

# **Nitsch Theatre Arts, NFP**

## **Parent Information Packet**

Welcome to the Nitsch Theatre Arts family! This packet is full of information that you will need for our Stage Kids and Rising Stars programs. Please keep this packet for your reference. It will also be available on your website at [www.nitschtheatrearts.org](http://www.nitschtheatrearts.org).

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

#### **COMMUNICATION...**

We work very hard to be sure that all communication makes it to our students and their families.

General NTA information can found at our website - [www.nitschtheatrearts.org](http://www.nitschtheatrearts.org) or the Nitsch Theatre Arts NFP Facebook page. Rehearsal, tech week and show times are on the NTA website as soon as they are set which is usually within the first few weeks of the session. We recommend checking the website regularly for any new information.

Rising Stars should join the NTA's Rising Stars Facebook page. Because we have Rising Stars students in all of our 6 locations, this is the best way to keep in touch with everyone.

Specific class information will be sent out by paper notes given in class, through email and through the Remind App. You will receive a paper telling you how to opt-in to Remind for your student's class. We will use the email address you provided when you registered so please be sure that we have an email address that you check regularly. If you do not receive a note, email or Remind notice from us for several weeks, please email us at [info@nitschtheatrearts.org](mailto:info@nitschtheatrearts.org) or come in a talk with us in class because you may be missing important information.

If classes are cancelled due to inclement weather, it will be posted on the Nitsch Theatre Arts, NFP Facebook page. NTA classes will be cancelled if

school is cancelled in the district where classes take place. For example, if Eureka CUSD 140 cancels classes on a Monday, there will be no NTA classes that evening.

If your student is going to be absent, picked up late or in case of an emergency, please text Kelleen at (941)228-4521.

### REHEARSAL MUSIC...

Rehearsal music for both Stage Kids & Rising Stars is available to everyone using Dropbox. We will send out the link at the beginning of the session and new music will be added as it is learned. If you do not have access to Dropbox, please let us know and we will get you a CD.

## **STAGE KIDS**

### AUDITIONS...

Every student who registers for our Stage Kids production is cast in the show. When students come to the first class, everyone goes through an audition process. The instructors teach the students a group number from the show which will consist of both music and choreography. Students who want to be considered for roles with singing solos are then asked to sing a portion of the song they learned for the group. No one is required to sing in front of the group if they are not comfortable. Please note that students who do not choose to do the solo audition will not be considered for parts with singing solos. The cast list is usually presented at the second meeting. This can vary, however, and could take a couple of weeks. Students should always remember that every part in a production is important.

### IN CLASS...

Students should bring their script and a pencil to every class and are expected to make notes. Students should always wear close-toed shoes and there is no gum allowed. Please be aware that all of our class locations are graciously loaned for our use and it is important that students are respectful of our host's property at all times.

### TIME COMMITMENT...

Classes are 45 minutes once a week for 12-14 weeks. Students learn music, dance choreography and scene blocking during class. After a song, dance or scene is taught in class, we need to move on. We do not have time to go back and reteach. Students are expected to practice on their own as needed to retain the material. If your student misses a class, they should contact another student to find out what they missed. Please be aware that students who miss repeated rehearsals may be removed from scenes in the performance.

### CONFLICTS...

NTA is always willing to work around scheduling conflicts so your student can participate in Stage Kids. The exception is tech week and performances which are mandatory for all students. We ask that you make us aware of all conflicts at the beginning of the session or as soon as you are aware of them. Students with significant conflicts should understand that they may be given smaller roles.

### TECH WEEK...

Tech week is a theatre term that refers to the week prior to the opening of a production. This is when set, audio, lighting, costumes and props are added to the production. Prior to this week, students have learned their music, choreography and blocking. At these rehearsals, they put it all together. Often times, there are changes made due to tech issues - for instance, a set piece may be in the way of the blocking so adjustments are made. Tech week is mandatory for all students. Any student missing a tech rehearsal, may be removed from scenes during the performance.

Tech rehearsal times may be listed as TBD when the session starts. Tech week will always be the week prior to the scheduled performance dates and your student may rehearse multiple weekday evenings leading up to the performances. We will update with specific dates and times as soon as possible.

### PERFORMANCE DATES...

Performance dates and times and the number of performances varies depending on cast size, the time of year and availability of the performance space. Performance information is typically set prior to the beginning of the

session. Sometimes it takes more time to confirm locations or adjustments need to be made for class size. In that case, we will let everyone know as soon as possible.

### COSTUMES...

Theatre productions do require that your student have certain items - their "uniform" if you will...

All students need black jazz shoes for performances.



Jazz shoes can be purchased at Payless Shoe Source or online at Discount Dance ([www.discountdance.com](http://www.discountdance.com)) and cost \$20-\$35. We have a vendor for other items including tights and leotards and will be sending home separate forms with that information.

