

## AUDITION INFORMATION PACKET

In true Puffs fashion I greet you with an enthusiastic HIIIIIIII! Thank you so much for your interest in Puffs.

For seven years a certain boy wizard went to a certain Wizard School and conquered evil. This, however, is not his story. This is the story of the Puffs, who just happened to be there too. A tale for anyone who has never been destined to save the world, ***Puffs: or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic*** is the Off-Broadway comedy by Matt Cox that follows a group of well-meaning magical misfits during the times of that certain boy wizard. Discover the hilarious and untold story of the “losers” who embrace being badgers and strive to be “third or nothing!”

We are so excited to be producing this hilarious and fun show at FTC as our first show back in the Black Box! Please take the time to read the entire packet. Here are some key details about auditions:

1. An audition workshop will be held Wednesday, August 18th after school from 3:30-5:30 PM. First timers are always welcome to audition and are encouraged to attend the audition workshop!
2. General auditions for Puffs will consist of the presentation of **one of the provided monologues in this packet and three of the character snippets on August 24th beginning at 3:30 PM**. You can sign up for an audition time slot on the door of HE5. Please join our Google Classroom to complete your audition and/or tech form and to access all of these materials electronically. Sign ups for your actual time slot will be on the door of the theatre classroom, HE-5. The Google Classroom code is: 52bv3mo. Audition forms should be completed and ready to view on Google Classroom **prior to your audition time slot**.
3. Callbacks will be held on **Wednesday, August 25th from 3:30-7:00 PM**. Additional callbacks may be held on Thursday, August 26th if needed -- otherwise, Thursday August 26th will be the first day of rehearsal.

Please note the specific requirements and times for each day. Make sure you read this packet thoroughly to make sure you understand all expectations. ***This show is supported by the Franklin Theatre Association (FTA), an FHS Booster Club. Mission Statement:*** Franklin Theatre Company is designed to enable students to discover their creative abilities while inspiring them to strive for artistic excellence. Our mission is to achieve the following goals:

- To produce the highest quality performances we are capable of creating
- To stretch our talents and abilities
- To attain a mastery of the theatre arts
- To develop a life-long appreciation for and involvement in theatre
- To develop integrity, a positive attitude, and a rigorous work ethic in our company
- To have fun and make lasting memories

Sincerely,

Caitlin Knapp, Artistic Director and Director of Puffs, [cknapp@egusd.net](mailto:cknapp@egusd.net)

Details for the Fall production of



### **A note about casting:**

*The full script can be found on Google Classroom. You can also listen to the soundtrack just for fun there as well. It is highly recommended that you are familiar with the show for callbacks. Familiarity with the Harry Potter books and movies may be helpful. A note about casting: below you will find how characters were divided among actors in the off-Broadway production. Some characters may be split up among more than one actor depending on our needs. Due to the nature of many actors playing multiple characters, this show is definitely an ensemble show. Please familiarize yourself with the play, and the characters that are very reminiscent of another series of books which...we assume this play is based on.*

*In regards to what I'm looking for from auditionees is a definite sense of play. Because so many actors play multiple roles in the matter of minutes, there have to be performers who make clear, bold, and distinct choices. So have fun with it. Also, I am not casting based on AGE, GENDER, APPEARANCE, ETHNICITY, or ABILITIES. In fact, this show is about the "outcasts" or "those who are different" so it would give me such delight to have a diverse cast in all those aspects. If you want, you can rent the Off-Broadway Live filming of the production. I warn you though, I am not looking for "Off-Broadway Actor so and so's" interpretation of Mr. Voldy. I'm looking for yours. Be inspired by the film, but try not to steal from it. The link is:*

*[https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/B07JM5SMTL/ref=atv\\_dp\\_share\\_cu\\_r](https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/B07JM5SMTL/ref=atv_dp_share_cu_r)*

### **Cast of Characters:**

**WAYNE HOPKINS:** The hero. Totally uncool, but full of charm and heart. Loyal to a tee. Likes comic books and video games, knows nothing about magic or this weird magic world he is now a part of. Best friends with Oliver and Megan.

**OLIVER RIVERS:** One of the main trio. Incredibly smart and cerebral, he is a math wiz, and proud of it; lovingly a nerd from New Jersey. After ending up at wizarding school, he finds out he isn't the top of his class, and instead begins a fantastical journey of friendship and even some love, better than any algebra class could ever promise. Real comic chops, incredibly appealing, youthful.

