



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE WCT EXPERIENCE

What is WCT's relationship with the Arsenal Center for the Arts?

Our beautiful theatre space is in the Arsenal Center for the Arts, which houses two resident theatres (WCT is one) and many other arts programs. This gives us an opportunity to interact with many other people engaged in the business of making or enjoying art. Sometimes there will be a performance going on in one of the theatres while we are having rehearsal. We want to be respectful of the other users of the building by talking quietly when outside our own room, particularly in the front entrance lobby, hallways, and directly outside the theatre doors.

Will I/my child have a good time in this show?

The goal of the staff and the WCT in general, is that all families enjoy themselves in the process of creating a show together. Every child who auditions will receive a role, and each parent plays a role as well. We have found that the more that children and parents are willing and able to commit themselves to working together to accomplish a great show, the better experience they will have. Even children who may be initially disappointed in their role, quickly learn the old adage, "There are no small parts, there are only small actors", and end up having an invaluable, unforgettable group experience.

Why are there auditions?

We hold individual auditions in order for the artistic staff to determine the best casting for each child in consideration of the production as a whole.

Will the actors have lines to memorize for the show?

Everyone will have many lines to memorize in group songs. Some will have spoken lines as well. Depending on what parts children are cast in, they may be featured doing a special song or dance number.

Do actors have to come to all the rehearsals?

You need to come to all the rehearsals for which you are scheduled. Your particular rehearsals will be scheduled for different times on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays each week for this show. Schedules will be given out every two weeks so that you can plan when you will need to be here next. When you are scheduled, it is important to be here and on time, so that we will be able to make best use of our rehearsal time together.

What should I bring/not bring to rehearsal?

It is important to come to rehearsal prepared with a script, pencil, water bottle, and homework or a book for times when not actively rehearsing. Actors should NOT bring iPods or other electronic devices, since these can be distracting, and are valuable if lost or damaged. Actors should turn off and put away all mobile phones during rehearsal, and parents needing to contact their children in case of emergency should do so by calling WCT at 617-926-2787.

Will a rehearsal ever be cancelled?

Due to the challenges of New England weather, there may be a time when a rehearsal is cancelled due to snow or ice. If this is the case, an email will be sent to all cast in advance regarding the status of rehearsal. In addition, a message will be placed on the Announcements line at WCT - 617-926-ARTS ext 6.

What happens if an actor has to miss a rehearsal?

In order to have an **excused absence** from a rehearsal, you must call **Deidre Purcell, Production Stage Manager**, at 617-926-ARTS (2787) before 3PM on the rehearsal day (before 1:30 on Sundays) or e-mail her before noon at **wct.deidre@gmail.com**.

How many rehearsals may an actor miss and still be in the show?

Only **two excused absences** are allowed for the period of rehearsal prior to tech week. It is, of course, best for all concerned if there are none at all. With understanding that there are illnesses or sometimes unavoidable conflicts, we do allow two (only with prior notice) before the part of the missing cast member may be reassigned and he or she may be asked to leave the show. Repeated late arrivals or early pickups may be counted as partial absences, and will accumulate toward the total number of absences.

During the final week of production (tech week), we do not allow any absences/early dismissals/late arrivals, as these final technical rehearsals are essential to the success of the production. Exceptions can be made only in cases of a severe family or health emergency.

Absences, late arrivals, or early pickups that are not communicated prior to rehearsal are unacceptable at any time.

Should I come to rehearsal if I am sick?

If your child has any of the symptoms below, we ask that you inform us, and keep him/her home from rehearsal until the symptoms subside or he/she is cleared by a doctor. Symptoms include cough, runny nose, fever greater than 101 F, chills, aching muscles. Most children with mild flu symptoms do not need to visit their doctor, but we feel it is prudent to keep your child out of rehearsal if s/he is experiencing these symptoms, especially if there is a fever.

Although our absence policy allows only 2 excused absences, any changes to a child's role due to additional or prolonged absences due to illness will be addressed on a case by case basis. Should children arrive for rehearsals/classes presenting with flu-like symptoms, parents will be contacted immediately to pick up their child.

What type of behavior is expected from each child during rehearsals and performances?

WCT expects each production to be a positive and rewarding experience for everyone involved, primarily the children. Each child is expected to behave in a way that benefits the entire production, including the cast members and staff. WCT follows a series of disciplinary steps if a child is exhibiting behavior that is disrespectful, disruptive, and/or harmful to anyone else. The steps are as follows:

1. **After 1st offense:** Verbal warning from staff to actor regarding inappropriate behavior(s)
2. **After 2nd offense:** Verbal notice to actor's parent/guardian regarding inappropriate behavior(s)
3. **After 3rd offense:** Written notice (Pink Slip) given to actor from staff member, which notes inappropriate behavior(s) and serves as FINAL warning
4. **After 4th offense:** Actor is asked to leave production

Will snacks be provided for actors at any time during this production?

During rehearsals, students are encouraged to eat a snack BEFORE arrival. **Due to the health risks of accidental exposure to allergens, WCT requests that no snacks be eaten in our rehearsal spaces except those provided during production week.** Please encourage your child to eat before rehearsal. Students may bring in a tightly closed bottle of water to drink during rehearsal.

Light snacks will be provided towards the end of the rehearsal schedule when rehearsals become busier and more involved. Snacks will also be provided during the performances. **If your child has any food allergies, please be sure to provide your child with his or her own appropriate snack to avoid emergency situations during performances.**

What is the Show Bulletin Board?

The Show Bulletin Board is a one-stop online location for show information. On this page, the rehearsal schedules, notices, and forms for the cast will be posted in downloadable PDF format, so that parents can access any of these forms and documents without having to request extra copies from the staff. If your child misses a rehearsal, this is also a place to look for any missed information that may have gone home. You can access the Show Bulletin Board by going to www.watertownchildrenstheatre.org and clicking on the link under Show Bulletin Board.

Where does our registration fee go?

To pay for space rental in this building, costumes, props, lights, show royalties, and staff salaries. The WCT is a non-profit organization, largely run by a volunteer board, and puts any money raised directly back into the programming to benefit the children.

Why are parents asked to volunteer for a committee?

In order to keep our registration fees as low as possible, and therefore accessible to all children, we require volunteer help on our big productions to supplement the work of the hard-working board and staff. Over many years we have found it a wonderful way to include parents in one of their children's activities and to build a strong WCT community.

What if I have questions about my role, committee assignment, rehearsal schedule or anything else?

You may leave a message for **Deidre Purcell** at 617-926-ARTS, and either she will return your call or pass on the message to the appropriate person who will respond to you.