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Rehearsal Process & Actor Expectations

We would like you to know what to expect should you be offered casting in any of our Season Subscription productions.

The first thing we would like you to know is that our commitment to high quality productions (as our patrons expect) is as strong as our commitment to providing great opportunities for performers of all levels. We have the same expectations from our Company Members who are minors (17 and younger) as we do our adult Members... specifically:

- ◆ Very few conflicts or unexcused absences during scheduled rehearsals. You will be cast based upon the conflicts you outline prior to the start of rehearsals/crew calls. ***Any additional conflicts may or may not be approved by the production team, and may preclude your participation.***
- ◆ Prompt (10 minutes early) arrival for all assigned calls and costume fittings
- ◆ **No conflicts for tech week or performances**
- ◆ Focus and attention to the work at hand
- ◆ Home preparation and rehearsal

What will the rehearsal schedule be?

The basic rehearsal schedule for any of our shows is 7-11p Tuesday through Friday, and Sat/Su 1-5p, 7-11p*.

Don't let this intimidate you!

There will be times within this schedule that you may not be called to rehearsal. For instance, when the principal actors' scenes or songs take the directing team's focus, the general ensemble may not be called that day or portion of the day. On the other hand, ensemble members *may* be called into a coaching session while principals are in rehearsal in order to strengthen individual or group skills.

The directing team will construct a rehearsal schedule in advance so you will know when you are expected and what will be worked.

* Accommodations are usually made for our Company Members who are 17 and younger, cast in subscription shows, and rehearsals will end early for those participants, **usually by 9PM**, on school nights (Tu-Th, Su). The exception to this is during tech week (see end note on next page). Friday and Saturday evenings are considered non-school nights. Mondays are always dark (off/closed) for actors.

This is an example of the rehearsal schedule for ***Three Penny Opera***:

Date	Time	Where	What	Who
Sunday, Sept 9 th	1:00 1:30 2:15 3:00	T-18	Music: Lucy's Aria Music: Jealousy Duet Music: Love Song & Melodrama & Polly's Song Music: Polly's Solos: Pirate Jenny, Barbara Song,	Lucy Lucy & Polly MacHeath & Polly Polly
Tuesday, Sept 11 th	7-8:30 8:30-11	T-18	Introductions Music: Wedding Song, Solider Song, Pimp's Ballad, Ballad of Mac, Solomon Song	All Called Paul, John, Joe, Mike, Dawn, Bill
Wednesday, Sept 12 th	7:00 8:00 9:00	T-18	Block: Act I.1 Block: Act II.2 Block Act III.1	Mr. Peachum, Mrs. Peachum, Filch Jack (Paul S.), Jenny, Macheath, Mrs. Peachum Peachum, Mrs. Peachum, Filch, Beggar (Pete), Jenny, Tiger, Constable (Howard)
Thursday, Sept 13 th	7-10	T-18	Overture	All Called (except Kay & John)
Saturday, Sept 15 th	1-1:45 1:45-2:45 2:45-3:45 3:45 - 4:30	T-18	Block: Act I.3 Block: Act II.3 Block: Act I.2 Block: Act II.1	Mr. P, Mrs. P, Polly, Beggar (Pete) ADD: Mac, Tiger, Lucy, Paul, Howard, John Release: Mr. P, Mrs. P Lucy Release: Tiger

What are rehearsals like?

Depending on the components of the production you are in, you can expect to have rehearsals focused on table work (character development) music, dance, staging (in which the director & choreographer will concentrate on moving actors through scenes to create specific entrances, exits, and character activity), and later, technical rehearsals. Some days will be dedicated to one primary area, and some will have more than one rehearsal going on at the same time.

The presence of ensemble actors is as vital as that of principal actors because the artistic team needs to visualize “bodies in space” in order to create scenes that “tell the story” and are aesthetically pleasing. As you can imagine, if there are a lot of missing actors, it makes their job even more difficult, and so multiple conflicts can affect the directors’ efficiency. In general, the more an actor is available & present, the more the director can consider using them!

We rely on each actor’s ability to retain what was taught in rehearsals so the process can advance. If an actor is missing from a rehearsal (with an approved conflict of course!), we ask that they make an effort to find out what they missed from fellow cast members. It is not the responsibility of the directing team to backtrack in order to ensure missing actors “catch up”.

I don’t have any lines, so why do I need to be at so many rehearsals?

TWS strives to create as full of an environment on stage as possible, and many times this means that there are actors who provide ambience to scenes by being present or by providing “life” behind the primary action. Directing teams will be mindful of actors’ real-life commitments, and will not call actors without cause. However, it is also necessary for actors of the ensemble to watch the work closely in order to understand how they fit into the scene, whether or not they have a scripted presence.

Do I provide my own costume?

TWS engages professional scenic, prop, lighting and costume designers and artisans to provide all technical aspects for each of our shows. In general, actors will be given every prop and costume that they will need for the production. However, we do ask each actor to provide their own rehearsal clothes & shoes that approximate those that they will be wearing for the production. This does not require specific dance apparel, but simply clothes and shoes that allow the actor to move freely and comfortably. If women are not used to wearing heels, or men, hard soled shoes, it would be wise to have rehearsal shoes that approximate those type of footwear. It will make your body’s transition into assigned costumes much easier.

Do I pay to be in a play?

TWS currently asks a production materials fee from all actors- \$25 from adult actors, and \$5 from actors in high school or younger- *for each show*.

What is Tech Week, and why do I need to be there?

Tech week is when costumes, sound, lighting, props, and moving scenic elements are added to the production. The weeks prior are dedicated to the actors’ process, but our technicians have a week in which to add, alter, refine, and complete their designs. As you can imagine, all players need to be present to make sure these elements are incorporated as smoothly as possible. We do not accept conflicts during this week because this time is so crucial to high level of production we strive for.

IMPORTANT: During the final week of rehearsal (“tech week”), rehearsals will *run under show conditions and may end at 11 PM**. This means that makeup and costume calls will require early arrival (6/6:30); shows will be run as if being presented; and notes from any of the directing team may be given after the run of the show and after costumes have been hung up and returned. We do our best to not have many late hours, but we need the flexibility to do so as needed.

* This **includes** minors in our acting and technical companies.

Please consider the above carefully **before accepting any casting**...it takes a lot of hard work and endurance to do a play, but it’s oh so wonderful!!!

Any other questions? Please feel free to ask TWS staff... we know this is a brand new experience for many of our actors, and we work to make it as educational and as enjoyable a process as possible!

Thanks again for being with us!!

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