**MEGAN JONES:** One of the main trio; begins the show by only desiring to live up to her mother's reputation: a dark wizard currently in Wiz Priz for being such a baddie Death Buddy in her youth. Favorite store: Hot Topic. Favorite color: black. Over time, her tough veneer begins to soften, as a

budding romance with Oliver becomes apparent. Defiant and headstrong on the surface, the audience begins to see that her adamance of being completely unique and independent really stems from her desire to be loved and accepted.

**NARRATOR:** The narrator of the story. They guide us through our entire show of Puffy-ness. British accent. Must be a great storyteller, as they must keep the audience engaged and updated on all the goings-on. Can be a bit of a know-it-all, but still relatable and appealing. Comedy skills a must, improv background is a plus.

**ERNIE MAC and A VERY TALL MAN / SEAMUS / A CERTAIN POTIONS TEACHER / PROFESSOR TURBAN / GHOST HISTORY TEACH / PROFESSOR LOCKY / MR. NICK / SAL / SECOND HEADMASTER / REAL MR. MOODY:** Requires an actor capable of doing strong impressions. Ernie Mac: Proud. Loud. Pretty sure he's the best. Male Teachers: Potions Teacher/ Locky/ Professor Turban/ Mr. Moody. All impressions. Strong comedic ability. (Impressions: Rickman/ Branagh/Gleeson/Whoever played Quirrell in the movie).

**HANNAH and FIRST HEADMASTER / PROFESSOR McG / PROFESSOR SPROUTTY / XAVIA JONES / PROFESSOR LANNY / RUNES TEACH / MS. BABBLE:** Requires playing several different roles back to back, so the ability to play a variety of character types a plus. Hannah: Shy. Very shy. Female Teachers: Professor McG, Professor Plants, Professor T, Bath Babbles. Adults of all kinds of different personalities. (Maggie Smith impression for McG.)

**J. FINCH FLETCHLEY and UNCLE DAVE / GOYLE / A FAT FRIAR / CLUMSY LONGBOTTOM / HERMEOONE #3 / VIKTOR / MR. BAGMAN / ZACH SMITH:** Improvisational skills a plus. Boyish & fun. Chipper and happy except when his life is in mortal danger.

**LEANNE and GINNY / HELGA / FRENCHY:** A little distant. A little random. Is possibly a genius or really, really stupid. But has a really strong heart. The Puffiest of the Puffs. Any ethnicity/cultural background.

**SALLY PERKS and HERMEOONE / BLONDO MALFOY / ROWENA / RITA SCOOTER / BIPPY:** Sally: Nice. In year 3, goes through a bit of a glow up. Bippy: A house elf. Devoted. Loyal. Kind of annoying.

**SUSIE BONES and HARRY / COLIN / HERMEOONE #2 / RIC GRYFF / MYRTLE:** Susie: Sad. Gloomy. Think Eeyore from "Winnie the Pooh." Constantly in fear of her or her family dying. Harry: Young, plucky, and famous. Struts around school like he owns it. Gets into a few wacky situations, but it's nothing the bonds of friendship can't overcome. Myrtle: requires a strong impression of Shirley Henderson.

**CEDRIC and MR. VOLDY:** An appealing comic actor to play the pivotal roles of Cedric in Act I and Mr. Voldy in Act II. Cedric: A champion. Athletic, winning, popular, and charming. Everyone's favorite, but still loyal, patient, and kind. A leading example of a Puff. Mr. Voldy: Evil. Like, reeeeaally

evil. Wants to rule the world in shadows and darkness and terror. (Or, ya know, just an amazing Ralph Fiennes impression.)

DEATH BUDDIES/ADDITIONAL PUFFS ENSEMBLE to be played by all.

Synopsis:

## ACT I

A Narrator addresses the audience and begins to tell a tale about a young, orphaned boy with a scar in the shape of a lightning bolt, but dismisses the boy's story to introduce another orphan named Wayne who lives with his uncle Dave in New Mexico. One day, an owl drops a letter in Wayne's living room telling him that he has been invited to "a certain school of magic and magic." His uncle quickly tells him that his parents were wizards before rushing him to the train station. Wayne is then taken to the magic school and finds himself in a sorting ceremony in which students are sorted into different houses: "Braves," "Smarts," and "Snakes". Wayne tells another student how nervous he is and ponders if he has enough personality to be sorted. The student is revealed to be the orphan boy from the beginning who is then sorted into the Brave house. The hat sorts Wayne into the "Puff" house.

