



School Production Parent FAQ

Who Is West Valley Youth Theater?

Since our first production of Willy Wonka, Jr in the summer of 2009, we have provided children an opportunity to participate in youth theater through multiple shows, camps, and school programs. During those years, our productions have grown as has our reach now expanding throughout the West Valley of the San Francisco Bay Area.

We are committed to providing Broadway-level theater training in a nurturing and supportive community for local youth.

Our programs are accessible to children of all backgrounds and ability.

Further, our training is holistic, introducing children to all aspects of theater production on and off stage.



Who Is Our Artistic Director?

Heather Stokes is the Artistic Director of West Valley Youth Theater. She has a background in classical voice at UOP conservatory and a Musical Theater Performance Degree from the American Musical & Dramatic Academy. Her professional experience includes the original revival Broadway cast of "Grease" (including several national tours), commercials and television credits. Heather returned to the Bay Area (after 10 years of working in NYC) in 1998 and worked as a resident director for Children's Musical Theatre in San Jose for many years. She is a Bay Area native and has worked with a variety of companies, schools, and organizations, including over twenty years of directing youth theater productions.



Why Pick Theater?

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Studies show kids in theater are more likely to be engaged in their community and less likely to drop out. Further, research shows that kids who develop both their right and left brain are more likely to fully achieve academically.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

If you can belt out a showtune in front of hundreds of friends, family, and strangers then you can handle speaking in front of pretty much any room.

HANDLING STRESS

Anyone who has seen live theater knows things happen. Kids learning how to deal with unexpected curve balls are prepared for the stress of their lives going “off book” off stage.

COMMUNITY

Theater kids rock! Sometimes kids need to find other kids like them or, at least kids that embrace who they are. Theater kids are an amazing bunch of accepting humans ready to make everyone feel like they have a home within their school.

EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

The pandemic has taken a toll on kids. 9 out of 10 surveyed theater kids report that participating in theater improved their personal emotional wellbeing.



How Do Auditions Work?

Auditions are designed to be fun and low-pressure for kids.

Auditions are November 12th - 13th (initial audition) and 14th - 15th (callbacks)



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Check in at your designated time and we will confirm your child's info and take their picture. Have your child wear comfortable clothes and shoes because they'll be moving!

In a small group, the kids will perform a prepared song, learn a short dance, and read a provided line from the script.

Kids only need to come prepared to sing one song. To make things as easy as possible for the kids, the creative team has selected songs from the show the kids should pick from.

*View Audition Materials
Here*



After their audition, your child will receive a callback sheet.

How Do Callbacks Work?

Each child will be provided callback information following their initial audition.

All kids will be called back for a dance callback to perform the short dance they learn during their first audition.

Kids may also be called back for specific roles. Kids will be asked to prepare additional materials for these role callbacks. Typically, kids are asked to familiarize (not memorize) themselves with some selected lines and learn an additional song.

Callback auditions work similarly to the first audition day. Kids will be broken into small groups and will be asked to perform their prepared materials.



How Are Casting Decisions Made?

Every casting is unique based on the group of kids auditioning.

It is important to remember that every role is important and every role plays an essential part in making a successful production. The creative team works hard to find the roles that each child will excel within.

In addition to acting and singing ability, in an elementary school production, the creative team is considering things like conflicts/rehearsal availability, confidence, the ability of kids to project their voice (can they hear them in the audition?), how they interact with the other kids in the audition, and whether they are excited to do their audition. The cast list is typically posted by Sunday evening following auditions. All casting decisions are final.



How Do Rehearsals Work?

SARTORETTE ELEMENTARY TENTATIVE REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

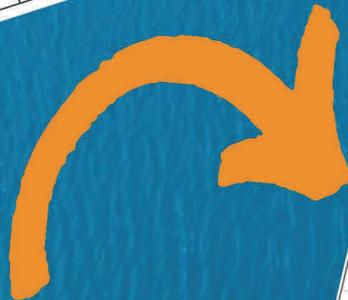
WEST VALLEY YOUTH THEATER

* Cast members will not be called to all rehearsals and may be called to only portions of scheduled rehearsals. A complete call list will be released following auditions.

