

Aladdin Jr. Q and A

Q: How do auditions work in the Spring Show?

A: In the spring, our focus here at Haven is more on learning and growth, and less on competition. As such, we do not hold traditional auditions for our Spring Show. On the first day of rehearsal, our show isn't cast yet. The students learn a dance as a group, play theatre games, and learn a few songs from the show. They are given the opportunity to sing a short solo from the show, especially if they would like to be considered for a lead. Our staff members observe closely during the first day of rehearsal, watching for confidence, perseverance, projection, and skill level.

This Spring we will be adding a callback date to our audition schedule. Callbacks will be invite only.

Q: What is a "Parent Volunteer Requirement"?

A: Requiring parents to volunteer in our program achieves two big goals for us here at Haven. First, parent volunteers help us to keep our program affordable. Every time a parent volunteers, those are funds that Haven saves on hiring an outside party and is able to put towards other expenses. These dollars saved allow Haven to keep tuition low, and to continue to offer scholarships to any student in need. Secondly, we believe that having parents involved in their child's program is important. It allows parents to see what their kids are up to, and teaches our students, through role modeling, that it's important to work together to make a show happen.

Each family must sign up for 4 Volunteer Slots, one of which MUST be either Load In or Set Strike.

Q: How is the Spring Production different than the Fall or Summer Shows?

A: Springtime is one our favorite times here at Haven because of the uniqueness of our Spring Shows. Each spring, we separate the age groups and do two complete casts of Elementary Schoolers, and two complete casts of Jr. Highers. We do the same show with both age groups, with the same script, costume design, and lighting. Our choreographers use similar routines with both the Elementary school casts and the Jr. High casts, with modifications based on the skill level of each age group. We have two tech weeks, two performance weekends, and two very wonderful, talented age groups!

Q: Why do you separate out the age groups?

A: Although we deeply value intergenerational friendships here at Haven, our Spring Show is the time that we allow our younger generation to have a show that is "just theirs". The Spring Show is designed to place our more experienced young students in lead roles by eliminating the competition of the older teenagers. We also want to provide an opportunity for students new to the stage to begin their journey with a production catered to their age group and developmental level. We divide our age groups completely; the Elementary Schoolers only rehearse and perform with other Elementary Schoolers, and the Jr. Highers only rehearse and perform with other Jr. Highers. The age groups have entirely independent rehearsal hours, tech weeks, and performances. We find that by separating the two age groups, we create an environment where each cast is challenged to grow.

...How does this benefit my Elementary Schooler?

Our Elementary Schoolers, who are more often than not cast as ensemble in our fall productions, have the opportunity to compete for a lead in our Spring Show because they aren't auditioning against an 18 year old (or even a 13 year old, for that matter!). Not only does this give our younger generation a chance to grow in theatrical skills, it gives them permission to truly take ownership of their show. Sometimes Elementary School

aged cast members aren't given enough credit; how can they carry a full production by themselves?! Come see the show- you will be amazed and impressed at what these young performers are capable of.

...How does this benefit my Jr. Higher?

The Spring Show is the only production annually where you will see a cast consisting of only Jr. Highers. We find that it is important at Haven to give this age group a chance to separate from the rest of the crowd as they often get stuck in between (they aren't cute, adorable kidlets anymore, but they aren't confident, skilled, young adult performers yet, either). To have their own space and their own cast has proven to be invaluable- we see so much progress in our Jr. Highers, both as performers and people, during the spring. Suddenly *they* have to be the dance captains, *they* have to carry the solo, *they* have to demonstrate proper backstage etiquette. It can be a bit intimidating, but when there aren't any older teens to fall back on, we find that our Jr. Highers ALWAYS rise to the occasion.

Q: But, I have a 5th grader and an 8th grader. Can't my 5th grader just join the Jr. High cast so that I don't have to drive here twice a week? She's almost in Jr. High, anyway...

A: Based on our experience with past Spring Shows, we believe an uncompromising divide between our age groups for this one show is the best thing for your child, and that your child will have a better experience in his or her own age group. Although we are fully aware that separating the age groups so stringently can present scheduling problems, we ask that each child joins his or her age appropriate cast. We are extremely protective of the way we divide our age groups in the spring, not because we are mean sticklers, but because we want to shield the special environment that comes along with separate casting. With such small age groups in each cast, the choreography and blocking becomes highly specified for that particular age group. Even one year above or below makes a difference when the entire cast is in Jr. High. Our Elementary School cast members need to know that they won't be competing against a 6th grader, and our Jr. High cast members needs to know that their unique teen environment won't be interrupted by having a 3rd grader at all rehearsals. We love when siblings work together, but we also understand that it's important for kids to have their own space every now and then without big brother leading the way or little sister tagging along.

Q: How often will my child be called to rehearsal?

A: K-5th Graders will be called to rehearsal every Tuesday from 4:00-6:30, while Jr. Highers will be called to rehearsal every Thursday from 4:00-6:30. There will be some Saturday rehearsals where select leads will be called. As the show gets closer, more cast members will be called to those Saturday rehearsals. The week before performances, all actors will be called to tech and dress rehearsals during their Tech Week.

Q: Are there any sneaky additional fees besides tuition?

A: The tuition fee will cover everything your child needs to be in the show, including costumes. The only items you will be required to provide are a few personal items: shoes, tights/undergarments, and base make-up. All other additional purchases are optional (cast t-shirt, tech week dinners, memory or performance DVDs, etc.). Please keep in mind that each family is required to sell 10 tickets, and some families do prefer to budget this into the cost of doing a production here at Haven.