Girls need tan tights and a tan leotard. Boys should have a well fitting undershirt and shorts that can be worn comfortably under costumes. During performances, students will have costume changes. Often times, these take place backstage or in the costume area with other students. It is important that they are able to do these changes comfortably. All students also need black socks that cover above the ankle.

At times, costumes will consist of items that students may have themselves. In that case, we may ask your student to bring something for the show (i.e, blue jeans, black pants, white collared shirt, etc.)

During productions, students will be assigned various costume pieces and props that need to be accessible to them during all performances and kept safe between performances. So, we ask each cast member to have a bin, clearly labeled with their name, to keep at the theatre during the run of the show. This can be plastic bin or a simple cardboard box.

NTA will usually provide the majority of the costumes for the productions. Please be aware that costumes are used by students in performances in 6 different casts. Therefore, costumes are not made specifically for any one student. We often have hundreds of costume pieces to be used by up to 100+ students and cannot check every costume. It is the student's responsibility to let the directors or costumer know if their costume needs to be adjusted.

### TICKETS...

Tickets are purchased through our website - [www.nitschtheatrearts.org](http://www.nitschtheatrearts.org) - using either a Ticket Order Form or PayPal. You may fill out the Ticket Order Form and submit payment to the instructors at rehearsal or by mailing to NTA Treasurer, 314 Parkway Drive, Eureka, IL 61530. Or using PayPal - tickets purchased through PayPal have an added fee of \$1.00. Please choose either the Ticket Order Form OR PayPal, not both, so that orders are not duplicated. Please do not send notes or text messages for ticket orders. Tickets are handled by a parent volunteer who processes hundreds of orders and orders placed outside of the website risk getting lost. Pritchard Theatre has risers so if you order tickets for patrons who cannot do stairs, please make a note on the Ticket Order Form or send an email to [tickets@nitschtheatrearts.org](mailto:tickets@nitschtheatrearts.org). Tickets are assigned first come, first served. Please be aware that if you place separate orders, we cannot guarantee seats will be together. It is common for shows to sell out so we encourage parents to order their tickets early to be sure they are able to see their student perform.

### TSHIRTS...

Show t-shirts are available for every NTA production from our vendor at [www.jcscreenprinting.com](http://www.jcscreenprinting.com) under Exclusive Clientele/NTA-Nitsch Theatre Arts. Shirts will have the show logo on the front and show dates and cast list on the back. The instructors will bring a cast list to class for students to check to verify the spelling of their names. We are not responsible for misspelling if students do not check the list.

### PROGRAM BIOS...

Each student is allowed a 100 word (or less) bio that will appear in their show program. Bios must be emailed to [bios@nitschtheatrearts.org](mailto:bios@nitschtheatrearts.org) by the set due date to be included. You will receive confirmation when your bio is

received. Once the due date has passed, our parent volunteer will no longer check the account so please be sure to get your bio submitted in time.

### SHOW DAYS...

We will announce call times for show days several weeks in advance. Typically, each cast will do a run-through of their show prior to their opening performance. We ask that parents say their goodbyes outside the dressing rooms. Only cast members and NTA staff and volunteers are allowed in the dressing rooms on show days. This is for the safety of all of our students. Please be sure that your child has eaten prior to coming to the theatre for show as there is no eating while in costume.

### **RISING STARS...**

#### GROUP NUMBERS...

Rising Stars from all locations learn group numbers that are performed together. It is important that students learn the numbers and rehearse on their own so they are a cohesive group at performances.

#### SOLOS...

All Rising Stars have the opportunity to perform a solo if they wish. If your student is interested in a solo, they are responsible for getting their requested song approved by the instructors, making it “show ready” and performing it for the group before they are put into a performance line-up. Upbeat songs are preferred.

#### PERFORMANCES...

Rising Stars perform at various community events throughout the year. We will post dates and times of upcoming performances on the NTA's Rising Stars Facebook page for students to let us know if they are available. Rising Stars are not expected to attend every performance, only when they are available. Students should expect to be flexible as the locations, sound systems and number of Rising Stars students is different for every performance. Students should also be aware that if they have a prepared solo, it does not guarantee that they will sing at every performance.

### ATTIRE...

Rising Stars wear our group shirt (available at [www.jcscreenprinting.com](http://www.jcscreenprinting.com) under Exclusive Clientele/NTA - Nitsch Theatre Arts), full-length dark blue jeans, black socks and black jazz shoes.

### TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES...

Our Rising Stars groups have special travel opportunities/performances. These are opportunities and are not required but available. Past travel experiences include Music In The Parks at Universal Studios Orlando in March 2016, Music in The Parks Six Flags St. Louis in April 2017 and New York City in May 2017 to perform on the deck of the USS Intrepid. Information on upcoming travel opportunities will be forwarded as available.