



PACE Musical  
Theatre Academy

### **The PACE Musical Theatre Academy**

is open to students (K-12) who possess a passion and enthusiasm for performing, and who are willing to work on their skill development in Acting, Singing and Dancing. No prior experience is necessary, and students are not required to audition.

Most of our students participate year after year, and create memories, and build friendships that will last a lifetime. The K-12 students work together collaboratively, and we purposely include multi-grade casting for some songs. The older students are expected to be role models for, and to mentor younger students.

PACE welcomes parent and grandparent volunteers, and there is always an open invitation to get involved. It is truly a family atmosphere where all are welcome.

#### **The focus of the Academy is to empower every learner to:**

- develop self-confidence
- develop performance skills
- develop knowledge of, and an appreciation for, the Performing Arts
- experience the power of being a valued member of a large and diverse community, working collaboratively toward a common goal.

#### **Performances:**

All students (K-12) perform in a Musical Theatre Revue each Semester

- ♣ December Production – 4+ shows
- ♣ April Production – 8+ shows

Note: K-3 students do every second show. They are divided into 2 casts.

## Community Connections

Students who are particularly serious about performing can take advantage of the many **Connections** opportunities that are presented to PACE students during the year.

- Workshops with Guest speakers, Choreographers and Vocal directors from the professional Theatre and the professional Film/Television communities
- Working as Background Actors in Film/Television productions shooting in Victoria
- Community Performances
  - Dancers4Kids at UVic
  - City of Langford events
  - Parliament Buildings on Canada Day
  - Etc, etc.

## Our Guiding Principles:

- One size does not fill all – in shoes or in the performing arts.
- K-12 students come in all shapes and sizes and with a full range of learning styles and confidence and experience levels.

They all get there, but:

- Some are kinesthetic learners and can see it and just do it.
- Some are audio learners and need to hear what to do over and over.
- Some are visual learners and need to watch someone in front of them and copy.

They will ALL look amazing when the show is ready. Do not stress.

- We have a lot of PACE students who have been in the program for years and are confident and very accomplished performers. Do not compare if you are new. They were new once too. Never be afraid to ask or to receive help.
- We take pride in that our PACE students are quick to help others. We also have senior students who will always go the extra mile to give a helping hand.
- So, parents & guardians,
  - If your child is one who needs to sit in the theatre with you and watch – we are good with that. Take the lyric sheets and sing along with them.
  - If your child has special needs – make us aware – we are good with that. However, we do ask that a parent/guardian stays with the student at all times to provide necessary one-on-one support.

From over 35 years of experience, we know they all end up on stage performing at a higher level than they ever hoped for. Do not stress.

## Health and Safety:

- We take the health and welfare of our students very seriously. Please err on the side of caution if anyone in your house is suspiciously unwell and stay home. No one will be excluded for doing their best to keep us all healthy and safe.
- Please bring a water bottle and stay hydrated.
- Healthy snacks only please.
- Students (K-12) must not leave the theatre without advising one of the production team members.
- K-6 students must have a parent/guardian in the theatre or at the theatre door for pick up. Students will not be allowed to leave unless we can see the adult picking them up.
- NO ONE – any age – is allowed to walk home alone in the dark or wait out on the street for a parent/guardian. They must stay in the theatre or at the theatre entrance.
- Adults will always remain in the theatre and/or outside at the theatre entrance until every student has been picked up.

## What to Wear:

- Dress for rehearsals: Clothing that you can move in – but not too baggy or bulky.
- Jazz shoes or running shoes. Something you can dance in comfortably.
- Hair tied back.

## Rehearsals:

- All rehearsals and performances are held at the Isabelle Reader Theatre at Spencer School, 1026 Goldstream Avenue.
- Because we are working on different numbers with different combinations of grade groups each week, the times will vary slightly if we combine different cast groups for a song. But - rehearsals for each grade group will always be within these windows, occasionally adding time at one end:
  - K-3: Window between 11 am – 1 pm. (1 hour every Sunday);
  - Gr. 4-6: Window between 12-3 pm. (2 hours every Sunday); and
  - Gr. 7-12: - Window between 1-8 pm. (4-6 hours every Sunday).
- Lyric sheets will be sent via email, and hard copies will also be available at rehearsals to borrow.
- Rehearsal videos and music tracks and lyric sites will be sent via email and/or etransfer and posted on PACE Facebook site.

## Parents/Guardians in the Theatre During Rehearsals:

If you need to stay during rehearsal, please sit in the very back area and blend into the background. Know that you will be considered a potential temporary volunteer though – do not be surprised if you are asked to sort lyric sheets or fold costumes.....😊

- Otherwise, parents/guardians will be invited into the theatre for the last 10 minutes of each rehearsal-group to watch and to get any notes or notices.
- We are always in the need of extra hands – so if you would rather spend time together at the theatre with us than go to Costco, please let us know. There are always costumes to fold and hang and props to sort, and things to be glued, glittered, and organized. No experience required. No long-term commitment required – just a “I am for an hour – what can I do to help?”

## Have a coffee, Have a Chat!

The coffee is always on in the lobby and our PACE Producers always bring cookies! If you have questions, they will have the answers or can quickly find the person who can help you.

Stop by during, before or after rehearsals. Grab a coffee and cookie, introduce yourselves and meet other PACE parents.