* All cast must be available to attend scheduled MANDATORY rehearsals and performances.

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
18	NOV 12 Auditions 3:30-7:00	13 Auditions 3:30-7:00	14 Callback Auditions 3:30-7:00	15 Callback Auditions 3:30-7:00	16	17
	19	20	21 ALL CALL READING 3:00-6:30 PARENT MEETING 5:30-6:30	22 3:00-6:30	23	24
THANKSGIVING BREAK NOVEMBER 25 - DECEMBER 1						
5	6	7	8 3:00-6:30	9 3:00-6:30	10	11
12	13	14	15 3:00-6:30	16 3:00-6:30	17	18
16	17	18	19 3:00-6:30	20 3:00-6:30	21	22
HOLIDAY BREAK DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 5						
6	7	8	9 3:00-6:30	10 3:00-6:30	11 9:00-12:00	12
13	14	15	16 3:00-6:30	17 3:00-6:30	18 9:00-12:00	19
20	21	22	23 3:00-6:30	24 3:00-6:30	25 9:00-12:00	26
27 Flex TBD Rehearsal 3:00-6:30	28 Flex TBD Rehearsal 3:00-6:30	29 Mandatory Rehearsal 2:00-6:30	30 Mandatory Rehearsal 3:00-6:30	31 Mandatory Rehearsal 3:00-6:30	1 Mandatory Tech Rehearsal 9:00-4:00	2 Mandatory Tech 12:00-8:00
3 Mandatory Tech Rehearsal 3:00-9:00	4 Mandatory Tech Rehearsal 3:00-9:00 (Cast A)	5 Mandatory Tech Rehearsal 3:00-9:00 (Cast B)	6 Performance (A Cast) 7:00 (Call 5:30)	7 Performance (B Cast) 7:00 (Call 5:30)	8 Performance (B Cast) 2:00 (Call 12:30)	9 Performance (A Cast) 7:00 (Call 5:30)

We publish a calendar of all possible dates for rehearsals. Kids are not called to every rehearsal. Families can specify conflicts when they cannot attend. Too many conflicts may impact casting.



After casting we will publish a full call calendar for every possible rehearsal date based on roles so families know exactly when their performers are at rehearsal.

Date	Time	What	Song/Scene	Who is Called
Feb 29	3:00-3:30	VOCALS	Prologue	ALL CALL
Thurs.	3:30-4:15	VOCALS	Big Blue World pt.2	ALL CALL
	4:15-5:00	Stage/Dance	Prologue	ALL CALL
	4:45-5:30	VOCALS	Fish are Friends	ALL CALL
	5:00-5:30	STAGE	Drop-off, Abduction	All Sharks
	5:30-6:00	VOCALS	Dory's Ditty	Professor Ray, Marlin, Tad, Sheldon, Nemo, Pearl
	5:00-6:00	costumes	measure all kids for costumes	Dory, Marlin
Mar 1	3:00-3:45	Vocal/Review	Prologue, Big Blue World pt.2	ALL CALL-pull as needed from rehearsal
Fri.	3:30-4:30	VOCALS	We Swim Together	ALL CALL
	4:30-4:45	VOCALS	Big Blue World pt.1	Gill, Gurgle, Bloat, Peach, Bubbles, Nemo
	4:45-5:00	VOCALS	Drop-off, Abduction	Marlin, Nemo
	5:00-6:00	STAGE	Drop-off, Abduction	Professor Ray, Marlin, Tad, Sheldon, Nemo, Pearl
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Are There Any Additional Fees?

NO. There are no additional fees
(such as costume fees).
HOWEVER, each performer will
be asked to provide their own:
Production shoes (role dependent);
Undergarments; and
Stage makeup kit.
Additional information about
these materials will be provided
once rehearsals begin.



Additional Questions?

Do you have additional questions? Join our family WhatsApp group where you can ask any questions you have about registration or the production.

