

Seussical Jr. Audition Orientation

Auditions

Wednesday, January 7th

@ Ovation Studios 63830 Clausen Rd. STE 202

Doors open at 1:00

Dance Auditions

1:30 - 3:30

Vocal Auditions

3:30 ~ 5:30

Optional Private Auditions

5:30 - 6:00

Callbacks

Thursday, January 8th

@ Ovation Studios

12:00 - 6:00

If you cannot make auditions or callbacks please let us know in advance and we'll try to make special arrangements for you!

What to expect at auditions?

- Talent and experience go a long way, but every show we have little actors making big splashes with nothing more than some preparation and enthusiasm! Auditions will be in two parts: dance, and songs.
- Overall what we love to see across your audition is energy, confidence, and really big personalities. Pick songs that play to your strengths and style. We're listening for comfortable, free, powerful singing voices, and we're watching for well thought-out, detailed characters. Be silly, be evil, be in love, or just be yourself, and have lots of fun!
- Seussical will offer an "open" auditions. This means that parents, siblings, and the rest of the cast will all be in the room together with you and the directors. Don't worry; we're there to support you, cheer you on, and learn from each other. Applause is wholly welcome!

- Or, if that sounds horrible! we're offering private vocal auditions for actors who don't want to go for a principal role - just want to be in the show. **ACTORS TAKING THE CLOSED AUDITION ARE INELIGIBLE FOR A PRINCIPAL ROLE.**
- Everyone gets nervous, even the professionals. Our goal is to host a professional but friendly audition, and our job is to get to know you as an actor. If at the end of your dance or song we feel we haven't succeeded at our job, we might ask you to perform again, maybe in a different way, or we might just converse with you a bit. We'll often do this if you had a nervous memory lapse or if the accompaniment failed you, but it could be any reason. Don't be nervous if we ask you to repeat your song more sappy, more goofy, more sassy, more whatever. You didn't do anything wrong; we're just getting to know you.

- **First: Dance**

- A short excerpt of a dance from Seussical will be taught to the cast.
- Actors will perform it back in smaller groups of about five.
- There is less you can do to prepare for the dance than the songs. We're not expecting perfection either; just do the best you can :)

- **Second: Songs**

- Actors are expected to choose and prepare their own song excerpts.
- We won't turn away any song or any style of music. Above all, you should pick a song you know you're comfortable with. If that's worship, pop... Taylor Swift, then sing Taylor Swift!
- Buuut! If to be competitive you're we'd prefer to listen to you sing and imagine your voice fitting into the aesthetic of the show: Pop, Musical Theatre Broadway.
- We are watching your acting just as much as we are listening to your singing. Pick something that tells a story with your words, your face, and your body! Release yourself to try natural and fitting expressions, gesticulations, movement, and if you're brave a spot of dance.
- Your song should be memorized.
- Aim for 45 - 75 seconds. That's roughly a verse and a chorus. We may initiate applause if we feel the music is getting repetitive.

- Auditioners are allowed to bring accompaniment tracks for their vocal auditions. Bluetooth or 1/8th in. audio jack connections both work.
- That being said, auditioners are encouraged to bring piano sheet music for live piano accompaniment. A dedicated piano part with the vocal line on top is best. Double sided in a binder or single sided loose (unless there are more than five pages) are both great. Please mark where you'd like to start and stop.
- Musicnotes.com is overpriced, but their Piano/Vocal scores are usually in the right format.
- Also feel free to e-mail us at Theatre@OvationPA.com and ask if we have a copy of your song. We probably do, and we can send you a .pdf!
- If you like, you may leave after your song.

What to expect at callbacks?

- Seussical features several principal roles and you will be given an opportunity at auditions to indicate if you would like us to pay attention to you with a particular part in mind. Please see the character description attachment.
- For most actors, ensemble work will be the majority of their participation in the show. Ensemble is the star of the show and company takes the last bow. Nonetheless, callback day will be devoted just to casting certain principal roles.
- **Callbacks are by invitation only.**
 - We will e-mail all actors/parents Friday evening after auditions telling you whether we need you at callbacks or not, and if so, for which characters.
 - If you're not called to callbacks don't sweat it. Many actors will be cast ensemble and ensemble works very hard! (harder than principals sometimes, we've been told)
 - Sides and song excerpts may be included.
 - All of this will be content from Seussical. You will only have a short time to prepare, but a little preparation is encouraged. Often actors "spar" with each other over scripts and scenes made available at callbacks while waiting for their turn.

- We don't expect any of the material to be memorized.
- Have fun with it! If the character you're reading for is laughing, or crying, or shouting angrily, don't be afraid to try a powerful, emotional expression of your lines. If you feel like you don't have great chemistry with the actor(s) you're opposite, still try to connect as best you can, but primarily show us what you can do!
- Other than that, there's usually not much procedure to callbacks. We'll run sides and songs in whatever order we decide and try to dismiss people as we can. We apologize if you're one of those people who get one turn, wait an hour-and-a-half, and get sent home!

Please e-mail Theatre@OvationPA.com if you have any other questions at all! Can't wait to meet everyone at auditions this January!