

# **Centerstage Academy**

*presents*



***July 20, 2013***

***2pm & 7pm***

# *The Music Man Jr*

## **Audition Information**

We are excited about our upcoming production of *The Music Man Jr*! This Audition Packet will give you details about this production and help you understand how a production camp works! Putting together a full-length show in only one week is a challenge, but it is worth every bit of the effort in the end!

### **The Music Man Jr**

Book by Meredith Willson

Music and Lyrics by Meredith Willson

Based on a story by Meredith Willson and Franklin Lacey

### **Crew**

Carsten Berndt, Rebecca Lowe, Becky Johnson, Cory Steiger, Kirsten Koch, Jordan Wentland, Lindsey DeCoursey, and more!

### **Synopsis**

Wicked, funny, warm, romantic and touching, THE MUSIC MAN JR. is a special adaptation of the classic masterful musical that is family entertainment at its best. The story follows fast-talking traveling salesman Harold Hill as he cons the people of River City, Iowa into buying instruments and uniforms for a boys' band he vows to organize - this despite the fact he doesn't know a trombone from a treble clef. His plans to skip town with the cash are foiled when he falls for Marian the librarian, who transforms him into a respectable citizen by the end.

### **Camp Dates**

July 15 - 19

Monday - Friday, 9am to 5pm

Performers bring their own lunch, water bottle, and snacks (if they wish).

### **Location**

Checkpoint Rehearsals will be held at Centerstage in Studio 7.

Camp and performances will be held at Grafton Baptist Church (5440 Geo Washington Mem Hwy, 23692). Students should always enter through the Big House entrance.

### **Materials**

You will receive a script book and two CDs. Please note the accompaniment tracks (instruments only) are on one CD, with vocal performances of each song on the second CD.

### **Auditions**

Auditions will be held **June 1-2 (Sat-Sun)** by appointment only. Please sign up for your 15 minute individual audition time by calling the studio office at (757) 890-0175. Here are a few things to remember as you prepare for the audition.

## Who Can Audition?

Auditions are open for any student grades 6-12.

Students must be registered for the camp in order to audition.

Auditions are primarily for students who want to try out for a featured speaking role, but we encourage everyone to give it a try. This is a great chance to get to know the team of people who will be working with you ... and for them to meet you!

## Auditions for Speaking & Singing Roles

Students should prepare a script and/or vocal audition, as indicated in the Character Descriptions. Auditions Sides are included in this audition packet, and contain the excerpts of the script we expect the students to prepare and ideally memorize. Check the Character Descriptions to determine which side to use based on the character for which you are auditioning.

Many of the characters are required to do a vocal audition. The specific song will vary by character. Check the Character Descriptions to see what is expected for your character. Prepare it to the best of your ability – we'll be listening for vocal clarity and precision, but also for your ability to portray your character (and his/her emotions) through the song. You will be asked to present this song with the accompaniment only (no guide vocals) either in its entirety or in part. It's best if you know the entire song well and are able to sing it memorized.

In addition to your prepared presentations, we will most likely ask you to do a "cold" reading as well, one that you haven't prepared in advance, just to see how you can adapt to a variety of roles and directives.

## Audition Tips

The following tips are helpful when preparing the singing/acting excerpts for the audition (you can also look on the back of your audition forms to see how you will be evaluated by the audition panel):

1. **Projection:** Speak or sing with a loud voice, so that you can be *heard* at the back of the auditorium.
2. **Enunciation:** Speak clearly, not too fast, so that you can be *understood* at the back of the auditorium.
3. **Expression:** Use good expression with your vocal, facial and body movements.
4. **Eye Contact:** Look up and out at your audience.
5. **Movement:** Feel free to move around and use as much stage space as you need.
6. **Exaggeration:** Use motions, voice, expressions that are appropriate for stage performance.
7. **Characterization:** Show us that you ARE the character, not just someone reading their lines.
8. **Fun:** Do your best and have fun, it's not something to be nervous about!

The auditions will be individual, with only one student at a time in front of an audition panel of 2-4 people. This is a casual audition of approximately 15 minutes and will be done in a non-intimidating manner. Just relax and be yourself, then show us how you can "become" your character. The auditions may be recorded so that we can review them again later as we make casting decisions.

For more tips on auditions, we have included an extra “cheat sheet” that gives six tips for a successful audition: *What Every Performer Should Know Before They Audition*. It is general information designed to help with a variety of audition experiences.

## Audition Time & Location

Be sure you know your specific audition time, and plan to arrive a few minutes early. Auditions will be held at Centerstage, downstairs to the right, in **Studio 7**. You may wait in the reception area across the hall until we come out to greet you!

Please complete and bring the following, which are included in this packet:

- **Audition Form with a current picture attached**
- **Guidelines & Contract**
- **Biography Questionnaire**
- **Costume Measurements**
- **Script**

## Call Backs & Casting

The auditions are designed to place you in roles that are most suited for you, where you can grow as performers and develop your theatre skills. This is a large cast production, and there is something for everyone—both beginners and veterans alike. Everyone will be a part of the production!

