

Berean Christian School Fine Arts Theatre

Frequently Asked Questions

1) Who can audition for shows?

You must be enrolled at Berean Christian School either as a full time on-campus student, or in Berean's homeschool/ISP program. Students must be 6th through 12th grade. Historically, students cast in fall Plays consist of High Schoolers, and Spring Musicals consist of Middle and High School Students.

2) When and where are rehearsals?

Rehearsals take place on the Berean Christian School campus, mainly in the auditorium or Upper Room during the 7th period school schedule. After school rehearsals take place two to three afternoons immediately following the school day leading up to the last two weeks prior to performances. The two weeks leading to performance (better known as Tech Weeks) rehearsals are held Monday through Saturday, until opening night.

3) Is there a cost to participate in each production?

Yes there is a fee of \$150.

4) What if I cannot pay my fee early on?

We will work with you! Every student should have the opportunity to participate. Just communicate with us and we will do our best to assist you.

5) Does everyone who auditions make it into the show or class?

Unfortunately, no. This should not keep you from auditioning! Each show needs a different skillset and each show may be an opportunity for someone to work a technical role.

6) What kind of opportunities are there if my student does not want to act?

So many! Berean students work as crew members, running the performance from the planning stages to production. Students have the opportunity to Stage Manage, Assistant Direct, Costume Design, Set Design, work Projections, design Lighting, and design Sound Effects. We always need people to run props and even help in the marketing of our productions.

7) Will I get a T-shirt?

Yes, Cast and Crew get a performance shirt, if they have paid their production fee.

8) If I am cast, what is your attendance policy?

Attendance is treated with the same level of commitment as if you go to school full time at Berean. Students are expected to be present at all rehearsals and performances, prepared and ready to work. Students that miss more than 3 rehearsals could be liable to lose their role in the production.

Common Questions about auditions

How does the audition process work?

- **What happens:** Actors typically prepare a short monologue or song cut (e.g., 16-32 bars) and may be taught a short dance combination.
- **Can I watch?** Most programs run **closed-door auditions** so students can be comfortable and focused without parent intervention.
- **Preparation:** Help your child select a song that fits their vocal range or makes sense for the character they are most interested in auditioning for and encourage them to practice their material so they feel confident.

How are roles cast?

- **Casting decisions:** Directors cast based on a variety of factors, including individual talent, vocal range, overall physical "look" of the cast, and who works best together to create a cohesive show.
- **Commonly known "Ensemble":** Many directors favor putting newcomers or younger students in ensemble roles to build experience and stage comfort before taking on lead characters.
- **"Ensemble" at Berean:** Students are taught from the very first day that an *Ensemble is a group of people working together to tell one story*. This is paramount in production. We work on a mentor system, allowing older students to serve younger ones.

How much of a time commitment is rehearsal?

- **The schedule:** Rehearsals can range from a few hours a week for community/school programs to nearly every day (including weekends) as opening night approaches. Please refer to FAQ #8

- **Conflicts:** You will be required to list all known schedule conflicts (vacations, sports, appointments) on the audition form. Unreported conflicts can negatively impact casting or rehearsal flow.

4. Are parents expected to volunteer?

- **Parent involvement:** Yes, many youth and community theatres operate in part on parent participation. You may be asked to help with **carpooling, building sets, helping with costume acquisition, supervising backstage, organizing cast parties**, or working shifts at the **box office**.
- **Show fees:** Many programs also charge tuition or participation fees to cover the cost of scripts, rights, and costumes. Our program fee is \$150 per production.

5. How do I help when my child is facing rejection?

- **Handling disappointment:** Theatre naturally involves a lot of rejection, which can sometimes be harder for the parent to process than the child.
- **Encourage perspective:** Remind your child that casting decisions depend heavily on the director's specific vision rather than the child's raw talent. Encourage them to remain positive, cheer on their peers, and focus on the joy of performance itself.

6. What should I bring on show days?

- **Backstage kit:** Pack a "theatre bag" for your child with healthy snacks, a reusable water bottle, a warm-up jacket, makeup wipes, and quiet activities (e.g., homework or a book) for downtime. Note that we have a special opportunity for parents to decorate and celebrate their student's week of performance in our greenroom decoration days. More information on this is available during production.
- **Stage makeup:** Depending on the show, you may need to supply basic stage makeup (foundation, eyeliner, lipstick) so your child's features don't wash out under bright stage lights.