Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre

Sink! A Titanic Murder Mystery

Audition Information

All auditions, rehearsals and performances will be held at: **Heritage Presbyterian Church**, located at 8503 Fort Hunt Road in Alexandria, VA 22308.

AUDITIONS: Actors aged 12-18 are invited to audition on either **Monday December 7th OR Tuesday December 8th**. Please register for **ONE** timeslot.

Please arrive a few minutes early to check in for your audition. After your audition group is released, you are free to leave. Auditions are closed; parents and/or peers will not be permitted to watch.

Please have actors come to the audition with:

1. **A current photograph** (school pictures or a photo printed from your home computer are fine)
2. **A signed Parent Agreement** (below).

For auditions, actors should prepare ONE monologue from the list of monologues below. The monologue does not need to be memorized; however, it should be rehearsed and actors should be familiar enough with the material to make distinct acting choices and look up from the paper as they read. Actors will be considered for all roles, no matter which monologue they choose.

If actors would prefer, they also have the option to prepare a 1–2 minute modern, comedic monologue of their choosing. Again, memorization is not necessary, but please be familiar and comfortable with the text.

Please note, actors may be asked to read an additional side at the audition, and/or make an adjustment to the monologue they chose to read, but there is no need to prepare more than one side ahead of time.

CALLBACKS: Callbacks will be on Thursday December 10th from 6-9pm, *if needed*. **Callbacks are up to the discretion of the director if he feels they are necessary**. If an actor is not available to attend callbacks, it may affect casting decisions.

If your actor is invited to attend callbacks, we will contact *you* on Wednesday December 9th. At the callbacks, actors may be asked to read sides from the script. Actors do not need to prepare anything for callbacks. The callbacks allow the production staff to gather more information about an actor. Not being invited back does not mean you are not being considered for a role. Likewise, **a callback does not guarantee a role in the show.**

CASTING: Casting calls will be completed by Sunday, December 13th. **Only those cast will receive a phone call**. All others who audition will receive an email notifying them that the casting decisions have been made. E-mails will be sent once all of the calls have been made.

PARTICIPATION FEE: MVCCT is a non-profit organization and private fundraising efforts and government grants cover only a portion of our expenses. There is no fee to audition. There is a participation fee of **$350** for those cast, which is due by the mandatory parent's meeting on Thursday January 7th from 6-7pm (see below for more information). Other incidental expenses to anticipate may include purchasing costume shoes and socks.
Scholarships are available. Please contact admin@mvcct.org for scholarship information.

REHEARSALS:
Rehearsals will be held on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-9pm on the following dates:

- January 4th, 5th and 7th
- January 11th, 12th and 14th
- January 18th, 19th and 21st
- January 25th, 26th and 28th
- February 1st, 2nd and 4th
- February 8th, 9th and 11th
- TECH WEEK (Dress Rehearsals): February 15th, 16th, **17th** and 18th
  Note: There is rehearsal on Wed this week as well.

Please note that there ARE rehearsals scheduled on Monday 1/18, Monday 2/1, and Monday 2/15 - all of which are FCPS holidays. Cast members are still expected to attend rehearsals on those dates, even though they are days off from school.

PERFORMANCES: Performances will take place on:
- Friday February 19th @ 7pm
- Saturday February 20th @ 7pm
- Sunday February 21st @ 3pm
- Friday February 26th @ 7pm
- Saturday February 27th @ 7pm
- Sunday February 28th @ 3pm, followed by Cast Party and Strike

Note: Actors will need to arrive at the theatre one to two hours before showtime.

Also, there will be a brush-up rehearsal between the two show weekends on Thursday February 25th from 6-9pm.

CONFLICTS: MVCCT expects this production to be the actor's first priority after schoolwork, and for them to prioritize rehearsals before all other activities.

MVCCT's rehearsal and show schedule is time intensive. Cast members are expected to attend **all rehearsals** for which they are called, and to be on time. In addition, actors are also expected to spend time outside of rehearsals practicing their lines and blocking.

