



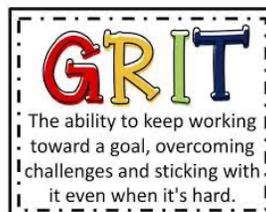
## **MY STAGE: Information and Commitment Letter Fall 2022**

Thank you for choosing TADA Stages to be your child's performing arts, life-skills, and confidence building education. My Stage Musicals are designed to create a nurturing space for children to explore self-expression, learn about the performing arts, and gain confidence throughout the process.

### **PHILOSOPHY:**

"Love the art in yourself, and not yourself in the art." ~ Constantin Stanislavski

This is a quote from one of the most influential acting teachers of our time and is a mantra we echo in our classrooms. This is key to the one of many true gifts theater promises you will attain if you stick with it. You will develop...



Your child auditions, goes to callbacks and gets their heart set on a certain role. Once-in-a-while they get the part they really wanted and it feels amazing but nine times out of ten they don't and that is theater. That is when grit begins to develop for those young actors who stick with it (and for the parents). They face disappointment head on, overcome it, and transform it into an awesome experience. Likely, one they will never forget. The genuine sense of accomplishment comes not from getting the actual part they're cast in initially but from their own hard work and pushing through the highs and lows- all the way to opening night. So, buckle up and get ready for a bumpy yet exhilarating ride!

### **REGISTRATION:**

Registration has already been completed and your initial registration payment of \$160 has already been charged to your card on file to guarantee your child's spot. The registration payment covers all the costumes, props, a professional digital recording of the show, snacks, and materials. In addition, this is a tuition-based program where the cost of the program is broken up into monthly installments and will be charged to your card on file on the first of each month for four months. The tuition is not aggregated based upon number of classes per month but rather the cost of the entire program and is broken up into payments. For example, you may have a month where they only rehearse two or three weeks that month, but it won't be prorated. The payment policies document can be found on the TADA Stages website Information Booth page.

## REHEARSALS, TECH REHEARSALS, and SHOWS:

All rehearsals and shows take place at TADA Stages, 2010 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Manhattan Beach. This is a year-long (school year) class with two seasons. Tech and shows are MANDATORY, no exceptions. Each season is approximately a 4-month rehearsal process ending with two spectacular shows and will have one tech rehearsal as listed on the following page. You will have the option to opt out of the second season if you need to but allows those that have been with us a while the opportunity to stay in the same cast.

**MY STAGE MANIA:** Created by popular demand in 2021, My Stage Mania is a 3 week extension of My Stage fun after the spring show. This will include a cast party, theater games, and an introduction to our Fall 2023 show. Enrollment will open in March of 2023.

### TECH & PERFORMANCES ARE MANDATORY:

The arts for our youth are vital in a time like now and the ability to perform as a team is of equal importance. That is why tech and shows are mandatory unless illness occurs. Please know that if you withdraw your child from a show for any reason other than illness or extenuating circumstances, you will be dropped from our priority pre-registration list but will be able to register again when it's open to the general public.