The Puffs introduce themselves in the Puff common room. Megan declares that she was put into the Puff house mistakenly, and she should be with the Snakes. "Cedric" shows up and introduces himself as the group leader. He assures the group that they are a valid house, though they will be bullied. He encourages them to win the Puffs' first House Cup by earning points for good behavior. Megan sneaks out to be with the Snakes. Wayne and Oliver bond over both being new to the school and magic itself and Oliver, a math prodigy, worries about the difficulty of magic. After a day of unsuccessful classes and many lost points, Wayne begins to lose hope. During the appearance of a troll in the dungeon during the school's Halloween feast, Wayne and Oliver notice that Megan is missing. They find her wandering around a forbidden chamber with her ghost friend, the Fat Friar. She complains about being in the Puffs and missing her mom. The Narrator introduces Megan's mom, Xavia Jones, who was put in WizPriz for working with the dark lord. Megan is hostile before agreeing to be friends with Wayne and Oliver. Before they leave, they all look into a mirror where they see their greatest desires. Wayne sees that he becomes a hero, Oliver becomes a famous mathematician, and Megan sees her mom and herself reuniting. Megan tells a teacher that Wayne and Oliver came to save her and the trio is awarded their first set of points. Sometime later, Cedric thanks Wayne for inspiring the Puffs to earn more points. At the end of the year, the headmaster announces that the Puffs came in third place and they celebrate, before the headmaster awards more points to the Braves so that the Puffs end up in fourth place again.

The Narrator introduces the second year, where a giant snake attacks the whole school. On Halloween, Wayne and Megan tell Oliver that a secret chamber has been opened and that the snake is inside. The defense teacher takes matters into his own hands and begins a dueling club. He selects "Blondo Malfoy" and Mr. Potter to practice dueling. After Malfoy casts a spell, it is revealed that Potter can talk to snakes. J Finch worries about dying, but leaves the room despite advice and is petrified when he sees the snake in the hallway. Wayne suggests that he kill the monster himself and become the hero of the school. He meets Ginny and develops a crush. Later, Harry kills the snake and everyone goes home for the summer. In year three, Megan tells her friends that a masked murderer is in the school and that she thinks it's her mom, Xavia, coming to rescue her. Leanne invites everyone to her slumber party and Sally, believing that Wayne and Oliver are throwing it, flirts with them. She takes off her glasses to get a clearer look at the invitation, and the boys quickly find her attractive. Cedric tells the Puffs a bedtime story about how the magic school was founded. The trio remains awake and Megan reveals that she feels like a disappointment to Xavia. On their field trip the next day the Puffs get drunk on Butterbeer.

In year four, the school holds a special three wizard tournament with two neighboring schools. Names are drawn from a cup to decide who will participate. Cedric's name is drawn but the Puffs' excitement is quickly halted when Harry's name is drawn as well. Wayne gives Cedric a book featuring different kinds of creatures he might have to face during the tournament. In the first challenge, the student must take the golden egg from a dragon's lair. Cedric uses one of Wayne's spells and comes in second place, just behind Potter. Cedric approaches Wayne with the prize from the challenge; Wayne helps him solve the egg's riddle. Wayne tells Cedric that he thinks the most while taking a bath. In the bathtub, Cedric encounters Myrtle and they figure out what the second

challenge will be. Oliver and Megan go to a Christmas ball together where they awkwardly attempt to have fun. The Puffs attend the second challenge, which proves to be quite boring, but Cedric wins and they celebrate. When Wayne struggles with a spell, Cedric tells him that the best he can do is try. Cedric also promises to teach Wayne all the magic he knows after the third challenge. At the third challenge, the Puffs see Cedric emerge victorious, before realizing he is dead. The Narrator stops the show and gives the audience an intermission.

## ACT II

The Narrator begins the act where it left off. Cedric died during the final tournament challenge. In year five the Puffs are still mourning, but make a promise to not be "too sad." However, a drunk Wayne enters, yelling that there is no purpose in attending school without Cedric to guide them. Some of the Puffs have been inducted into Albus' Army. At the end of the year, Megan and Oliver kiss for the first time and reconcile their friendship with Wayne. It is announced that the Dark Lord has returned and that nobody is safe. In the Dark Lord's lair, he and Xavia are planning to steal Megan from the school and destroy Potter.

