

Centre Stage Youth Theatre Company
Information sheet

Centre Stage Youth Theatre Company has been going since 1996. It is run entirely by volunteers (all of whom are DBS checked). The members range from age 11 upwards. We produce 2 shows each year – one main show in March/April which runs for 5-7 performances and a small show in September which is usually a variety show, running for 2 nights, with lots of company singing and dancing. We perform our shows at Daneside Theatre in Congleton.

Rehearsals

We rehearse every Sunday afternoon, usually from 1pm-5pm at Castle School, Mow Cop. We will also rehearse on a Wednesday evening as we get nearer to show week. The week before a show, the members are required to rehearse almost every night and all day on the preceding Sunday. Times of rehearsals may change depending on how much work is required for a show.

Commitment

The importance of this must be stressed. Putting on a show requires a huge amount of time and effort and we expect every member to commit fully to the society and to be available for all rehearsals and performances.

We ask parents/carers of members to commit some of their time to helping us run the society. Due to requirements of child protection regulations, we require a certain number of adults to be available to supervise during rehearsals. We do ask parents to help and have a rota for Sunday rehearsals – this will usually be once every 10 to 12 weeks and is a case of just being there as an extra adult as the children are often in two rooms and need supervision whilst waiting for their part in the rehearsal.

We also require help in the dressing rooms during show week as we have to have licensed chaperones in each dressing room or we are unable to put on the show. We ask that parents/guardians consider becoming licensed chaperones to help with this and to share the load. Information can be found on the Cheshire East Council and Staffordshire Council websites (use the council which covers your home address).

There will also be plenty of opportunity for you to get involved with scenery/painting/costumes or Front of House jobs such as selling raffle tickets/ice creams etc if you can spare a bit of time and want to help.

Cost

Putting on shows costs a lot of money! It can easily cost over £15,000 to put on a show. We have an annual membership fee which is currently £20 per year and a weekly subscription of £3. If a member has been called to a rehearsal and they cannot attend, the subscription is still due. The subs cover our day to day running costs such as insurance and hiring of rehearsal space.

We may also ask for members to provide certain items of costume for the shows and we ask that they have appropriate shoes for dancing such as jazz shoes as they are often used.

Auditions

We have a waiting list for membership of the society. Waiting time varies depending on the number of current members. Anyone wishing to join Centre Stage must undergo an audition. This is nothing to worry about but we need to ensure that they have the abilities to do what is required in a show. It consists of 3 parts: –

1. Singing - auditionees must sing solo. They should prepare a song from a musical to sing and they will also sing some scales with a pianist.
2. Spoken piece – they must bring something to read out or recite such as a poem or a section of a story.
3. Dancing – they will be taught a section of a dance and will need to perform it to us. This will usually be done as a group.

If you wish to add your name to the waiting list, please complete an application form and return it to Centre Stage.

If you would like any further information, please contact Kay Brazier on 01477 571622/07876 637426 or email: centrestagetickets@hotmail.com