## \*TECH REHEARSAL AND SHOWS ARE MANDATORY\*

### MY STAGE TECH and SHOW SCHEDULE - FALL 2022

	CAST	DAY & TIME	TECH REHEARSAL	PERFORMANCE 1	PERFORMANCE 2
3RD-5TH GRADE	ORANGE CAST	M 4:45-6:40PM	M, NOV 28, 3-5:30PM	TH, DEC 1; CALL TIME: 5:45PM, SHOW: 7PM	F, DEC 2; CALL TIME: 3:30PM, SHOW: 4:15PM
	PEACH CAST	M 4:45-6:40PM	M, NOV 28, 5:45-8:15PM	F, DEC 2; CALL TIME: 5:45PM, SHOW: 7PM	SA, DEC 3; CALL TIME: 11AM, SHOW: 11:45AM
	AMBER CAST	TU 5-6:55PM	TU, NOV 29, 3-5:30PM	SA, DEC 3; CALL TIME: 1:15PM, SHOW: 2:30PM	TU, DEC 6; CALL TIME: 5:45PM, SHOW: 6:30PM
	LILAC CAST	TU 5-6:55PM	TU, NOV 29, 5:45-8:15PM	SA, DEC 3; CALL TIME: 4:45PM, SHOW: 6PM	SU, DEC 4; CALL TIME: 11AM, SHOW: 11:45AM
	EMERALD CAST	W 3:30-5:25PM	W, NOV 30, 3-5:30PM	SU, DEC 4; CALL TIME: 4:45PM, SHOW: 6PM	M, DEC 5; CALL TIME: 3:30PM, SHOW: 4:15 PM
	LIME CAST	W 4:25-6:20PM	W, NOV 30, 5:45-8:15PM	SU, DEC 4; CALL TIME: 1:15PM, SHOW: 2:30PM	WED, DEC 7TH; CALL TIME: 5:30PM, SHOW: 6:15PM
	TEAL CAST	TH 5-6:55PM	TH, DEC 1, 3-5:30PM	M, DEC 5; CALL TIME: 5:45PM, SHOW: 7PM	TU, DEC 6; CALL TIME 3:30PM, SHOW 4:15PM
K-2ND GRADE	RUBY CAST	M 3-4:40PM	TH, DEC 8, 5:30-8PM	SU, DEC 11; CALL TIME: 12PM, SHOW: 1:15PM	M, DEC 12; CALL TIME: 3:15PM, SHOW: 4PM
	RED CAST	M 3-4:40PM	F, DEC 9, 5:30-8PM	T, DEC 13; CALL TIME: 5:30PM, SHOW: 6:45PM	W, DEC 14; CALL TIME: 3:15PM, SHOW: 4PM
	YELLOW CAST	TU 3:15-4:55PM	SA, DEC 10, 9-11:30AM	TH, DEC 15; CALL TIME: 2:45PM, SHOW: 4PM	F, DEC 16; CALL TIME: 5:30PM, SHOW: 6:15PM
	BLUE CAST	TU 3:15-4:55PM	SA, DEC 10, 11:45-2:15PM	TH, DEC 15; CALL TIME: 5:30PM, SHOW: 6:45PM	F, DEC 16; CALL TIME: 3:15PM, SHOW: 4PM
	VIOLET CAST	W 2:40-4:20PM	W, DEC 7, 2:40-5:10PM	SA, DEC 10; CALL TIME: 5:15PM, SHOW: 6:30PM	SU, DEC 11; CALL TIME: 10AM, SHOW 10:45AM
	PURPLE CAST	TH 3:15-4:55PM	TH, DEC 8, 2:45-5:15PM	SA, DEC 10; CALL TIME: 2:45PM, SHOW: 4PM	M, DEC 12; CALL TIME: 5:30PM, SHOW: 6:15PM
	PINK CAST	F 3:15-4:55PM	F, DEC 9, 2:45-5:15PM	T, DEC 13; CALL TIME: 2:45PM, SHOW: 4PM	W, DEC 14; CALL TIME: 5:30PM, SHOW 6:15PM

### CONFLICTS

- Commitment:** Theater is a team sport. 100% attendance at all rehearsals is strongly expected and will create the best learning environment for all in each cast. We love that your child knows their lines or parts so well you might feel that they can miss a day but, the problem is, the rest of the cast doesn't know your child's lines or parts and needs them present in choreography too. The whole cast suffers when their cast-mates aren't there to practice with.

- **Character:** We are here to serve children and their development. That is why we have high attendance expectations. We understand family life and hectic schedules, but we also want to make sure we communicate that we value follow-through, dedication, and commitment. These are traits of great character we instill in our students through our practices. When a child misses it means that they won't have practiced in two weeks or since the last time they were present. The potential for not remembering what they were taught prior is high.
  - **Responsibility:** Acceptable Conflicts marked on the Conflict Calendar and turned in at the first rehearsal will be the only absences accepted outside of urgent situations or sickness. **Only 2 Acceptable Conflicts per season will be permitted.** We understand that things come up but want to teach our young actors that they have a responsibility to others as well as to themselves.
- Examples of Acceptable Conflicts include but are not limited to: graduations, weddings, funerals, school performances, performing arts competitions or currently scheduled soccer championships, etc.
  - Examples of unacceptable conflicts include but are not limited to: birthday parties, play dates, Disneyland excursions, dinner plans etc.
  - We build our rehearsal schedule based on the conflicts listed so missing a rehearsal unexpectedly can result in a child not learning their scene or staging. We typically do not have time in rehearsal to reteach as we need to continue teaching what hasn't yet been taught which could mean omitting someone from a particular number.
- **Accountability:** If an absence does occur, we ask that parents help their young actor by reviewing the dance/song videos posted on Dropbox before the next rehearsal. It is always hard for young people to walk into a rehearsal where they don't know the material.
  - **Punctuality:** Performers must be at rehearsals on time. Excess tardiness and/or absences create anxiety in young people and can be disruptive to other cast mates.
  - **No peeking:** All rehearsals are closed to everyone except the staff. We don't want to ruin the magic of seeing the final production!

