Theater Information Packet

Welcome to the City of Gilroy Recreation Department's Theater Program. We have created this packet to help families become familiar with the theater experience. We have a Recreation Coordinator, Artistic Directors, Technical Directors and many families who are ready to guide you through this experience. This packet is intended to answer some frequently asked questions about our theater program.

Auditions

Auditions are held at the Gilroy Senior Center located at 7371 Hanna Street. Auditions are divided into two age groups with the younger ages starting first. Arrive early and with your audition form completed. A headshot is not required but is helpful. Auditions will consist of several components. The choreographer will teach each age group a short dance. Actors will be asked to perform the choreography either in groups or as a whole. Actors will then be asked to sing their prepared audition song. Actors may be asked to read from a script. Callbacks are by invitation and a return time will be given. Callbacks are not indicative of casting and not all actors will be needed. Cast lists will be emailed and posted on Facebook within a few days of auditions. All actors will be cast.

Audition Tips

- Be prepared! Prepare a 1-2 minute Broadway or Disney song. Song can be sung A cappella or with accompaniment (no CDs)
- Dress in comfortable clothing and closed-toe shoes so you can move and dance easily.
- Complete your audition form prior to arriving. Audition forms are on our website.
- Bring a resume and headshot. This should be a close up headshot, not full body photo. A 4x6 is the best size.
- Learn about the show before auditions. If auditioning for a specific role, choose a song that mirrors the style or range for that character. It is best not to sing a song from the show from which you are auditioning.
- Arrive early, 15 minutes prior, with your audition form and music ready.
- Have fun!
Parent Meeting and Registration

The parent meeting is required of all participants, even if you have previously performed in a show with the City of Gilroy. A more detailed rehearsal calendar, volunteer opportunities, and production information will be given at the parent meeting. Online registration will begin after the parent meeting. Walk in registration will begin the day after the parent meeting. Registration must be paid prior to the first rehearsal. Walk in registration can be paid at the Recreation Department, 7351 Rosanna Street, Gilroy.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals take place at the Gilroy Senior Center, 7371 Hanna Street. Not all actors will be called to all rehearsals. Actors' conflicts will be taken into consideration when making casting decisions and the rehearsal schedule. Rehearsals are closed to parents unless you have volunteered for rehearsal supervision. Actors may bring food and drinks to rehearsal. Actors should bring quiet activities such as homework, a book, coloring, etc. to do when not actively rehearsing.

Tech Week and Performances

Tech week takes place the week leading up to performances at Gilroy High School Theater. Tech week rehearsals are mandatory. This is when the show comes together with sets, costumes, makeup, lights and sound. Rehearsals will run later than usual but our directors do their best to finish on time. Early arrival is necessary to start rehearsing on time. Performances begin on Friday evenings, two shows on Saturdays and one afternoon show on Sundays. There are two weeks of performances.

Volunteers

While our directors and city staff work hard to bring theater to Gilroy, it would not be possible without volunteers. Each family is required to volunteer during the theater process. Do not be intimidated if you have never participated in theater before. There are many roles that need to be filled from rehearsal supervision, costumes, take home projects, set build, show flyer distribution, to ushering and backstage crew, and so many more. Some volunteer roles require fingerprinting through the City of Gilroy. These will be discussed at the parent meeting. It takes many hands to bring a production to life and parent volunteers are integral in making that happen.
Communication

Communication is key! The majority of communication will be via email and the show’s closed Facebook group. Make sure to provide a valid email address. Rehearsal schedules, costume information, performance information will all be communicated via email. If you are not receiving any information, reach out to the director to ensure you are on the email list.

We hope this helps to answer questions you may have about participating in theater. More detailed and show specific information will be given at the parent meeting following auditions. We hope to see you on stage!