

Student/Parent/Guardian Permission Form

Poudre High School Theatre Production Policies

Casting:

Auditions at PHS are competitive. We cast students that do the best on the day of the audition. Not every show has roles that fit every student. Several times, our best performer has gone from being considered for the lead to not making the show at all. This is hard to explain and even harder to deal with when it happens to you. Putting together the team for each show is a complex puzzle. We have to fit the pieces together in a way that allows for all students to shine. Sometimes you get the lead, sometimes you are on production staff, sometimes you are in the ensemble, and sometimes you don't make the show. Learning how to endure the rejection, continuing to work on your craft, and coming back to audition are the way to succeed in theatre.

Casting students is exciting, but cutting students is painful for everyone. It is the worst part of a theatre teacher's job. Dealing with rejection is a part of theatre. It can be difficult to understand for students and parents. If you are open to the possibilities, there are lots of ways to be successful in theatre.

Michael Shurtleff was a legendary Broadway and Hollywood casting director. The following are two short passages from his book *Audition* that deal with not being cast. I share these passages with students, but I think they are also important for parents to hear.

Why Didn't You Get the Role?

"Actors must not worry about why they don't get a role; they should only concern themselves with doing the best ... audition they know how to do. ... Many times I have heard directors say about an actor: 'That is the best audition we'll ever see of that role. Too bad we can't cast him.' Their regret is genuine. But there has to be a balance in casting—the parts must fit like a jigsaw puzzle—and there are times when the best auditioners don't 'fit.' An actor cannot concern himself with that; there lies madness. Just go ahead and audition well, cry a little when you don't get the role you want, but never ask why. The why is usually a series of imponderables over which the actor has no control."

How Do I Find Out Why I Wasn't Accepted?

"There is no value in finding out why you weren't accepted; you'll rarely learn the truth, anyhow. Since all the considerations in casting are relative, what good will it do for you to find out you're too short for the leading lady or too tall for the leading man? The solution would be to go home and cut your leg off or put on a pair of stilts; neither will help you. Casting is a very subjective process for the auditors, naturally, no matter what objective criteria they use. Given readings of equal excellence, they are more likely to decide because 'I like her.' There's nothing you can do about that, so it's better not to concern yourself with it. The reasons for not choosing you are likely to be myriad and complex, from the fact that you look too much like another actor already cast to their subjective reaction of not liking your looks or the timbre of your voice to the fact that you remind them of their first wife—reasons you can do nothing to control or alter."

Parent Responsibilities: Parents are expected to get students to and from all rehearsals, crew calls, and other meetings. We also expect all parents to attend the production parent meeting and sign up to volunteer for at least one meal, concessions, or publicity sessions. We ask all students and parents to commit to completing the production successfully and working to ensure that this is a positive and powerful educational experience. Students whose parents do not volunteer, ensure student attendance or remove their student from the production may be ineligible for future productions.

Production Fees: All students in plays and musicals are assessed a \$15 production fee and a \$45 snack/meal fee. These fees subsidize snacks and meals provided during rehearsals, consumable theatrical supplies, costume and technical materials and other production expenses. All fees should be paid by check (make this out to PHS) and are due by the production parent meeting.

Production Calendar: The production calendar is posted at www.poudretheatre.org/cast-crew. This is a fluid document, and while we try not to make changes to the calendar once the production begins, sometimes we need to make adjustments. Students and parents should check the calendar often.

Theatre Production Class: All students in the cast and crew will be enrolled in Theatre Production, an elective credit class. In addition to their required work crew and rehearsal times, they will need to complete a weekly online reflection assignment. There will be no other assignments or meeting times. This class is a full credit-bearing PHS course. Failure in this class will affect student GPA's. Students may also have the opportunity to enroll in the concurrent enrollment option for this class through Front Range. This is optional, but a great way to earn free college credit as well as PHS credit.

Show Week: Rehearsals the week of the show are from 4:30-9:30pm. Call time for the cast and crew on performance nights is 5:00pm. The cast and crew are free to leave as soon as they have finished their post-show responsibilities (i.e. cleaned the dressing room, put away the microphones, reset the stage for the next night) except on photo night.

Performance Dates: The dates, times and locations of the performances are listed on the Poudre Theatre website. They will not change.

Social Events: Poudre Theatre does not sponsor cast parties or other activities beyond the scheduled rehearsal and performance times.

Closing & Strike: All cast and crew are expected to stay to help with strike. Strike is the term for tearing down the set and cleaning up after a show. Strike can sometimes last several hours, depending on the set, lightings, costumes, and size of the cast. If a student does not stay for strike, they may not be eligible to participate in the next show.

Conflicts: We ask all students to list conflicts on their audition and crew forms.. If more conflicts are added after the student has been cast or placed on crew, students may be moved to other roles/jobs in the production, or removed from the production. Students cannot miss any tech rehearsals, dress rehearsals, or performances. **If a student misses a rehearsal or crew call without informing the stage manager, they may lose their role in the show.**

Tickets: Tickets for plays and musicals can be purchased at the door, but they can also be purchased online through the Poudre Theatre website. Ticket sales are our PRIMARY source of revenue and determine the budgets for the subsequent shows and years. We appreciate your support of Poudre Theatre.

Optional Items: Students need to provide their own theatrical makeup and shoes. Stage make-up kits typically cost about \$25. You can buy them through Life of the Party or online theatrical suppliers. Students have the option of purchasing a show t-shirt for \$18.

Illness: If a student is absent from school due to illness, they need to email or chat with the Stage Manager at least 24 hours in advance, if possible. Students who are ill should NOT attend rehearsal or tech calls.

Expectations for Students in Theatre:

Be Prompt – All students need to be in the theatre prior to the start of rehearsal and the posted call times for performances.

Be Prepared – Students need to bring their script and a pencil to every rehearsal. All cast members must have their lines, blocking, vocal parts, and choreography memorized by the designated due dates.

Be Respectful – Students who choose to participate in Poudre Theatre are expected to follow the Educational Theatre Association Core Values. <https://www.schooltheatre.org/about/mission/corevalues>

- People Matter
- Strive for Excellence
- Work Together
- Be the Person you Want to Work With

Follow School Rules – All school rules as found in your planner will be followed. If in doubt, check the Poudre High School student handbook.

Students who do not adhere to the above expectations may be removed from a production.

Student's Name: _____

Student ID: _____

Show(s): _____

Date: _____

"I agree to all of the policies stated above, and understand that I may be removed from the show if I have an unexcused absence."

Student Signature: _____

"I give my child permission to audition and/or interview for crew. I understand that if my child has a conflict not listed on the audition crew form, they may be replaced in the cast/crew. I agree to the Poudre High School Theatre Production Policies. And commit to working with my child to complete this production successfully."

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent Email: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature(s): _____