## CASTING & PLACEMENT

### TRUST THE PROCESS.

TADA Stages fosters teamwork and firmly agrees with Stanislavski that *there are no small parts there are only small actors*. Students will be informed of their roles as soon as possible after the first few weeks of class, which allows Directors to work with students and determine appropriate placement.

- **TRUST:** We have multiple children to place in a cast and empower. We see your child and believe in them. Help us help them by showing what it looks like to trust the process and focus on what they "get" to do versus what they don't get to do. **We expect all parents and students to support the casting decisions made by the Director(s).** We are here for guidance and feedback for your child as always. Please know, however, we will not discuss casting decisions or other children, we will not recast due to complaints, and encourage parents/students to enquire about their part(s) to gain greater clarity on the fun that is in store. Everyone gets a turn, and that turn is decided by the educators who are in service to all the children.

## **DO NOT LINE COUNT:**

- Line counting is the fastest way to decrease confidence in a young actor and the educational experience of being in a show and you CANNOT quantify value by counting lines. It happens, we get it but it's a rookie move. We all know it takes the whole team to score a goal in soccer. It's not just about how many goals one person makes.
- **Dropping Class Policy:**

In the event that your child drops prior to casting a refund less 20% will be given. After the first class has begun, no refunds will be given and the remaining tuition will be billed to your account, however you will not be expected to pay for the remainder of the tuition. Should you drop after casting, you agree to pay for the remaining tuition as we are unable to backfill your child's specific role. In addition, those that drop after casting simply because they didn't get the part they wanted will not be allowed to do the following season. Entitlement is not a quality we encourage or nurture at TADA Stages. Learning to make lemonade from lemons is a valuable life skill that enables growth in self-confidence and GRIT.

## **P.O.W.E.R. PELLETS:**

Through repetition and reflection, we are able to help them learn process. That is why we've created P.O.W.E.R. Pellets (personal ownership with every response). This is a system we use to reflect on our time in rehearsal. We keep track of progress with fuzzies and those casts with the most fuzzies get a special prize at show time. Categories:

- **CHARACTER COUNTS:** Follow the golden rule for classroom etiquette! We were kind to ourselves and others. We raised our hand to talk. We were supportive and had a positive attitude.
- **KNOW YOUR SHOW:** We have our scenes, songs, and dance numbers memorized by heart!
- **BROADWAY BOUND:** We show we know our actor basics like projection, speak clearly, cheat out, and stay in character!
- **REHEARSAL READY:** Script, pencil, highlighter, water bottle, proper rehearsal attire...check!

## **PARENT P.O.W.E.R.**

- ✓ Display support for your child and other cast members in the role that they have earned at all rehearsals and at all performances.
- ✓ Do not criticize or gossip about TADA cast members, other parents, teachers, staff or volunteers at any TADA Studios. This isn't the environment we are trying to foster here. If you have a concern, please contact Julia Mirkovich ([julia@tadastages.com](mailto:julia@tadastages.com)) directly and discreetly.
- ✓ We will help you help your actor by giving you useful tips on how to practice/study lines, songs, and dance numbers with them. They are pretty amazing people who can remember far more than us but need a little help getting there.
- ✓ Just a reminder...let's all, as parents, remember to be mindful that our young people are processing, learning, and are in development. That's their rite of passage. It's so cool when we

let them figure out how very capable they are through the act of trial and error, trial and error, then trial and success! The art of “getting back up on the horse” is our greatest ability.

## GENERAL POLICIES

- ✓ Parents must notify staff regarding any special circumstances or medical requirements related to their child.
- ✓ Parents/guardians must check for adult supervision before leaving their participants at rehearsals.
- ✓ Parents/guardians must pick-up their participant at the designated time and no later.
- ✓ No video or photography is allowed during Tech Week without the prior approval of the director.
- ✓ No open-toed shoes are to be worn at rehearsals or the theatre venue. Wear jazz or tennis shoes and comfy clothing that is easy to move in. Hair must be pulled back in a ponytail or away from the face.

