

Michigan Renaissance Festival

Since 1979

12600 Dixie Highway • Holly, MI 48442 • Phone (800)601-4848 • fax (248)634-7590

Have you ever thought about becoming a performer at the Michigan Renaissance Festival?
We are excited to announce a new way to audition and join the Resident Cast at the
Michigan Renaissance Festival!

There are two ways to audition: In Person or Online
Please see details below!

AUDITION PROCESS - IN PERSON

Application Process

- Must be 15 years of age or older; performers under the age of 18 require parental consent. Parents must be present throughout entire in person audition process.
- **In Person Audition Details:**
 - Dates: Sat May 9th, Sat May 16th, and Sun May 17th, 2026
 - Time: 10:00am to 3:00pm (please be prepared to stay for the entire event)
 - Address: 12600 Dixie Hwy, Holly, MI 48442 at the office
 - Dress Code: Casual clothing you can move in
- **Audition Interviews will take place same day. If under 18, please have your parent available.**
- **Call backs will occur on Sat May 30th, 2026 - Please save the date and indicate your availability.**
Casting will be posted upon completion of Call back reviews after June 1, 2026.

What to Expect

- Introduce Yourself
- Perform in group improv exercises - Be ready to move and act!
 - Example: Perform a well known Nursery Rhyme
 - Examples include: Humpty Dumpty, Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, 3 Blind Mice, Little Miss Muffet, The Itsy Bitsy Spider etc
 - Recite the rhyme 3 times, displaying a different emotion each time
 - Choose 3 of these 5 Emotions to Display:
 - Joy
 - Sadness
 - Surprise
 - Disgust
 - Anger
- Audition Interviews
- Optional: Additional Skills
 - Feel free to discuss these during your interview and/or perform any extra skills you have.
 - Examples include (but are not limited to):
 - Juggling
 - Storytelling/Poetry
 - Playing an Instrument
 - Acrobatics

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- Magic
- Singing
- Sign Language
- *And more!*

AUDITION PROCESS - ONLINE

Application Process

2. Must be 15 years of age or older; performers under the age of 18 require parental consent.
3. Complete Application Form
 - Complete this contact form: <https://forms.gle/bEfDyAwqKNFiJCCBA>
 - Include a YouTube link to your performance video
 - Link to Resume and/or Headshots welcome!
4. Applicants must film a performance video
 - Details on video requirements, what to perform, and an example video listed below
 - Upload your video to YouTube
 - Videos should be private (aka “unlisted” and only accessible via link)
 - Include the link to your performance video when completing the Application Form
5. **Deadline for all video submissions is Sun, May 24th, 2026 at 8pm EST.**
 - **Online Audition Interviews will take place between Mon May 25th through Fri May 29th, 2026**
 - **If under 18, please have your parent available**
 - **Call backs will occur on Sat May 30th, 2026 - Please save the date and indicate your availability.**

Casting will be posted upon completion of Call back reviews after June 1, 2026.

VIDEO CRITERIA

Videos Should Display

1. Full Body / Most of Body
2. Physicality
 - Utilizing your surrounding space encouraged
 - Don't be afraid to move around your space. Don't be more than 10f from camera
 - Different “levels” of movement encouraged
 - Standing, kneeling, crouching, jumping, etc.
 - Stick within your comfort level of movement
 - e.g. - If you have a bad knee, don't crouch if it hurts you
3. Good Lighting
 - Avoid backlit lighting
 - It will make you look dark and shadowy
 - Make sure your light source is in front of or above you
 - Avoid dark surroundings / Filming during nighttime
4. Clear Sound and Visibility
 - Please watch your video before it gets submitted

Optional / Encouraged for Videos

1. Costumes

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- Don't be afraid to wear costumes for your video and show off what you have!
- 2. Dialect / Accent
 - If you're comfortable with a certain accent (or multiple accents), feel free to perform and show off your skills!

