

Please read prior to allowing your child to audition.

Thank you for your interest in Olmsted Performing Arts' 2010 production of

Into the Woods Junior

We anticipate an amazing experience for everyone involved, but we want to make sure that you are aware of what commitment is expected from you and your child to this production. *Please take the time to read carefully before making the decision to allow your child to audition.*

REHEARSALS

We expect 100% participation at all rehearsals, however, we know this is not always possible. We will tolerate two (2) excused rehearsals. Rehearsal schedules are subject to change—you will be given advanced notice. We post rehearsal changes on our website: www.olmstedperformingarts.com on the “Youth Theatre” page.

REHEARSAL GUIDELINES

Failure to follow any of the following rules or any inappropriate behavior may result in your child's role being *re-cast*.

- If your child needs to miss a rehearsal, you must contact the *Assistant Director* as soon as possible, preferably 24 hours prior to the missed rehearsal.
- Tardiness will not be tolerated. If your child will be late, call the *Assistant Director*.
- Students need to have a positive attitude at rehearsals. Patience, cheerfulness and flexibility are contagious and will be appreciated.
- The director reserves the right to add additional rehearsals or extend rehearsal times at her discretion. Notice will be given.
- By allowing your child to audition, you agree that you and your child understand that he or she will be learning original choreography and that you nor your child will not take any dance moves to another production without express written permission from Olmsted Performing Arts.

TECH WEEK

Absolutely no missed rehearsals or tardiness during tech week will be accepted for any reason. Technical rehearsals may run later than scheduled.

DIVA CLAUSE

By allowing your child to audition, you and your child agree that throughout the course of the production that he or she will be respectful and courteous to the director, staff, cast and crewmembers. He or she agrees that no cast member is “of a higher status” than any other and will not expect any measure of “special treatment” to be given. He or she agrees not to engage in any argument or confrontation with the director, staff, cast or crewmembers over creative and/or artistic differences. Furthermore, you understand that there shall be no artistic difference as your child's participation in the production is to satisfy the needs of the production as dictated by the vision of the director.

EXPENSE

There is a \$95.00 production fee per actor, which is due at the first rehearsal. This helps to cover the cost of production (no family discounts will be given). Additionally you will be responsible for purchasing your child's footwear and tights as well as the base of his or her costume, potentially including, but not limited to, pants, shirts and socks as needed. Do not purchase any footwear, tights or costume pieces until we have assigned a style to your child.

Also, it takes everyone, both on and off stage, to make the show possible. Please let us know if you or anyone you know would be interested volunteering with the production in any capacity.

CASTING

A cast list will be posted on our website under the "Youth Theatre" tab no later than Monday, May 18th. Please do not call the director.

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Parents,

Thank you so much for bringing your children to audition for *Into the Woods*. The word "audition" can have a very big stigma attached to it. It is a strange thing to try and cast a production after only seeing a person perform for just a few minutes! As a professional actor myself, I feel compelled to say thank-you for having the passion, courage, and bravery to display your talent in public. That, in itself, is the first big step that all actors, singers, and performers must take. So, I say congratulations to everyone who is coming out to audition. Remember, auditioning is a learning experience and it should be fun!

Northeast Ohio has a tradition for being a hotspot for artists, and OPA is an organization that is focused on providing the best training and experience for young and developing artists in the area. For those that don't make the show, you will continue to be a vital part of OPA, and please continue auditioning for us in the future. We are seeking a high level of talent and dedication for this show, therefore, I felt it appropriate to give a few audition and show guidelines for you and your child.

Into the Woods Junior is driven by the songs and dances, so will be looking for strong and **confident** singers and dancers. Even though there are very few lines, we are looking for singers who also have an acting range.

Because we only have 8 weeks to put on this show, attendance and missed rehearsals must be kept strictly to no more than 2 (that equals practically a week of rehearsals). If you cannot adhere to this policy, please think seriously about not allowing your child to audition unless there are extenuating circumstances. Each child will receive a practice CD for \$1 at the beginning of the show. I expect songs to be learned according to the rehearsal schedule since we do not have time to memorize during rehearsal (shouldn't be a problem since the kids usually love the music – you'll go crazy, not them!)

There is a mandatory parent meeting, Tuesday May 18th 2010, from 6:00-7:00 PM that covers in detail *all* the questions I know you have. Immediately following that meeting will be a full cast rehearsal from 7:00-9:00 PM. Rehearsals are closed to parents at all times so the actors can work freely and become familiar with the process. I am **very** excited to have all of your children signed up for this audition! I am anticipating an incredible show! Remind your children that we truly love having them here—there is nothing to be afraid of!

Break a leg!

Aaron Calafato
Director