If actors have a pre-existing conflict that prevents them from attending specific rehearsal(s) they **MUST** disclose it on their audition form. This includes one-time absences, *and* weekly conflicts that will result in the actor being late to rehearsal.

ALL CONFLICTS MUST BE LISTED ON THE ACTOR'S AUDITION FORM.

If additional conflicts are added after casting is complete, it could result in the actor's role in the show being changed, or their offered role being rescinded.

MVCCT is committed to the success of this production and expects the same level of dedication from the cast.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

MVCCT requires **parents to assist** in:

(1) Pre-Show Jobs (cast board designer, planning cast party, advertising)
(2) Help with Stage and Set Construction (more details and dates at parent meeting)
(3) Show Day Jobs (selling concessions, helping with hair and makeup)

The show's producers will explain the parent responsibilities in much more detail at the mandatory Parent Meeting (See below.)

PARENT MEETING: There will be a ***mandatory*** parent/guardian meeting on Thursday January 7th from 6-7pm at Heritage Presbyterian Church. **A parent or guardian is required to attend this meeting**.

QUESTIONS: If you have any questions, please reach out to us at admin@mvcct.org or 703-594-7466.

We look forward to seeing you at auditions!

Audition Monologues

Actors should prepare ONE monologue from the list of monologues below. The monologue does not need to be memorized; however, it should be rehearsed and actors should be familiar enough with the material to make distinct acting choices and look up from the paper as they read. Actors will be considered for all roles, no matter which monologue they choose.

If actors would prefer, they also have the option to prepare a 1–2 minute modern, comedic monologue of their choosing. Again, memorization is not necessary, but please be familiar and comfortable with the text.

Dog Anxiety by Joseph Arnone

ZARA: She asks me to watch her puppy, Oscar. I say sure, I mean, how bad could it be to watch an innocent, harmless, cute little puppy? Right? Right? WRONG! It was a nightmare if there ever was one. Look at me! Do you see the bags under my eyes? I look like I went twelve rounds with Muhammad Ali. I look horrible!

She tells me, like it's noooooo big deal. She says, "Zara would you mind watching my puppy for me for three days?" I said, "Sure, no problem." No problem!

This dog has NOT stopped barking his tiny sqeaky voice, (imitates dog) Maar, Maaar,Maaaaaaaaaaaaaaar! Didn't stop barking for the entire night. Maaar, Maaar, Maaaaaaaaaaaaar!

Finally it's time to go to work. I was actually excited to go to work for once in my life. Work was somehow a better option than staying home with Maar, Maaar, MAAAAAAAAAAAR!!

But guess what?! When I stepped foot into my kitchen, I found myself sliiiiiiiiiiiiiiiding allllllll the waaaaaaaaaaay ACROSS the kitchen and FLAT DEAD ON MY BACK! I have bruises the size of boulders…DOG PEE PEE.

About a Goth by Tom Wells

NICK: As beds go, it is passable, I suppose. Obviously I would prefer to sleep in a coffin, but as my mum has so hilariously pointed out, they don't sell coffins at Ikea. Yet.

I check my phone, but nothing. Greg still hasn't replied to my text. It has been three days and eleven hours now, which seems a bit relaxed even for someone as simple as him. Look in my sent messages. It's there in capital letters: I HATE MYSELF. I wonder if I've been too subtle again. Probably. I forget not everyone is as emotionally mature and sensitive as me.

Breakfast is depressing as usual. All I want is to read Camus and eat my Coco Pops, but it is so hard to concentrate with Dad's armour clanking and Mum clattering about with her tankards in the sink. Honestly. It's tragic. Everyone else's parents lie and cheat and have inner turmoil and chuck teapots at each other. I get the world's most cheerful medieval re-enactors.

Death by Peanut by Gabriel Davis

WOMAN: Yes, yes, alright! I did it! You've found me out! I killed the cook in the kitchen with the peanut butter! But honestly, what kind of person goes into cooking with that severe a peanut allergy!? Yes, yes, I killed him. But if it hadn't been me, he would have eventually encountered a peanut on his own.