At the start of year six, Wayne is hoping to get a girlfriend and get onto the sports team. However, at the sports tryouts the rude coach, Zach Smith, declines all the Puffs. Sally attempts to flirt with Wayne and he agrees to go on a date with her. Megan follows directions from a note she thought was written by Oliver, but it turns out that Xavia wrote the note and to take Megan hostage. Oliver and Wayne get caught as well, and Xavia tells Megan that she must kill Wayne and Oliver first before they can leave. Megan can't bring herself to kill them; Xavia calls her "nothing but a Puff" and a disgrace to the Dark Lord. Xavia begins to cast a death spell to kill all of them, but gets the spell wrong several times. Megan realizes that her mother isn't as evil or capable as she seems. Xavia accidentally releases the trio and they fight her. She vows that they will regret this and vanishes. Megan realizes that deep down, both her and her mother are just Puffs but begins to accept who she truly is. They stop by the mirror they looked at in year one; their other wishes have vanished and their only wish is to remain friends forever.

During the summer, Oliver tells his friends that, for his own safety as a "Mug Born," he will not be returning to the magic school for their final year. Wayne and Megan find it is very hard to get on without him. When Harry returns to fight the Dark Lord and the Puffs all rush to him. Mr. Voldy tells everyone to bring him Harry or that there will be consequences over the school's loudspeaker. Harry runs off and the Puffs debate what to do. They come to the consensus that they can't fix anything because they are "just Puffs" so decide to go home. Leanne steps up to tell the group that they still matter at the school; everyone agrees to fight with Harry. Oliver shows up to help his friends. Xavia also sneaks in, now prepared to kill Megan. She accidentally kills one of Voldy's fighters and immediately feels guilty for it. She accepts that she is just a Puff and gives Megan her wand. Sally, J Finch, and Leanne are killed during the battle and the trio goes to help them. Voldy, thinking Wayne is Harry, kills him. Wayne awakens in a white train station with the headmaster, who died in the end of year six. Wayne realizes that he died in the battle and complains to the headmaster that his life was useless. The headmaster counters that Wayne was the hero in his own story. Wayne finally accepts his fate and the Narrator closes out the story, informing the audience that Harry killed Voldy and was once again hailed as the hero of the school. But before he lets the audience leave, he takes them to one final destination, nineteen years after the battle.

A now grown up Megan walks through a train station where she meets with her husband, Oliver. They panic before they find their son wandering around. The boy is revealed to be the Narrator, now twelve years old and named Wayne. His parents tell him that while the school may be scary and dangerous, he is named after one of the bravest students ever, and they send him off on the train. Oliver asks Megan what house she thinks he'll be placed in and she tells him, "I have a pretty good idea." Wayne is seen in the sorting ceremony where a hat is placed on his head. After hearing what house he's been placed in, he looks out to the audience and smiles.

## AUDITION SIDES

**Everyone auditioning should prepare ONE monologue as well as THREE of the CHARACTER SNIPPETS.**

**MONOLOGUE ONE - LEANNE / Leanne is bubbly, excited, and so proud of her Puff-ness.** It was amazing! Susie! We all thought you'd be dead by now. But look at you, standing there, alive. Wayne. You give the best hugs. Megan! You give better hugs than you think you do. And J. Finch. He's imaginary, AND HE CAN DO MAGIC! We all can. We're wizards. So, sure. It would be easy to leave. But wouldn't it be wrong? We should

do what's right. Like Cedric. I'm a Puff and I'm staying, because if we don't fight now we may never find out how that hat talks!

**MONOLOGUE TWO - MEGAN JONES / Megan is the opposite of Leanne. She is dark, brooding and mysterious.** I never wanted to be a Puff. Every member of my family? Puffs. We're like THE Puff family. But I've always known that I was different. There's nothing even special about Puffs. Loyalty? Being really nice? A bunch of lame, awful failures doomed to be stupid walking personality-less nobodies that no one will ever care about ever? Ugh. My mom was a Puff. But she was different. She became something bigger. She made the name Jones finally mean something other than a bunch of ... Puffs. I thought ... I knew ... I would be different too. But ... after all my hard work to make myself not a Puff, what do you know? The hat puts me with the Puffs. I did everything. I mean, I even changed my accent just so I wouldn't sound like my Puff family.

**MONOLOGUE THREE - HARRY / Perhaps Harry doesn't actually possess the heroic qualities he is so famous for.** Say ... remember the First Task? That was pretty crazy. At first, I was like, "oh no", but then I was like "broom!" And then I was like "vroom vroom", but then the dragon broke off his chain and chased me all around the school and almost killed a bunch of people. Hahaha ... ahhh. Remember that? Feels like ages ago. Bye, Wayne! Cedric, look out for that dragon! (pointing behind Cedric) Just kidding.

