



Frequently Asked Questions

Please Note: These policies were in effect pre-pandemic and will begin to be reimplemented as we continue to reopen and rebuild our normal operations. The heart of this information and our big-picture policies have remained in effect during the pandemic. Please refer to show-specific updates and documents to ensure accurate, up-to-date information!

PERFORMER QUESTIONS:

- **I am brand-new to TMTTO and want to participate in an upcoming show. How do I get involved?**
 - *Welcome! We're excited to have you join the TMTTO family. To get involved in an upcoming production, you'll need to first complete our registration process and then participate in auditions for the show (registration must be completed prior to audition day). Our registration system can be accessed by clicking any of the "Register Now" buttons on our website, and after completing registration, you'll receive a confirmation email with details about auditions.*
 - *Please note: we cap most productions at 65 performers (we simply do not have space in the theater and onstage for any more than that!). See the following question for more details about our casting policies!*
 - *Once you've successfully registered, we will reach out to you via email shortly before audition day to confirm or clarify any important details prior to auditions, and then we'll expect to see you at the designated Check-In time at auditions!*
- **If I register and audition for a TMTTO show, am I automatically cast in the production, or is there a chance I'll be cut?**
 - *Generally speaking, we will accept registrations from anyone interested in auditioning (within the posted age range for the production), without enforcing a cap. If more than 65 performers register, we will only cast 65 in the production.*
 - *Casting policies for each show will be available at the time of registration; please make sure to read them over before registering, so you understand what to expect from the process ahead.*
 - *The demand for TMTTO productions has grown over the years, and we now often have more performers interested in our shows than we can accommodate. TMTTO's mission is to "provide professional training and performance opportunities for cast members, and to produce professional quality, affordable, family-friendly entertainment." Because of this, we are constantly reviewing our policies and procedures in order to provide the best training and*

experience for our cast members and families, while maintaining our high performance standards and expanding the reach and capacity of our programming.

- **Do I need to have prior theater/music/dance experience to participate? Do I need to have taken classes through TMTO before auditioning for a production?**
 - *No! We welcome young people of all experience-levels, training, etc. We'd love to have you join us for a show, class, or camp, even if you've never set foot in a theater before.*
- **I want to sign up for a production, class, or camp. How do I do that?**
 - *When we are ready to accept registrations for a production, class, or camp, you will find it listed within our registration system (please note: if participants are under 18, a parent/guardian must submit registration on the participant's behalf. If the show, class, or camp you're looking for isn't listed in our system, check back closer to the opportunity to register). Simply proceed through the registration system, and once you've submitted your registration, you'll receive an email confirmation indicating you've been registered. If we have reached capacity, you can choose to be added to the waitlist, and we will notify you if space becomes available.*
- **What should I prepare for auditions?**
 - *Please check out our document "What to Prepare/Expect at Auditions, Audition Tips, Casting Insights, and More!" that is available on the TMTO website. All the details you need are available there. This document will also be emailed to you upon registration.*
- **I'm nervous to audition. Any advice?**
 - *We want you to be successful! We pride ourselves on maintaining a non-competitive atmosphere in the company. Pick material that you love and feel good performing – if you love it, we'll love it. We promote a sense of camaraderie, support, and friendship from the moment you begin a TMTO show, so know that your fellow auditionees will be cheering for you, too! The purpose of the audition is to figure out where you will be the most successful in the production, so we're all on the same team, and we're rooting for you.*
- **I'd like to take a class, workshop, or camp through TMTO before participating in a production. How often are these types of opportunities offered?**
 - *We'd love for you to join us for one of these opportunities! We offer an assortment of musical theater, acting, dance, and music classes during the year – primarily in between our mainstage productions. Many of our production/creative team members also teach our classes and workshops, so what we offer and when is determined based on our team's availability, as well as a variety of other factors.*

PARENT/FAMILY QUESTIONS:

- **What does the \$500 participation fee go toward?**
 - *The participation fee helps cover some of the costs of producing the show, from the costumes your performer(s) wear, to the sets they perform on, to paying the Creative Team, etc. We have*

found that this is a very reasonable price, especially considering the quality of experience and show. We are one of the least expensive youth theater programs in the Valley.

- *This \$500 amount is the per-performer fee of \$400, plus a \$100-per-family production fee. On most TMTO shows, we offer a Sibling Discount, which subtracts \$50 for each additional child who registers for the production.*
- *For most productions, there will be a script fee associated with your performer's participation in the show. We may include this amount with your registration fee up front, or we may collect it separately. We will clarify this for each production.*
- **Can I earn any of that participation fee back?**
 - *Yes! Families can earn up to \$100 back by volunteering up to 10 hours on the production (1 hour = \$10). Of course, we encourage you to volunteer more than 10 hours, as it takes a village to put on a show. We love that the families of our performers are a vital part of our experience and process. We can't do what we do without you!*
- **Are there other costs associated with being involved in a TMTO production?**
 - *Yes. We ask you to provide your performer(s) with whatever shoes are needed for the show, if we don't already have them in stock; we do our best to find affordable options for you. Of course, you get to keep any shoes you purchase at the end of the show. We also ask you to provide certain makeup items for your performer(s), as they cannot be shared for health/sanitary reasons. Modesty is important to us, and we ask you to supply your own show-specific underclothes as identified by our costume designer. We also offer an optional show t-shirt, which you are welcome to purchase at the time of registration for anyone in your family who wants one!*
- **My family can't afford the participation fee for a TMTO production. Do you offer scholarships?**
 - *Yes! We don't want financial requirements to prevent families from participating in TMTO, so we offer scholarships for every production. If interested, please fill out the show-specific Scholarship Application (available on the TMTO website) and submit it to tmtocraterian.org PRIOR to registering for the production. Additional information and instructions regarding scholarships can be found on the TMTO website as well.*
 - *We are sometimes able to offer scholarships for TMTO classes and other opportunities. These applications will also be available on the TMTO website, as applicable.*
- **How do I register my child for a show?**
 - *Our registration process is all digital. We use a software system to manage and organize all registration details. The link to our registration system is accessible through the TMTO page on the Craterian's website.*
 - *Registration and minimum payment must be submitted prior to auditions; participants will not be able to audition until registration is complete.*
 - *If you're applying for a scholarship, the scholarship application must be submitted and processed by the TMTO office prior to registration. You will be contacted with further instructions after your application has been received and processed.*

