

Dear *Christmas Carol* performers and parents:



We are so excited that you're participating in this very special performance experience! We're going to learn a lot in these next two months working together to create *A Christmas Carol Experience*. Every participant is an important part of this team and makes a difference in what we can achieve together.

Big Picture. With so much to accomplish, it's helpful to keep these "big picture" ideas in mind:

Respect	Respect yourself, those around you and our working areas. This makes our time together awesome and make a safe space for everyone.
Courage	Our rehearsal space is a safe space to experiment, to fail, to get up and try again. We want you to try new things and put yourself out there. Be willing to take risks!
Excellence	Excellence doesn't mean perfection. It means bringing the best version of yourself into whatever you are doing.
Enthusiasm	Enthusiasm is a choice. When you choose to give 100%, you encourage everyone else to do the same. If we all choose enthusiasm, we are going to have an <i>incredible</i> time!
Commitment	Being in a show takes dedication and knowing that commitment sometimes means doing hard things. It can also mean doing things for the best for the group.
Fun!	We are all here to enjoy our time together <u>and</u> to build something exciting. You'll make new friends and learn lots of cool things about yourself if you decide to lean in and enjoy the ride!

This Production

A couple of things. It's INTERACTIVE! That means your young performer will be learning how to interact with an audience improvisationally - making them more comfortable, encouraging them to play, and to have fun. This kind of theatre is a little different than most actors are accustomed to. The audience is not only involved from their seats, they can be involved as a character in the show - making up their own lines, wearing costume pieces, and more. The work has special techniques and takes focus because the show begins the moment the audience enters and lasts until the end of the play. Our performers will have to build concentration and endurance so they can focus nonstop! Our Market Interactors have the special task of warming up the audience before the show, and there will be a new combination of interactors each show. There will be 75 minutes workshops and rehearsals that teach those special skills. They are held on Saturdays after the play rehearsal ends. Parents are encouraged to join us! It will help you to understand what interactive theater is like - and you can rehearse these techniques with your performer at home! This will help them to improve and strengthen their confidence and endurance.

Thanks in advance for your participation and your help! These special workshop / rehearsals are marked in the rehearsal schedule.

There are more than a few folks involved in our show, and we want everyone to stay healthy. Covid and influenza transmissions are spiking up because it's fall. Please be mindful if you have been exposed to someone with the viruses. Let us know and we will err on the side of caution. If you feel sick, please stay home. We'll manage and help you to catch up as needed. We encourage masks when and if it's appropriate for you and it puts you at ease.

Health and Safety. Here are some additional tips so you can stay healthy:

1. Dress for Success. Be sure to always wear close-toed shoes. We don't want any little piggies getting smooshed! Wear clothing that allows you to move freely; gym or dance wear is just fine for getting the job done.
2. Wash up. We will be working in close proximity and no one wants to be the "stinky kid!" Wear deodorant. If you're concerned that you might get stinky, bring an extra shirt to rehearsal.
3. Wash your hands! Use soap and water after using the restroom, touching objects that others have touched, eating, blowing your nose. Wash hands and avoid touching eyes, mouth or nose if you meet someone sick.
4. Think healthy. Get your 8 hours of sleep, eat healthy, drink lots of water. Avoid sodas, "energy" drinks, and high sugar or caffeinated beverages. We will be doing A LOT of singing and these beverages can dehydrate. Help your voice by reducing or avoiding milk, coffee, sugar, and caffeine. Try herbal teas, juice (not too much), and water instead. Try to avoid sugary snacks and throw in fruits and veggies to snack down on, especially the green, leafy kind. Remember to bring your own snacks and lunch on Saturdays. Limit junk food and get your exercise. Foods high in fat and sugar don't help you, but physical activity does! Activity increases your lung capacity as well as the flow of oxygen to your brain. Exercise literally makes you smarter AND stronger!

Everyday Expectations. Please remember the following things when you come to rehearsal.

1. Be On Time. We start and end on time. Make sure your transportation arrangements are made in advance, are reliable, and are on-time.
2. Show up. Any cast member missing more than two (2) scheduled rehearsals may be replaced with an alternate. Past experience has proven that a dedicated, hard-working cast performs better when they can rely on each other.
3. Get ready. In the professional world, actors prepare themselves before rehearsing by warming up, going over their script, and getting focused. We encourage you to get in the habit of arriving, dropping off your personal items, filling your water bottle, gently warming up, and getting your mind focused on the task at hand.
4. Get to work. When the directors say it's time to work, we get to it. We socialize outside of rehearsal or on breaks.
5. Script. All cast members receive one. It is yours to keep and mark. AND, **it is the ONLY script you will get**. Bring it to every rehearsal (plus a pencil). If you forget it, you need to get creative and solve the problem yourself.
6. Respect the space. It's our job to leave every place we rehearse and perform better than we found it. Please respect the space by throwing away trash and keep all drinks and food in the designated areas.
7. Devices off. Personal calls and texts are not allowed during rehearsals. Please turn it off and leave it in your backpack or bag until we are on break. If there is a family emergency and you need your phone, let the directing team know and we'll hold your phone for you. We'll make sure you get your call quickly.
8. Be considerate of others. We don't know everyone in the room (yet!) - be sure to keep conversation appropriate.

Costumes, Props etc. There are some basic guidelines we have for you regarding props, costumes and your hair. More information about these things will come out closer to the show.

1. Hair. Do not cut, color, or alter your appearance without discussing the change with the directors.
2. Costumes: You'll provide a simple, neutral base layer of clothing. We provide additional pieces. You may be asked to look in your own closet for a few items. You'll learn about this in the coming weeks.
3. Props: We'll providing props. Please do NOT touch props that aren't yours. This is a well known theatre rule in EVERY theatre company all over the world. If it isn't yours, leave it alone.

I'm a Parent/Friend/Guardian - What about me? – Here are some basic bits of information specifically for YOU during the next two weeks and performances.

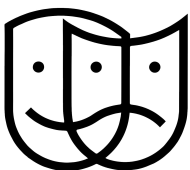
1. Closed Rehearsals. We LOVE you and all the support you give your cast members, BUT we respectfully ask that parents and friends do not attend rehearsals. Our experience has shown that cast members work harder and with more focus when not distracted by family members or friends. Thank you so much for respecting this policy!
2. Parents With Special Skills! We can always use help with costumes or sets and during the run of the show. Please contact Effy (our stage manager) to let us know if you're willing to help out!
4. Cast and Parent Portal: This special online page is just for you and is your first stop for information! Visit <http://www.treasurevalleychildrenstheater.com> and click the drop down menu. Under Perform, you'll see the Cast and Parent Portal link. Click the link to find documents, schedules, downloads for flyers, even this letter! We also post rehearsal videos and tracks for practicing. We recommend you bookmark this site and visit it regularly during our process.

Who do I call if ...? Short answer - contact the directors (Jessica or Julia) first. Texts, calls, or emails take longer to get answered when they go through several people. NOTE: Texts reach us fastest so try that first. We try to answer emails within 24 hours.

RUNNING LATE Text Effy 208.780.9008 **SCHEDULE OR OTHER QUESTION** Text Julia 208.867.1217 .

Be sure to state your and your actor's name and if you'd like a return phone call. We'll get back to you soon.

Thanks in advance for all your support. We are all excited to produce an amazing show together!



Your production team,

Julia Bennett

208-867-1217

jvpbennett@gmail.com

&

Effy Smith

208-780-9008

smith.effy27@gmail.com