**MONOLOGUE FOUR - LEANNE / Leanne is bubbly, excited, and so proud of her Puff-ness.** No! I don't want to leave. Why is everyone always so down on us? I won't stand for it anymore! And I won't sit for it either. And I also won't stand on one leg because I can't. Watch. Anyways. Look at your hand! You have a wand! (Everyone looks at the hand that in fact does not have a wand in it.) Unless you looked at your other hand. Look at yourselves! Hannah. You used to be so awkward. And you still are, but we don't mind anymore! Who's that? It's Ernie Mac. And he is basically the best. And Sally. Remember the time you did that thing?!

**MONOLOGUE FIVE - WAYNE HOPKINS / a normal guy who wants to stand out and have others think he is special.** Question. Hypothetical. What if I don't have enough of a personality for the magic talking hat to sort me? Like...how much authority does this hat really have? Never mind. This place is crazy huh? I never thought I'd go to school in a castle. Pretty cool. I've never really liked school. People were mean. To me. I'm talking too much. You probably have all your own nervous thoughts going on ... can I tell you something? I think I might be ... special? I watch a lot of movies and read lots of books, and it's like; a normal boy finds out he actually has amazing abilities and is swept away to a new, magical world? Does that sound familiar? Because that is now my ACTUAL life. And THAT kid, through some incredible circumstances always becomes like the most important person. Like in the whole world. A sort of ... Chosen One. AHH! Magic is real, and this orphaned boy wizard is ready for seven years of amazing adventures!

**MONOLOGUE SIX - MISTER VOLDY / is the embodiment of evil** So. Since we're on the verge of our victory to be remembered for all dark ages to come, pats on the back by the way, I've been working on some fun one liners to say when we vanquish out great teenage enemy, Potter. Maybe I can try some out, so you can see how fun thy are - eh hem. "Boy who lived? How about the boy who's dead now? HA!" "Nice second scar - the one that's on your whole body - since I killed you." "Mother's love your way out of that!" Or my favorite - "Loser says Avada what -" he says, "What" - "KEDABRA!" - then he dies. What? The megaphone is still on? Really? Oh my. I am just having a day, aren't I? YAH! Harry!

**MONOLOGUE SEVEN - CEDRIC / a very popular kid, a bit of a rockstar in the Puff house, but not the sharpest tool in the shed.** And my name...is Cedric. Thanks. Now gather round. Don't be shy. Welcome to the Puffs! Just a few things to get you acquainted to the school. First, the stars move. Don't freak out. Just breathe. Second...the Puffs don't exactly have the best reputation here. People will make jokes about you. Or throw food at you. Or they might curse you. In fact, here is a list of curses you can expect to be hit by at some point in the next week. But none of that matters. Because really, we're a bunch of nice, fun, happy people. Also, badgers. Badgers are great!

**MONOLOGUE EIGHT - MISTER VOLDY / is the embodiment of evil.** I'm going to ask an uncomfortable question right now. I ask for an honest response. Where are my shoes? I've been back three years, and three years - barefooted. No one has offered me a pair of sneakers, or some lounge loafers. Wingtips. At first, I thought oh - maybe this is the fashion - but quickly learned - no - that's not it. One year later, my little piggies are still out for all to see - it became about the principle of the matter - I'm the Dark Lord. Surely someone will offer me some shoes. Or at least ask if I'm comfortable. But now; we are in the woods. We've spent a whole evening outdoors. My feet are wet - I've stepped on several pointy rocks - I may need a tetanus shot. So, no. I am not comfortable. So where are my - what? The megaphone is still on? Really? Oh my. I am just having a day, aren't I? YAH! Harry!

**CHARACTER SNIPPETS** In addition to your monologue, everyone auditioning should choose three character snippets to present. Most actors in Puffs will play several roles, so we are looking for actors who have the ability to quickly switch from one comedic character role to another. Bold vocal and physical choices are encouraged.

**XAVIA JONES (evil, crazy, dangerous)** - I want you to hurt them. Torture them. Kill them, maybe? Prove to me that you are my daughter.

**MYRTLE (quirky, unpredictable, odd, flirtatious ghost with a very distinctive voice)** - Goodbye, Cedric. Think of me every time you see a toilet. Waaaaahhhhhhhh!

