



THEATRE DEPARTMENT HANDBOOK

2022 -2023

Welcome to the CPFA Theatre Department! Our pre-professional program is designed to provide middle and high school students with advanced theatre and film training. Our staff members all hold masters' degrees in the field of theatre or film and have extensive professional and teaching experience, which we draw upon to challenge, inspire, and encourage our student's creativity and self-expression.

We believe all our students possess great individuality and talent. It is our job to guide students to unlock their imaginations and impulses within the world of stories. It is the student's job to bring their curiosity, work ethic, and desire to reach their full potential to each and every class and rehearsal. Martha Graham was famously quoted,

*"There is a **vitality**, a life force, an energy, a quickening that is translated through you into action, and because there is only one of you in all of time, this expression is unique. And if you block it, it will never exist through any other medium and it will be lost."*

We can't wait to meet you and get started!

What to Bring to Class

Each class students are required to bring a writing utensil, a notepad, folder, and/or a binder to store their class materials which will include primarily sheet music and scripts. When on-site, students are asked on occasion to bring in costume pieces and props from home for various acting exercises and activities. Advanced notice will be given.

What to Wear to Class

Students are required to wear clothes that they feel comfortable moving in with full commitment and little to no restriction. Know that students will be asked to participate in floor work. Please do not wear flip-flops, heels, jeans, or anything that makes you self-conscious about moving fully.

Organization

Students are trained to organize and clean the theatre spaces in accordance with professional theatre standards. When on-site, there is always work to be done in the theatre on Fridays and students work on the tech aspects of theatre.

International Thespian Society (High School Only)

The CPFA Honors Thespian Society is part of the International Thespian Society. Theatre students, known as Thespians in the troupe, meet once a month on Fridays to help facilitate and staff the production teams for the four show CPFA Theatre Season. Involvement opportunities include committees in marketing, fundraising, costumes, makeup, theatre maintenance, props, etc. Students interested in earning points toward admission to the CPFA chapter of the International Thespian Society should contact Mr. Greenfield at (jgreenfield@palcs.org). Service points are earned by participating in the various theatre productions (onstage or behind the scenes) as well as theatre clean-up days and volunteer committees. Members of the Thespian Society have opportunities to go to state and national theatre conferences among other perks. A Thespian Society Interest Meeting is held during lunch on Thursday, September 15, 2022. All high school students who are interested in learning about and possibly joining the society are encouraged to attend.

Festivals & Showcases

End-of-year theatre & film showcases are an opportunity to celebrate the artistic achievements of the CPFA theatre and film students. These performance and tech opportunities are mandatory and are part of the students' grade. An unexcused absence from a theatre showcase drops the student's final Marking Period 4 grade by 1 full letter and will affect future extracurricular casting considerations. The CPFA Middle School In-Class Acting Showcases are on **Monday, May 15, 2023**. Tech rehearsal for the Spring High School Theatre & Film Festival is from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on **Friday, May 19, 2023**. The Spring High School Theatre & Film Festival is an all-day event on **Saturday, May 20, 2023**. Middle School showcases occur during scheduled class times and family members are invited to attend. Please mark your calendars. We look forward to sharing these projects with you at the end of the year!

Theatre Season

We have a very exciting extra-curricular theatre season planned! Extra-curricular plays require commitment above and beyond CPFA course work in each of the disciplines as well as PALCSchool academic work. Students are asked to weigh carefully the extra time and effort that participation in an extra-curricular play requires. Any CPFA student is allowed to audition.

Production team members are generally reserved for high school students. The CPFA Theatre Season High School Production Team Interest Meeting will be held during lunch on Tuesday, September 13, 2022. All high school students who are interested in participating in extracurricular production team positions (i.e. stage management, lighting, sound, videowall, costume, makeup design / lighting, sound, videowall board operators / set builds / scenic painting, etc.) are encouraged to attend the lunch meeting.

Our CPFA Parent Theatre Liaison is Dawn Reitz. Her daughter Olivia is a senior this year. Parents, if you have any questions regarding volunteering, ticketing, box office, or any other general theatre questions throughout the year please contact her at dawn.p.reitz@gmail.com. She is very happy to answer your questions.

The CPFA Theatre Season 2022-23 shows are as follows:

CPFA Fall Middle School Play

She Kills Monsters: Young Adventurers Edition

By Qui Nguyen

Directed by Sophie Gore

Thurs, Nov. 10 - Sat, Nov. 12

She Kills Monsters: Young Adventurers Edition is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

www.concordtheatricals.com

She Kills Monsters tells the story of Agnes Evans as she leaves her childhood home in Ohio following the death of her teenage sister, Tilly. When Agnes finds Tilly's *Dungeons & Dragons* notebook, however, she finds herself catapulted into a journey of discovery and action-packed adventure in the imaginary world that was her sister's refuge. In this high-octane dramatic comedy laden with ill-tempered fairies, nasty ogres, and 90s pop culture, acclaimed playwright Qui Nguyen offers a heart-pounding homage to the geek and warrior within us all.

CPFA Fall High School Play

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

Based on the novel by Mark Haddon

Adapted by Simon Stephens

Directed by Jason Greenfield

Thurs, Dec. 8 - Sat, Dec. 10

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time is produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York

15-year-old Christopher has an extraordinary brain: He is exceptional at mathematics but ill-equipped to interpret everyday life. He has never ventured alone beyond the end of his road, he detests being touched, and he distrusts strangers. Now it is 7 minutes after midnight, and Christopher stands beside his neighbor's dead dog, Wellington, who has been speared with a garden fork. Finding himself under suspicion, Christopher is determined to solve the mystery of who murdered Wellington, and he carefully records each fact of the crime. But his detective work, forbidden by his father, takes him on a thrilling journey that upturns his world.

CPFA Winter Middle School Play

The Ash Girl

By Timberlake Wertenbaker

Directed by Brigitte Rottman

Thurs, Feb. 16 - Sat, Feb. 18

Produced by special arrangement with THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois.

In a big old house, Ashgirl lives huddled deep in the protection of an ashy hearth. With her mother dead and her father away, she lives with her stepmother and two stepsisters. When the invitation to the ball arrives from the prince, Ashgirl finds the strength to go with the help of her friends, some of whom come from unexpected places. When she gets home, Ashgirl realizes that in order to regain the fleeting happiness she found in the arms of the prince, she must fight the monsters who have slithered and insinuated their way into her heart and mind. She must believe in herself for others to do so.

CPFA Spring High School Musical

Little Women

The Broadway Musical

Book by Allan Knee

Music by Jason Howland

Lyrics by Mindi Dickstein

Based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott

Directed by Sophie Gore

Wed, Mar. 15 - Sun, Mar. 19

Little Women is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

www.mtishows.com

Based on Louisa May Alcott's life, *Little Women* follows the adventures of sisters, Jo, Meg, Beth and Amy March. Jo is trying to sell her stories for publication, but the

publishers are not interested – her friend, Professor Bhaer, tells her that she has to do better and write more from herself. Begrudgingly taking this advice, Jo weaves the story of herself and her sisters and their experience growing up in Civil War America.

Theatre Department Staff Contact Info

Please feel free to email us with any questions that you may have.

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Looking forward to a creative and dynamic year of theatre!