- *If you'd prefer not to pay via credit card or e-check, other arrangements can be made; email tmtto@craterian.org.*

- **Are auditions held in a group format, or will my performer(s) be auditioning in a room by themselves?**
 - *Auditions are held in a group format, meaning that all auditionees will be in the room to watch, applaud for, and support each other. We find this can sometimes be easier than auditioning solely for the creative team/audition panel. Our audition environment is professional, yet very supportive and friendly – we want everyone to give their best audition, and we will do everything we can to make sure that happens.*
- **Are auditions and rehearsals open to parents and family?**
 - *Parents and family are allowed to watch auditions from the back of the theater/audition room, but that is the only part of the process that is open for observation (callbacks, rehearsals, and tech week are all closed). We thank you for understanding!*
- **I registered my performer(s) for the show but they can no longer participate. Is there a refund policy?**
 - *If you decide to withdraw your performer(s) from the show, you must do so prior to the callback list being published in order to receive a partial refund of your participation fee (50%). If performer(s) withdraw after the callback list has been published, a refund will not be possible. We believe there are no small parts in the theater, and that every role offers opportunity for growth. We don't want to establish a precedent that it is ok to quit a production if one is unhappy with the casting. Thank you for understanding and for helping us teach your performers about honoring their commitments and respecting the casting process!*
- **My child has been cast in the ensemble. What can we expect about their level of involvement in the show?**
 - *Ensemble members are critical in helping tell stories onstage. We are always looking for ways to include more performers in each of our shows (often, a show is written for 20 or fewer performers, and yet we figure out how to expand them to include 60+ people!). Ensemble members will not be needed at every rehearsal until we reach the final week or two of the rehearsal process. We have a lot of vocals, choreography, and blocking to teach in a condensed period of time, and we have to be very strategic about how it's accomplished. Please know that if it doesn't seem like your performer has many rehearsals, they aren't being left out – we are simply focusing on other aspects of the show.*
 - *Typically, ensemble members will be needed heavily in the first week or so, sporadically in the middle weeks, and heavily in the final weeks. Each performer's rehearsal schedule will vary from day to day and week to week, depending on their role(s) in the show. Our schedules fluctuate quite a bit as we proceed through the rehearsal process, as we have many variables to juggle, including cast conflicts, creative team availability, and a large volume of show material to teach!*
- **My child has been cast in a principal role. What can we expect about their level of involvement in the show?**

- *Principals are typically needed at almost every rehearsal. In fact, we will sometimes add extra rehearsals that aren't listed on the original schedule, in order to produce the best possible show. We understand that this is a big time commitment, but it's necessary to make sure your performer(s) look and sound their best.*
- *Principal performers' schedules will vary from day to day and week to week, depending on their role(s) in the production.*
- **My performer(s) keeps getting cast in the same types of roles. Why is that?**
 - *We do not play favorites in our casting process – our goal is to cast each person in the role they are best suited for and in which they will be the most successful. This also means we will not cast on a rotational basis in order to give everyone a leading role. Our goal is always to produce the most professional, high-quality show, and there are many factors we take into account when casting a production (how each cast member looks, sounds, our perceptions of their work ethic, potential, how cast members look/sound opposite other performers, rehearsal conflicts, etc). We promise that we are always seeking to place your performer(s) in roles that will allow them to shine their brightest – not fail. We ask you to trust us in the casting process, as we have many, many years of collective experience in the industry!*
- **You don't have classes associated with involvement in your productions. Will my performer(s) learn during the process of being in a show?**
 - *Yes - we believe strongly that they will! We believe in learning-by-doing and that our young people learn the fundamentals of being on stage, memorization, self-confidence, how to improve their vocal/dance/acting abilities, teamwork skills, communication skills, collaboration skills, etc. All of our creative team members have professional experience in the arts and related industries and are eager to share what they know.*
- **How do you manage/schedule rehearsal time on a production of this scale?**
 - *It is a challenging undertaking! We do our very best to anticipate our rehearsal needs in advance, but we typically only distribute 1-2 weeks of the rehearsal schedule at a time because the process is so dynamic. We also do our best to alert you with as much advance notice as possible when the schedule changes. We only make adjustments to published rehearsal schedules if we feel convicted that our time would be better used on other aspects of the show. It is a juggling act to get a two-hour musical staged, choreographed, and taught to 60+ young actors in seven weeks' time, and we are grateful for your cooperation and flexibility as we do so. We stick tightly to our posted rehearsal times (we try to never go more than five minutes over the end of rehearsal), but as our process ramps up toward opening night, we sometimes find that we need to extend beyond posted start/end times. We try our best to honor your other commitments and never want to take advantage of your time, but as we near opening night, we want to do everything we can to put on the best production possible. We thank you in advance for trusting us to make these decisions!*
- **I have other questions about TMTO. Who can I contact?**
 - *We'd love to hear from you! Feel free to email tmto@craterian.org or call 541-857-8628.*