**PROFESSOR McG (stern, unforgiving, dismissive, old teacher)** Mr. Rivers. Oh dear, oh dear. Your wand technique is all wrong. Here, you get to use the training wand. Oooo! Eh hem. Five points from the Puffs.

**A CERTAIN POTIONS TEACHER (slimy, sinister, mean, demanding)** - You are the most dunderheaded students I have ever seen sit in my class. If you manage to succeed in my course this year, I will eat a shoe. Ten points from the Puffs. Class dismissed.

**REAL MR. MOODY (wild, confusing, a bit out of control)** - And, there's a curse that kills. We'll call it the Green Light Curse. Because when you use it there's a bright green light. AVAVDA KEDABRA!

**UNCLE DAVE (Distant, goofy, not ready for parenthood. From New Mexico.)** Oh my Gawd! I forgot to tell you. Yer a Wizard, Wayne! ...Also, wizards exist! ... and you are one. Just like your British parents. Oh also! Yer parents were British! Wow. We gotta talk more. Come on, I'll drive ya to the airport!

**BLONDO MALFOY (with a cruelty only an eleven-year-old can have):** Potter. What a bluthering whimpersnatch. What are you two broom-heads looking at? EAT SLUGS! (Casts a spell).

**FIRST HEADMASTER (a wise old wizard with a twinkle in his eye):** Yes, yes, well done Snakes. Well. Done. Snakes. However, recent events must be taken into account. Now you may find yourself asking...can he give out more points now? Yes. Yes, he can.

**LEANNE (bubbly, excited, proud to be a Puff):** Hey. Don't be sad. This year we learned skills, built friendships, and nobody died except for that teacher! What a year! You can't put a number on life! Unless you can, in which case it's four. Fourth place for us!

**NARRATOR (in a British accent -- or an attempt at one. They are a real scholarly type and are, at their core, a Puff):** Heroes. Made. Not born. Except, sometimes...they are born. On a gloomy night, in a far away, magical land called: England. Ah! A giant! Aw, a baby. His parents: dead. But he lives. He is the boy who lives. He has a scar. On his forehead. Shaped like...you know.

**PROFESSOR LANNY (An ominous divination professor who seems like a phony but is actually the real deal):** Ooooo. The future! Oooo! The inner eye. Tea leaves. And--Death! DEATH is coming! To you all! DEAAAATH! (Everything abruptly shifts back to normal). \*Cough\* What? Class dismissed.

**J. FINCH (enthusiastic and boyish):** Well, Ol' J. Finch completed his life's one dream. I ate ALL the flavored beans. Top 5: Booger, Spinach, Spinach Booger, Watermelon, and number one... (*actor chooses the #1 flavor--improvise*).

**BIPPY (the trio's elf-helper friend with lots of energy):** Hello, Mister Wayne Hopkines! Ms. Megan Joneses! It's me! Bippy! Your little house elf friend. (singing) I am Bippy, and I'm your best friend. We'll be together til the very end! We're always going on adventures. You're both wizards and Bippy's indentured.

## **SHOW DATES FOR PUFFS: OR SEVEN INCREASINGLY EVENTFUL YEARS AT A CERTAIN SCHOOL OF MAGIC AND MAGIC**

**Dates: October 22nd @ 7:00 PM, October 23rd at 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM, October 28th @ 4:30 PM, October 29th @ 7:00 PM, October 30th @ 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM**

**Tickets: \$15 General Admission; Student Rush on 10/28, Students with ASB, Children under 12 and Seniors over 55: \$10**

**Further details about COVID-19 guidelines will be shared as they become available.**

### **HOW TO AUDITION**

1. Be a current Franklin High School student. No previous theatre experience is necessary.
2. Have a 2.0 GPA or better, and no F's. This includes the previous term's grades to be eligible to audition, and if cast, will include all progress reports and final grades leading up to performance to remain in the cast.
3. Fill out an audition form completely, noting any conflicts and indicating your intent to audition prior to your audition slot. Make sure you have a parent/guardian digital "signature" on your audition form or you will not be allowed to audition. Your parent/guardian **MUST** be notified of your participation in this extra-curricular activity. The audition form can be found on Google Classroom. The code is 52bv3mo.
4. The first round of auditions for Puffs will consist of the presentation of one of the provided monologues in this packet and three of the character snippets on **August 24th beginning at 3:30 PM**. You can sign up for an audition time slot on the door of HE5. Please join our Google Classroom to complete your audition and/or tech form and to access all of these materials electronically. The Google Classroom code is: 52bv3mo. Audition forms should be completed and ready to view on Google Classroom **prior to your audition time slot**. All auditions will be held in small groups in front of the audition panel. *Please note: Although cold readings of monologues are allowed, it is highly preferred that you be memorized. Please select from the provided materials. Appropriate audition attire is professional, easy to move in, and all black, with hair out of the eyes.*
5. For more information, an audition workshop and tech info session will take place on August 18th from 3:30-5:30 PM. The workshop is an opportunity to learn about the show, review these expectations and the audition materials, get some coaching, and find out more information about the nature of this production.
6. The callback list will be posted on Google Classroom and on the door of HE-5 on the evening of Tuesday, August 24th. Individuals who are called back will attend callbacks on