## COSTUMES

• Depending on the show your child could have anywhere from one to five costumes. There are times that a character will wear the same costume throughout the show but that is not as common i.e. Shrek or Flounder. Please know that there is some costume sharing between casts for certain characters. Each actor will provide their own undergarments i.e. nude tank tops/nude biker shorts etc. for both hygienic purposes and to enable quick changes. Costumes are such a fun part of the experience for these awesome kiddos, so we go to great lengths to make them beautiful.

## TUITION & FEES

- \$160 Deposit fee: Secures your child’s spot and covers costume fee, a professional recording of the show, tech/show snacks, production expenses, rehearsal materials, and cast photo.
- You will be charged the first month installment of the tuition the first week of classes. Billing will go as follows.
  - Installment 1: August 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - Installment 2: September 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - Installment 3: October 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - Installment 4: November 22<sup>nd</sup>
- **Tuition:** Includes 2 professional and caring educators in their field for each cast who will teach them choreography, vocals, and staging. They will also have a stage manager and a full crew to run their show.

They will rehearse on the stage with props and their set for weeks prior to tech rehearsal culminating in two amazing shows.

- **K-2<sup>nd</sup> : \$169/mo \***
- **3-5<sup>th</sup> : \$199/mo \***

- • Tuition is one expense for the entire production experience broken up into monthly payments and charged to your card on file as a convenience to you rather than paying for the entire tuition in one lump sum. It isn't quantified by the number of classes in each month. If you have not been charged, you will receive an email from Mark Mirkovich with a request to update your card on file.
- \*Additional elective costs include tickets, t-shirts, and concessions.

### **SHOW TIME/COVID MASK PROTOCOL:**

All students, staff, parents, and siblings must have a signed waiver to attend class and/or enter the studio. We will continue to follow the LA County Public Health protocols as required and reserve the right to change our policies based upon their guidelines. Currently, we do not require masks to be worn, we don't require proof of vaccination, and do not expect our students to test to participate unless they have recently tested positive. They must test negative to return to the studio rehearsals, tech, and shows.

### **Tickets:**

- Tickets are \$20 each. If full capacities are permitted, each student is allowed 5 tickets per show for a total of 10. Each family is given two VIP tickets to one show to enable seating near the front of the stage. We have a small house so be prepared to sit separately from grandparents or other guests when using your 2 VIP tickets. In the event people don't need 5 tickets for both shows we will release the extras via an email announcement. The tickets may be purchased on a first come first serve basis.

**T-SHIRTS** – T-shirts will be available for sale. Based upon popular demand, order forms will be passed out on the first and second class day. Orders must be placed and given in person to the office by **Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup>**. T- Shirts are \$30.00 and payments will be billed to your card on file. They have the TADA Stages logo on the front and the show logo on the back.

***This is your only opportunity to order a T-Shirt for the season!***

### **TADA STAGES INFORMATION BOOTH:**

This is your one stop shop for all info for your child's cast. Please visit our website for the Information Booth ( [www.TADASTAGES.com/information-booth](http://www.TADASTAGES.com/information-booth) ) This will really help you help your child to practice at home with videos. It will include:

- Rehearsal music, script, dance videos, and more
- Tech & Show information
- Make-up and hair info
- Costume info
- Schedules, payment policies, and everything else!

Please feel free to reach out to Evie Hutton, the Studio Managing Director at [evie@tadastages.com](mailto:evie@tadastages.com) or Julia Mirkovich, owner and education director at [julia@puttinonproductions.com](mailto:julia@puttinonproductions.com) with any questions [evie@tadastages.com](mailto:evie@tadastages.com)

**PLEASE LIST THE SHOWS YOU HAVE DONE AT TADA STAGES AND THE ROLES/CHARACTERS YOUR CHILD HAS HAD FOR OUR REFERRANCE.**

**NAME OF SHOW ROLE OR PARTS**

Name of Show	Role or Parts

# CONFLICT SHEET:

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS COLOR/DAY/TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

## CONFLICTS:

List all known conflicts. Please check the box below if you have no conflicts. Hand in on the first day of class. Please know that we take into consideration student conflicts when creating the rehearsal schedule. Attendance is vital to the success and readiness of each cast.

CLASS DATE                      DESCRIBE CONFLICT: (e.g. vacation, dentist, etc)

CLASS DATE	DESCRIBE CONFLICT: (e.g. vacation, dentist, etc)

No Conflicts Exist:

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_