

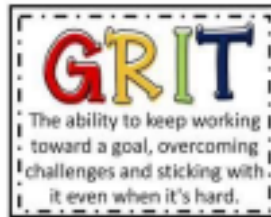
## **MY STAGE: Information and Commitment Letter Spring 2023**

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. This 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!

### **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. Please know that if your child misses a tech rehearsal or 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.

Each season is approximately a 4-month rehearsal process ending with two spectacular shows and will have one tech rehearsal as listed below. You will have the option to opt out of the second season if desired.

**SHREK PREP CLINIC:** Two-week clinic prior to My Stage that will prepare your performer for the My Stage audition process. Time will be taken on dance technique, character creation in song performance, and how to "make choices" when reading lines in acting auditions. Optional program for all My Stage performers. K-2<sup>nd</sup> Tuition: \$70, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Tuition: \$85.

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

**MY STAGE TECH and SHOW SCHEDULE - SPRING 2023**

	CAST	DAY & TIME	TECH REHEARSAL	PERFORMANCE 1	PERFORMANCE 2
3RD-5TH GRADE	ORANGE CAST	M 4:45-6:40PM	SA, MAY 20, 11:45-2:15	SU, MAY 21; CALL TIME 3:15PM, SHOW 4:30PM	W, MAY 24; CALL TIME 5:45PM, SHOW 6:30PM
	PEACH CAST	M 4:45-6:40PM	SA, MAY 20, 2:30-5PM	SU, MAY 21; CALL TIME 5:45PM, SHOW 7PM	M, MAY 22; CALL TIME 3:30PM, SHOW 4:15PM
	AMBER CAST	TU 5-6:55PM	SA, MAY 20, 5:30-8PM	M, MAY 22; CALL TIME 5:45PM, SHOW 7PM	TU, MAY 23; CALL TIME 3:30PM, SHOW 4:15PM
	LILAC CAST	TU 5-6:55PM	SU, MAY 21, 12:30-3PM	TU, MAY 23; CALL TIME 5:45PM, SHOW 7PM	W, MAY 24; CALL TIME 3:30PM, SHOW 4:15PM
	EMERALD CAST	W 3:30-5:25PM	TH, MAY 25, 3-5:30PM	F, MAY 26; CALL TIME 5:45PM, SHOW 7PM	SA, MAY 27; CALL TIME 12PM, SHOW 12:45PM
	LIME CAST	W 4:25-6:20PM	F, MAY 26, 3-5:30PM	T, MAY 30; CALL TIME 5:45PM, SHOW 7PM	W, MAY 31; CALL TIME 3:30PM, SHOW 4:15PM
	TEAL CAST	TH 5-6:55PM	TH, MAY 25, 5:45-8:15PM	SU, MAY 28; CALL TIME 5:45PM, SHOW 7PM	TU, MAY 30; CALL TIME 3:30PM, SHOW 4:15PM
	MAGENTA CAST	F 3:30-5:25PM	SA, MAY 27, 2:15-4:45PM	SU, MAY 28; CALL TIME 2:30PM, SHOW 3:45PM	TH, JUN 1; CALL TIME 5:45PM, SHOW 6:30PM
	CORAL CAST	SA 9:30-11:25AM	SA, MAY 27, 5:30-8PM	SU, MAY 28; CALL TIME 11:45PM, SHOW 1PM	W, MAY 31; CALL TIME 5:45PM, SHOW 6:30PM
K-2ND GRADE	RUBY CAST	M 3-4:40PM	SA, JUN 3, 9-11:30AM	TU, JUN 6; CALL TIME 5:30PM, SHOW 6:45PM	F, JUN 9; CALL TIME 3:15PM, SHOW 4PM
	RED CAST	M 3-4:40PM	F, JUN 2, 5:30-8PM	M, JUN 5; CALL TIME 5:30PM, SHOW 6:45PM	TU, JUN 6; CALL TIME 3:15PM, SHOW 4PM
	YELLOW CAST	TU 3:15-4:55PM	SU, JUN 4, 9:30-12PM	TH, JUN 8; CALL TIME 3PM, SHOW 4:15PM	SA, JUN 10; CALL TIME 12:15PM, SHOW 1PM
	BLUE CAST	TU 3:15-4:55PM	SA, JUN 3, 2:45-5:15PM	W, JUN 7; CALL TIME 5:30PM, SHOW 6:45PM	SA, JUN 10; CALL TIME 10AM, SHOW 10:45AM
	VIOLET CAST	W 2:40-4:20PM	SA, JUN 3, 11:45-2:15PM	W, JUN 7; CALL TIME 2:45PM, SHOW 4PM	F, JUN 9; CALL TIME 5:30PM, SHOW 6:15PM
	PURPLE CAST	TH 3:15-4:55PM	TH, JUN 1, 3-5:30PM	SU, JUN 4; CALL TIME 1PM, SHOW 2:15PM	TH, JUN 8; CALL TIME 5:45PM, SHOW 6:30PM
	PINK CAST	F 3:15-4:55PM	F, JUN 2, 2:45-5:15PM	SU, JUN 4; CALL TIME 3:45PM, SHOW 5PM	M, JUN 5; CALL TIME 3:15PM, SHOW 4PM

**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 as well. The whole cast suffers when their cast-mates aren't there to practice with.

**Character:** We are here to serve children and their development which is why we have high attendance expectations. We understand family life and hectic schedules, but we also value follow-through, dedication, and commitment. These are traits of great character we instill in our students through our practices.

**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 and empower in a cast. 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. We at TADA focus on what students *GET* to do versus what students *DON'T* get to do. 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. **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**

(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:

**CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE:** 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.

**MEMORIZATION:** We have our scenes, songs, and dance numbers memorized by heart!

**BROADWAY BASICS:** We know our actor basics like projection, speak clearly, cheat out, and stay in character!

**REHEARSAL TOOLS:** 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 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) 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 keep them beautiful.

## **TUITION & FEES**

**\$160 NON REFUNDABLE Registration 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.

**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.

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.

Billing Schedule:

- **K-2<sup>nd</sup> : \$169** on each of the following dates: Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>, Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>, Mar 23<sup>rd</sup>, Apr 23<sup>rd</sup>
- **3-5<sup>th</sup> : \$199** on each of the following dates: Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>, Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>, Mar 23<sup>rd</sup>, Apr 23<sup>rd</sup>

\*Additional elective costs include tickets, t-shirts, and concessions.

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

All students, staff, parents, and siblings must have a signed COVID 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.

### **TICKETS**

- Tickets are \$20 each. If full capacities are permitted, each family 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. Orders must be placed and given in person to the office by Friday, **February 10th**. 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)