Wednesday, August 25th from 3:30-7:00 PM. During this second round of auditions, the director will ask students to read for specific roles, participate in improv activities, and do some movement work in order to further assess their skills. *Being called back does not mean you are guaranteed to be cast, and not being called back does not mean you will not be cast.*

7. We would like to post the cast list on the morning of Thursday, August 26th, but we may ask for additional callbacks that day if needed and delay posting the cast list until Friday night. The cast list will be posted on the website, Google Classroom, and our instagram @franklintheatreco. Rehearsals will begin on Thursday, August 26th after school with our company call to review the production expectations and conduct a read-through from 3:30-5:30 PM.
8. **Please be available to attend all audition days to be considered for a part. Make sure you review the time commitment carefully before you audition.**
9. Please take the time to prepare for your audition. We realize the process of auditioning is usually met with varying degrees of nervousness. The more time to take to prepare the more confident and poised your audition will show. Remember, we want to see you at your best and you will be able to practice your audition on video and then submit it when you feel confident with the result.

## REHEARSAL

Rehearsals will typically be held **every day in August and September from 3:30-5:30 PM, Monday through Friday**. During the month of **October, rehearsals will be Monday-Friday from 3:30-6:30 PM. The week that we open the show (tech week) will have rehearsals from 3:30-9:00 PM and dinner will be provided.** Once the show is cast, a specific rehearsal calendar will be available. Actors are required to attend all rehearsals for which they are called. We have a number of non-negotiable rehearsals, such as tech week and the brush up rehearsal. Just like it sounds, these are mandatory for all actors to be cast in the show. During these dates the show is a priority over doctor's appointments, work, travel, sports and other activities. *Excessive conflicts (such as missing more than three days of rehearsal or missing rehearsals without prior notice) that arise after the show is cast may lead to dismissal from the show and/or re-casting.*

## COMMITMENT

Being part of a production comes with a large commitment. This commitment can feel very rewarding when the work is finally done, but can sometimes be tiring and stressful when you're in the thick of it. It's always important to communicate with the director and stage manager about your conflicts and outside commitments PRIOR to casting. Students cast in the show need to be present and ready to work when they are called, be supportive of the mission of the program, be a positive, contributing member of the cast and attend all scheduled rehearsals (unless you have previously notified the director during the audition process).

## SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Rehearsals will follow all COVID-19 safety guidelines according to district and county health guidelines.

## **CONFLICT SCHEDULE**

Included in the audition form is a conflict schedule so we are aware of your other commitments that may conflict with rehearsal times (activities, lessons, etc.). Conflicts are always a consideration when casting. All known conflicts must be disclosed on the audition form. If cast, actors will be excused from rehearsals due to conflicts on this form. This schedule is also important as we put together the master calendar, hopefully avoiding as many conflicts as possible. Also make sure you list the flexibility with your conflict (for example, "I can move my voice lesson to another day, if necessary").

## **ACTOR FEE/DONATION**

Students cast in the show are asked to make a donation of \$40. This will help cover the costs associated with providing your costume, feeding you during tech week and in between shows during the weekend, and cleaning your costume at the end of the run.

## **THE AUDITION PROCESS**

Directors always strive to cast fairly, with the guiding objective of assembling the overall cast that will best serve the directorial vision for the show. This requires many hours of careful analysis by the director and panel, who take their responsibility in this area very seriously. Mrs. Knapp will watch every audition and participate as a mediator and guide through every casting process. Franklin Theatre Company casting decisions are not based on seniority (grade level in school), or years of participation in the program. This is a firm programmatic value arrived at after years of assembling casts, and seeing the exciting results that come from having students collaborate across the grade spectrum from freshman to senior, each cast solely on his or her fit for a given role as revealed through a rigorous and thoughtful audition process. Auditioning for a show can be competitive and sometimes daunting. In keeping with the program's emphasis on theatre as a vehicle for learning and individual development, Mrs. Knapp and guest directors are available to coach and support students as they seek to improve their speaking, presentation, and performance skills through the audition process.