Most of all: *BE CREATIVE AND HAVE FUN!*

What to Perform

Video Format

2. Introduce Yourself
3. Perform a 1-3 minute monologue of your choice- it can be from any genre or any media
 - Note - Performers UNDER the age of 18 may skip this step
4. Perform a well known Nursery Rhyme
 - Examples include: Humpty Dumpty, Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, 3 Blind Mice, Little Miss Muffet, The Itsy Bitsy Spider etc
 - Recite the rhyme 3 times, displaying a different emotion each time
 - Choose 3 of these 5 Emotions to Display:
 - Joy
 - Sadness
 - Surprise
 - Disgust
 - Anger
5. Optional: Additional Skills
 - Perform any extra skills of your choice, if you would like!
 - Examples include (but are not limited to):
 - Juggling
 - Storytelling/Poetry
 - Magic
 - Singing
 - Playing an Instrument
 - Acrobatics
 - Sign Language

And more!
6. Reintroduce Yourself
7. End Video

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Ensemble Descriptions

The Royal Court – Higher class Ladies and Gentlemen of the Court, Foreign dignitaries, ladies in waiting, princesses, those in attendance provide visual support to the Queen and King. The Court is a tightly scheduled Ensemble and hosts events with etiquette and class. The Royal Court requires higher quality costumes and fabrics. A passion for costuming is a plus.

The Royal Guards – Attend all Events with King and Queen and are a part of the Royal Court. A tightly scheduled Ensemble with several daily events to attend, for example: Morning Dance, Royal Joust and Children's Knighting Ceremony. The role of a Guard requires strong discipline and respect for both historical and show related protocols. Partial uniform provided.

The Quest - This Ensemble creates and 'game masters', the festival's premium ticketed event, "The Quest" and coordinates side-quests among other ensembles. Ensemble members will: perform check-ins, perform open and final scenes with guests, and interact with the cast to move forward multiple storylines.

The Baron's Family – The Family includes relatives of the Lord and Lady Baron and their servants. This Ensembles scheduled daily duties which include running Special Staged Events, some stage interaction and engaging audiences, and some patron interaction in the lanes. The range of costuming possibilities runs from higher class to a nicer appearing servant class. The family colors are red/burgundy and gold. Extra rehearsal time may be required to learn particular games/events.

Examples of Roles: Servant to the Baron, Physician, Tax Collector, Stable Master/Mistress

Villagers – Villagers are the townspeople involved with patron interaction who entertain in the lanes and assist with some scheduled events throughout the village. They represent the merchant and peasant classes. Costuming for the villagers can range from middle to lower class basic fabrics and designs.

Examples of Roles: Butcher, Clockmaker, Physician, Sooth-Sayer, Dirt Farmer

Tradesmen – Tradesmen are working class villagers whose livelihoods are from various trades. Our tradesmen work closely with the Baron's Family and assist with Special Events of various ensembles. Those who choose to be Tradesmen prefer more behind the scenes work and not center stage. They have a daily schedule assisting in setting up stages for Special Events, delivering props and helping draw crowds. They also play with patrons in the lanes. Their costumes are simpler in design.

Examples of Roles: Tinker, Cobbler, Cooper, Candlestick Maker, Blacksmith

Pirates - An ensemble of nefarious sea-dogs, they will highlight the juxtaposition between noble lawmen and conniving ne'er-do-wells in enjoyable and interesting guest engagement. Using a mix of historical knowledge, interactive and entertaining improvised street scenes, one on one interactions, or special events, we will put the "R" in revelry to create a portrayal of pirates on shore leave.

Peasant Dancers – The Peasant Dancers are the youngest members of the cast. They may start as young as age 15. This ensemble performs several dance sets daily (simple dances taught during our rehearsal process). This group is a high energy, playful group and always travels together. Some dance experience is preferred but not required.

Fairies – Add a sense of wonderment and enchantment to the Children's Realm to help to keep children and parents entertained, run contests for children, play games and tell stories, and assist with craft projects. We are looking for entertainers with high energy and imagination. Their costuming includes some fantasy style fabrics. Fairies are required to arrive early on performance days for make-up application.

Note: If interested in Valiant Combat Company, please separately email siremeric@yahoo.com and CC mirfcast@gmail.com