

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to SCT Spring Classes! Our staff is very excited to be teaching acting, music, and dance; the building blocks of musical theater. We will work on the basics of theater and also rehearse for our performance which is in mid-May. Our goal is to build a positive learning environment where everyone can feel: Welcome, Respected, Safe, and Appreciated. Kids spend the day making friends, playing theater games, building self-confidence; participate in arts and crafts, and learning about their own individual strengths.

Casting Philosophy

At Syracuse Children's Theatre your child is guaranteed to have a role in the show. No matter if your child is new to theatre or experienced, young or older, everyone is treated equally. At the beginning of camp, we give each child a song and a dance to learn for their audition. Before the actual audition, students learn about the audition process, including how to introduce themselves, present their piece and perform it. The purpose for the audition is for the directors to gain initial assessment of each student's abilities and cast the show. Here is what the creative team is looking for during the audition process: **1. A Positive Attitude.** Students need to show a positive attitude and the willingness to learn and have fun! This also means the student is a good listener in class and participates while following directions and cooperates with their peers. **2. Confidence.** Some students have this naturally, while other students are shy and need theatre to help them to open up. Ultimately, the directors ask themselves: Who can do the role in front of 425 people? We never want to cast a student in a role that they not ready for. **3. Ability.** The student auditioning for a lead role must show that they can hit the notes as written in the score, project those notes so they can be heard, show an understanding of the character, connect with fellow actors, and dance the steps they learned with precision. Most importantly students must demonstrate a willingness to do whatever the director wants.

At SCT, we truly believe and encourage students to understand that every role is a great role! We need kids for all roles in the show: Leads, supporting roles, and ensemble. Some kids (not everyone) will have lines, and/or solos. Everyone will sing, dance, and act out the character they will create. Every character is important to tell the story or the playwright would not have put them in the show! Students in our ensemble are as critical to the success of the show as those with lead parts. The ensemble works together to convey emotions and helps tell the story. For example, in The Wizard of Oz, the Munchkin scene and inside the Land of Oz are famous ensemble scenes that are more memorable than many of the solo scenes! Parents you can help your child by managing their expectations. Being part of the team is the most important thing. All of the kids at SCT are talented. Every child is gifted...they just unwrap their packages at different times!

The performance will be held at the Civic Center where students will get the full theater experience with professional lighting, set and sound design. Some students (not all) will use microphones. Dressing room space is limited. Staff will assign dressing rooms for those to who need to change.

We encourage everyone to have an open heart and mind and have an absolute blast over the next few months! We so excited that you have joined the SCT team. You can stay connected through Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Email.

Kind Regards,

SCT Staff

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Twitter: @SCTKids1

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