## **DIVERSITY**

Franklin Theatre Company values and celebrates diversity of all kinds. We are a safe space for all. Since encouraging diversity of participation is an overall goal of the program, FTC actively encourages ALL students to participate in productions as members of the cast or crew. All students who audition are considered equally in an inclusive environment and in accordance with FTC casting principles. FTC hopes to be a reflection not only of the varied backgrounds and experiences of Franklin High's staff and students but also of diverse world cultures, life experiences, and theatrical traditions. By carefully selecting a range of different shows each year we strive to tell theatrical stories that represent the richness of our world while offering a wide range of opportunities for all students.

## **ON CASTING**

Casting is a very complex process. In the end, the Director and panel must choose the students who best fit the roles in many dimensions, both by the individual skills they present in the

audition, but also in the dynamics that develop between actors who will be creating the driving energy of the show in scenes together. Such dynamics are a large part of what is explored in the “callback” round of auditions. For students, auditioning is an exciting, yet difficult, process that can bring about greater success, whether cast in the production or not. The more a student auditions, the better they will become, especially if they seek and receive feedback and guidance. The feeling of “rejection” over not getting cast seems disappointing at first, but we strongly urge you to get right back to work as soon as possible so you can sharpen your skills for a future audition. In theatre, as in life, all of us experience both disappointment and success. Our goal is to teach our students how to deal with both, so when they leave Franklin High School they will be well prepared to navigate their way toward success in a complex world.

*Please note: We have a very thorough audition packet that we use to guide our casting process. For instance, casting choices can sometimes be based on your availability and time commitments, so students should remember to be up front about if they are able to be at rehearsal every day. Additionally, make sure you share if you will accept any part or not. Students who select that they will "accept any part" on an audition form but who decide they do not like their part and drop the show will not be considered for the next mainstage production.*

### **AFTER CASTING: STEPS FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS**

If you (or your child) is not cast in the desired role (and also if not cast), we strongly suggest that you follow this process.

1. First, wait at least 48 hours before contacting your director if you are unhappy with your casting decision. It is often wise to have time to process your audition experience and not respond in the heat of the moment or when emotion is running high. Casting can sometimes be an emotional and disappointing process and we honor those feelings, but also want to have a productive and helpful conversation.
2. Second, it is important to keep negative comments about others, about the production, or about the director(s) to yourself and off of social media.
3. Third, students are always welcome to meet with the director to obtain valuable feedback while it is freshly in mind, in order to further develop skills for future auditions. After taking time to process for the 48 hour time period, feel free to set up a meeting to discuss and get feedback.
4. Fourth, while disappointment for some is an inevitable part of the experience in any competitive tryout situation, be it an academic, athletic or artistic pursuit, one of the hallmarks of FTC is that there are many other ways to contribute to the show, even if your part is smaller. These include technical crew; working with one of our other production team members; or working on the many other teams, such as props, costumes, publicity and makeup. The wonderful spirit of camaraderie and collaboration that develops during shows is equally shared by on- and off-stage participants. Talking to students who have worked in various roles and jobs will confirm this. Keep an open mind, and seek out a new experience!
5. Fifth, continue working on your craft and gain more experience. We strongly encourage each student to take additional Theatre Arts classes -- offered as an elective to all grade

levels. These theatre education experiences will further enhance skills in these areas and give more confidence for the audition process.

We always try to include as many actors as possible, but it is not possible to cast everyone.

- Consideration will be given to:
  - Acting ability and unique skills, as assessed by the directing team in auditions, callbacks, and previous productions.
  - “Fit” for a specific role, in service of best storytelling, as assessed by the directing team in auditions and callbacks.
  - Personal character, professionalism, ability to work as part of a team, and commitment, as demonstrated in involvement with the program at large, in previous productions, in school, and/or in the audition process.

### **A NOTE ABOUT PRE-CASTING**

The shows are never pre-cast by the directing team. Everyone has an equal chance when they walk into their audition. We realize it is part of the audition process for students to think about who might be cast in specific roles. Please refrain from talking among yourselves and pre-casting the show. It is disrespectful to everyone auditioning, and it sets up expectations that may not be achieved.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and break a leg!

- **The Audition Panel**