

## Welcome to the 2015/2016 West Seneca Youth Theatre Season!

The West Seneca Youth Theatre is truly a family organization that encourages and cultivates school-age children in their love for performance through collaboration and teamwork. Every single member of WSYT is important and valued, and every family member is crucial to the success of the group!

This contract is meant to outline the policies and procedures of being a member of WSYT. It is a guideline for what families can expect from the staff and also what is expected from each family for the year. By signing and returning this contract, you are stating that you understand and have read the entire document and are making a commitment to the program. **The Town of West Seneca does not provide refunds.**

### I. The Productions

- WSYT produces one fundraiser production and two spring musicals.
  - This year our fundraiser is a Disney Christmas show in mid December.
  - Our two spring musicals are **Carousel** (last week in April) & **Seussical** (last week in June).
  - All dates are tentative; official dates will be announced **10/4** at our first Parent Meeting.
- **EVERY STUDENT** must participate in the fundraiser production. If a student does not partake in the fundraiser production then they will not be allowed to continue the year with the group.
- Casting is completely at the discretion of the directors. Not everyone will be asked to be in both productions.
- Tech/Dress rehearsal week for the spring productions will begin the Monday prior to the show dates and will be every evening that week from 4:30 – 9:00 pm. With the exception of school grade-related conflicts, every student **MUST** be at **EVERY** tech and dress rehearsal for **ALL** productions in which they are cast. Mandatory Tech/Dress rehearsal week: 4:30 – 9:00 pm Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs before each show.
- Mandatory tech/dress rehearsals for the fundraiser production will 4:30 – 9:00 the Thursday and Friday before the Saturday shows. With the exception of school grade-related conflicts, every student **MUST** be at **EVERY** tech and dress rehearsal for **ALL** productions in which they are cast.
- WSYT staff works very hard to give all students a well-rounded, fun and educational theatrical experience.

### II. Casting

- WSYT casting is at the discretion of the directors. The directors work very hard to make the entire puzzle fit together and place every single student where they are best suited for each individual show. Prior roles, age or amount of experience may **OR** may not influence casting. We always encourage students to do their very best and we work with them on making their best better and better as they grow.
- **ALL STUDENTS MUST AUDITION** for the two spring productions. Auditions will be held on Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

- It is at the discretion of the directors as to whether or not each student is in one or both productions. Please let us know by **11/22** if your child CANNOT perform in either production because of conflicting dates.

- ANY and ALL casting questions must be submitted in writing to [wsyouththeatre@hotmail.com](mailto:wsyouththeatre@hotmail.com). Do not send text messages or private emails about casting; they will be deleted and dismissed.

- “You get what you get and you don't throw a fit.” is our policy for students and their families. We always say the students are ALWAYS auditioning – it is important that each child puts their best, most positive foot forward every day and works hard to do their best at the role they are cast in. It is unacceptable to bring negativity over casting to rehearsal and equally unacceptable to treat directors or other cast mates with disrespect if you do not receive the role you desire. We are a family group that supports and congratulates one another. Please encourage your children to embrace whatever role they receive and work as hard as they can at it. WSYT is not responsible for your child's happiness, but we certainly expect everyone as a group to work together positively.

### **III. Attendance**

- Attendance is vital to the success of our productions. Our staff works very hard at building a rehearsal schedule that works WITH the busy schedules of our students. In a group that practices once a week, missing one day is like missing 5 days.

- ALL Sunday conflicts from 9/20 – 12/20 must be submitted in writing to Candice at [candicekogut@gmail.com](mailto:candicekogut@gmail.com) by **September 20<sup>th</sup>**.

- ALL Sunday conflicts from 12/20 through 6/19 must be submitted in writing to Candice at [candicekogut@gmail.com](mailto:candicekogut@gmail.com) by **December 6**.

- Any missed practice not submitted by those days is considered an unexcused absence; more than 2 unexcused absences WILL result in loss of lines or solos.

- Excessive absences or conflicts may require the directors to cast an understudy. If an understudy is cast, the WSYT reserves the right to allow the understudy to perform one of the nights of the shows. These decisions are at the discretion of the directors.

### **IV. Rehearsals**

- Rehearsals are held on Sunday's from 1:00 – 5:00 pm. Not every student will be called for every rehearsal; some weeks your student may only be needed for an hour or not at all.

- Rehearsal schedules are given out twice a year: One the first week of WSYT and another in December.

- The first rehearsal is FULL CAST mandatory from 1:00 – 5:00 on **9/20**.

- The Saturday before each production must be reserved for WSYT rehearsal from 1:00 – 5:00.

- Students **MUST** practice outside of rehearsal. The success of our productions relies on students who take their roles and their performances seriously. Only working on their parts once a week at rehearsal is not enough.

- Tech/dress rehearsals are mandatory.

## **V. Behavior**

- Poor behavior will not be tolerated. Any poor behavior from a student may result in the termination of their year with WSYT.

- All students must be respectful of other students, their directors, any volunteers and the space we are working in.

- We are all ready to have fun, but when it's time to work we expect all students to be ready and willing to learn their material and focus. Failure to do so may result in dismissal from rehearsal and ultimately, the group. This is at the discretion of the directors.

## **VI. Parent Responsibilities**

- Each family is responsible for selling 10 tickets for the fundraiser production.

- Each family is required to donate a raffle basket valuing at \$25 for the fundraiser production. Failure to do so will result in a fee.

- Each family is required to provide a box of candy or chips for concessions for each production their child takes part in. Failure to do so will result in a fee.

- Each family with a child 12 years old or younger is required to give a night backstage during tech week. Failure to do so will result in dismissal from the group.

- Each family is required to sell one ad for the production program.

- Each family is required to send an adult to **AT LEAST** one load in or strike day. Failure to do so will result in a fee.

**I have read and understand my responsibilities as well as the responsibilities of my child in the West Seneca Youth Theatre and agree to comply with the policies and procedures of the group.**

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Parent Signature

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Student Signature

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Parent Printed Name

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Student Printed Name