Although we don’t generally require call-backs, we may find it necessary meet with a few students again. In that case, we would call those students and schedule a suitable time.

Casting is usually done within a week and will be announced via **email** and **posted online**. Once you know what character(s) you’ll be portraying, start memorizing your lines and songs! Memorization is only the first basic step—and that must be done as quickly as possible so that we can get to the blocking and characterizations.

## What Role Will I Get?!

Students should be aware that casting for the lead roles will be competitive, but probably not as much as in the spring. We generally have smaller casts in the summer, and this year, the age groups will be divided.

**Please be aware that you will be expected to take the role to which you are assigned and perform it to the best of your ability—whatever it is.** Casting decisions are made based on several factors, including audition performance, past experience, maturity, cooperation level, and how well they “fit” both the roles and the cast as a whole. There will be many students who excel at the above criteria and who could excel at any given role. Remember this is a performing arts school—you are auditioning with other strong performers. We will have to make tough decisions based on small details. And this is part of the learning process. As tough as it seems here, it’s even tougher out there! Learning to take any role and make it your best is a learned skill for both on stage and off. Those that succeed have mastered that skill. I guarantee that everyone who participates in this production will gain valuable experience and will at least have the opportunity to learn! I don’t want to see anyone pull out due to casting—you either want to be in the show or not—please decide before you audition. Just a note of caution: it always affects your next audition when you pull out of a show, not just at Centerstage, but at any theatre or performance company!

## Performances

We have 2 performances scheduled July 20 at 2pm and 7pm. The performances will be in the Community Life Center of Grafton Baptist Church.

## Tickets

Each student will receive 2 complimentary tickets (1 for each showtime). All other tickets will be \$8 each, general admission, and can be purchased in advance through the studio office (890-0175), online ([www.CenterstageBoxOffice.com](http://www.CenterstageBoxOffice.com)) or at the door. Doors will open 45 minutes prior to showtime. Both shows are open to the public.

## Checkpoint Rehearsals

After casting is announced, performers will have a few weeks to memorize the script and songs.

### ***Memorization has to be done in advance at home!***

Camp Week will be spent polishing and putting it all together. To insure that memorization is being done on schedule, and to get a head start on the early stages of the production, we'll have a few Checkpoint Rehearsals (Centerstage, Studio 7) in advance of the Camp Week:

**June 25, 4-8pm**

**June 27, 4-8pm**

**July 2, 4-8pm**

**July 9, 4-8pm**

**July 11, 4-8pm**

## Attendance & Preparedness

While consistent attendance is encouraged and extremely beneficial, we understand that there may be conflicts with a few of the Checkpoint Rehearsals. However, all performers must attend in full during Camp Week - even partial absences may cause the student to forfeit his/her place in the performance. In addition, performers who have not memorized their material on time (or are otherwise unprepared for rehearsals) may also have to forfeit their role and/or participation in the performance. We want every student (and their cast members) to be confident of their performance and to have a rewarding experience on stage - this can only happen if they are prepared. Students and parents will be asked to sign the Guidelines & Contract stating that they will meet these expectations.

## Costumes

Students are expected to acquire their own costumes. The Audition Packet contains Costume Suggestions with detailed descriptions for each role. We will be able to supply some of the extras, but it is up to the individual cast member to pull their wardrobe requirements together. After casting is announced, we will provide you with some rental, purchasing and seamstress options.

## Production Help

We will need the help of volunteers to make this a successful show. We'll be giving the cast an opportunity to participate in the production of sets, costumes, etc. But we may still need parents and or older siblings to help with make-up and hair, costume changes, lighting, ticket sales, promotion, program ads and concessions. Please indicate on your audition form the area you would be able to serve.

## **Program Ads**

We will be selling program ads to help support the cost of the production. Please encourage business owners you know to purchase an ad (forms are included in the packet). It's great exposure and for a worthy cause! In addition, parents, grandparents, siblings, friends, neighbors and even pets are encouraged to put in a congratulatory (break-a-leg) ad for their favorite cast member. Surprise them before the show with a personal message that tells them how proud you are!

## **T-Shirts**

Souvenir t-shirts will be available for purchase (\$10), featuring the show logo and cast names.

## **Tuition**

\$325 (includes instruction for Checkpoint Rehearsals, Camp Week, Performances, Script, CDs, plus 2 Comp Tickets per performer).

## **Contact Information**

If you have questions regarding the auditions or any matters regarding the production, please feel free to contact me via email or call the studio office with a message. I will be able to answer most emails the same day and forward your questions to other crew members.

## **Rebecca Lowe**

[Rebecca@SpotlightOnCenterstage.com](mailto:Rebecca@SpotlightOnCenterstage.com)

## **Office Hours**

Monday – Thursday, 2:00-7:00pm

**(757) 890-0175**

**[www.SpotlightOnCenterstage.com](http://www.SpotlightOnCenterstage.com)**