of a Priory Tradition!

The Priory celebrated the grand opening of the Rothrock Performing Arts building in 2007 with spectacular productions of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Nights Dream", the musical "Bye Bye Birdie", and the light hearted comedy "The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood". Our productions seek to highlight and grow the unique and diverse talents of Priory students. The Priory Theater Program embraces all students, regardless of their performing arts background or grade level. Students who participate in productions as actors, technical crew or backstage support discover new talents and build strong friendships. Community building is emphasized as actors learn about theater, professionalism and the importance of teamwork. For many Priory students, participating in a Priory play is the highlight of the school year.



The Cast of "Bye Bye Birdie" HS Play 2008



"A Mid Summer's Night Dream" All School Play 2007

Something For Everyone

- Actors
- Set Builders
- Lighting Technicians
- Sound Specialists
- Scenery Artists
- Musicians
- Makeup Artists
- Costume Assistants
- Hair Stylists
- Poster Artists

No Experience Needed!

Questions?

Contact John Sugdon

Director of Performing Arts

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Interested in joining our theater family? Commonly Asked Questions

My schedule is very full. Do I have time to be in a play? You probably do. At Priory and in the Priory Theater we want you to be able to pursue all your passions. We work with coaches and other activities to maximize and target the time you can be in rehearsal, knowing that while a show is a strong commitment, you may have other commitments as well. The week before the show (Tech and Performance Week) is the one time out of the 8 week rehearsal process where all actors and techies MUST attend every rehearsal. The Audition Form has a space for you to fill out what hours each day you have available for rehearsals. It is vital that you completely fill in your scheduling conflicts, including any team sports or special activities that conflict with play rehearsals. The Technical Staff and the Backstage Support Team have much more flexibility with their schedules and it is a great way to be part of the Theater without the larger time commitment.

Do teachers reduce the homework for actors? No, but Actors and Techies are given an Actor Contract and teacher's may give actors extensions on homework or projects that are assigned during Tech Week and the week of the play. Each actor needs to complete an Actor Contract, which the parent and the teacher sign, which details homework agreements. The contract is included in the Audition Packet and can also be viewed on our website. It is important that each student talk to their teachers and come to an agreement on what will be covered. The Actor Contract is a privilege not a right.

When are rehearsals? Rehearsals usually begin about 2 months before a production. An actor can have rehearsal as little as twice a week and up to five times week. The rehearsals usually occur between 4:00-6:00 pm with occasional weekend rehearsals. The week before a play (which includes the performances) is called Tech Week and all actors, Tech Crew and Backstage Support are required to attend Tech Week rehearsals from 4:00pm to 9:00pm each night. Tech Week weekend typically includes rehearsals from 10:00am to 6:00pm.

Is everyone who tries out for a play automatically cast in that show? It is always our hope that all actors who audition can be cast, however, due to high actor turnout, this is not always possible, (We once had 76 actors try out for a show with 20 roles. If you are not cast in a show, it is not a statement on your skill, and please audition for the next play! Priory Theater is dedicated to providing a rich experience that all actors will find interesting, stretches their skills and is well worth their time.

How does your Casting Policy work? It is the casting policy of Priory Theater that regardless of whether you are a 6th Grader or Senior, the person who gives the strongest audition for a role will receive that part. As actors the element of being cast that you control is your audition. You come prepared with an audition piece or read from the script and give the best performance you can. In casting, the director then looks at the strength of the audition, the role's appropriateness (possible strong romantic content, etc.) the actor's conflicts (are they available to rehearse at the same time as fellow actors), and matching people into pairing and groupings that will work best. If you have many extra-curricular activities or are heavily involved in sports it may affect your casting and size of role though we work closely with coaches to maximize your rehearsal time.

How do I sign up and audition? Audition forms are distributed via email and may be picked up at auditions in the Black Box theater classroom. The audition form will have all the information you need about auditions and production schedules. Auditioners will also need to sign up for an audition time outside the Black Box Theater and may pick-up character descriptions and Scripts/Audition Sides. Students interested in Technical Crew and Backstage Support may use the Audition Form to signup.

Does it cost anything to be in a production? There is no mandatory cost. Parents are asked to pay for a small makeup kit and to provide special shoes for some roles. Financial assistance is available. Audience members will need to purchase tickets to the performances and may choose to purchase an optional DVD. The Theater Committee also asks for donations towards gifts for the staff and snacks for the students.