How did I fool him into eating the peanut butter, you ask?

So I hid the peanut butter inside of ... chocolate! Yes! Everyone knows the cook had a sweet spot for cacao! But it was I who thought to invent a decadent chocolate treat with a peanut butter filling! Yes, it was shaped sort of like a very shallow cup. Why do you ask?

Oh alright. Fine. I didn't invent it. You've found me out. I saw it on the check out line at the grocery store. It's not like you need a PhD to figure that out, Professor Prune. But it was my idea to change the words on the packaging from "Peanut Butter Cups" to "Chocolate Cups." In fact, I sent a copy of the wrapper I created to the company, because it's really confusing, calling them peanut butter cups, when really the chocolate part is more of the cup part.

The Group Project

SAM: Okay, team. Huddle up. We have five minutes, so let's do a quick check-in. Jordan, you had the slides. Great. Can I see the slides? You're showing me your phone. That is a picture of a slide. One slide. It says "The Roman Empire" and there is a clip art lion. Why is there a lion? Were there lions? I mean, yes, there were lions, but that is not the part we are presenting.

Kayla. Research. You said, and I quote from the group chat, "I've got it covered, don't stress." And then you sent a thumbs up. And then you left the group chat. Kayla, you cannot leave the group chat. That is not a thing.

And Marco. Marco is eating a granola bar. Marco, did you do anything? Don't nod with your mouth full. That's not an answer, that's a hostage situation.

Here is what is going to happen. I did the whole thing. All of it. At two in the morning. But when Ms. Ferraro asks who did what, you are all going to look at me and say the word "Sam." Clearly. In unison.

Practice it. Ready? Go.

After Juliet by Sharman Macdonald

GIANNI: Tea. There is no point even trying to make it without first warming the pot. They do it. People do it. Lemon? Milk?

They say, brandishing a cold tea pot. The question doesn't arise. Why? Why would you make tea if you hadn't warmed the pot. Once the pot's warmed, with boiling water mind.

Once the tea's spooned in, dry and black and perfumed with bergamot. Not blended, no shred of dust. I won't have sweepings from the floor that some chap's relieved himself upon. Once boiling water is added. While waiting in that delicious pause when the tea is giving of its essence. Then the question of lemon or milk can be addressed. With Earl Grey lemon always. But in the winter I would maintain it has to be lemon any way. Whether Darjeeling or Assam; lemon and not milk in the winter. Because. There is always a danger that the milk is contaminated. Turnips. That's the danger. In the winter time. There are those who feed their cows turnips.

Parent Agreement Form

You must initial every sentence, and bring it with you to the audition.

_____ My actor and I agree that rehearsals for Sink! A Titanic Murder Mystery will be his/her/their **first priority**, after schoolwork, for the time period of January 4th – February 28th.

_____ I understand that if my actor has a pre-existing conflict that prevents them from attending specific rehearsal(s) they **MUST** disclose it on their audition form. This includes one-time absences, *and* weekly conflicts that will result in the actor being late to rehearsal. **ALL CONFLICTS MUST BE LISTED ON THE ACTOR'S AUDITION FORM**. **If additional conflicts are added after casting is complete, it could result in my actor's role in the show being changed, or their offered role being rescinded.**

_____ If my child is cast, I understand that there is a participation fee of **$350 per actor** that is due by the mandatory parent meeting on Thursday January 7th from 6-7pm. **Scholarships are available**. Contact admin@mvcct.org for more information.

_____ I understand that MVCCT requires **parents to assist** in:

(1) Pre-Show Jobs (cast board designer, planning cast party, advertising)
(2) Help with Stage and Set Construction (more details and dates at parent meeting)
(3) Show Day Jobs (selling concessions, helping with hair and makeup)

Parent Name (please print):_____

Parent Signature: _____

Your Actor's Name (please print): _____

Date: _____