

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Where can I find information about this program?**

Online: <https://oneida.extension.wisc.edu/theater/>. For further questions, email [apwilliams@wisc.edu](mailto:apwilliams@wisc.edu) or call 715-365-2750.

### **How many children can be in the cast?**

This production was written to incorporate between 50-60 school-age children.

### **What are the ages that can participate?**

The youngest participants must be entering 1st grade to be eligible to participate. This production is written for youth entering grades 1-12.

### **Who is the Presenting Organization?**

[Oneida County 4-H](#) is the Presenting Organization. Additional sponsors and community partners include the [Rhineland Community Foundation](#), [Culver's in Rhineland](#), and [Nicolet College](#).

### **How much does it cost to participate?**

The cost to participate is \$40/participant. Online payment, cash or check will be accepted. Checks can be made out to "[Oneida County 4-H Leaders' Association](#)" and mailed to **UW-Extension Oneida County, Nicolet Campus, PO BOX 518, Rhineland, WI 54501**. Payment is due before the auditions on Monday, July 21, 2025. If your child is not cast in the musical, simply stop by the registration table after the group audition, and we will return back your cash or check (or if you paid online, we will issue a refund by cash). If your family is in need of financial assistance in order for a youth to participate, please email Anne Williams at [apwilliams@wisc.edu](mailto:apwilliams@wisc.edu) or call 715-365-2750.

We will be implementing a new pay scale this year. The cost to participate per youth is \$40, which is the minimum payment amount; however, in order to ensure we can continue to run this program every year, we need help from the community and families! Oneida County 4-H is a non-profit organization with a limited budget for programming, we rely heavily on community grants and the gracious giving from local organizations and families. Oneida County 4-H has been utilizing local grants to fund the program, which is not a sustainable option moving forward. We humbly ask for your help to keep this program running each year. If you are willing and have the capacity to pay more than the base fee of \$40, please consider donating extra (any amount helps) when submitting payment. We are so very thankful and appreciative to have the opportunity to put on this program and of everyone involved in its success! Thank you!

### **Why is there a fee to participate in this program?**

There are several expenses associated with putting this program on. The fee for an MCT actor/director team/set/costumes is \$3,800. In addition, there are fees for a piano accompanist, show recording and licensure, and facilities. Thanks to financial support from the Oneida County 4-H Leaders' Association and the Rhineland Community Foundation, we are able to keep participant fees lower than the actual participant cost.

### **When should I arrive to the group audition?**

**The group audition will be held from 8-10 a.m. Monday, July 21, at the Lakeside Center on Nicolet College campus.** If you have already pre-registered online, **please arrive at least 10 minutes before the group audition begins.** If you have not pre-registered, you will want to **arrive at least 20 minutes before the group audition begins.** This will give you enough time to get checked in and create a nametag.

### **How long is the group audition?**

The group audition lasts two full hours. Each child who attends the audition will need to be present for the entire two hours.

### **Should the students prepare anything for the group audition?**

The group audition is a 2-hour process at which all children who are interested in being cast must attend for the entire time. No advance preparation is necessary, but a SMILE 😊 never hurts at an audition. They should be ready to come and have a good time!

The Missoula Children's Theatre's team of actor/directors will guide the children through the audition process with easy-to-follow instructions on basic movement, lines and song. There is no limit to the number of children who may audition and every child at the audition has an equal chance of being cast. If more than 50 children audition, it is possible that not all of the children auditioning will receive a part. The actor/directors try to make sure that no one is singled out while doing their best to ensure that everyone leaves with a positive feeling.

At the end of the two-hour audition, the cast will be announced, and each cast member will receive a rehearsal schedule for the week.

We rehearse a total of 4 ¼ hours each day, two-2 hour sessions with a short snack break in-between. Although not all cast members are needed at every session, those auditioning must have a clear schedule for the entire week, and if selected, be able to attend all rehearsals required for their role. The schedule will be handed to cast members after the group audition on MONDAY, and will then be posted online

here: <https://oneida.extension.wisc.edu/theater/>

### **My child can't make the auditions - can they still be in the show?**

If a child is not able to audition, unfortunately, they will not be able to participate in the show. The 2-hour audition is the time when the team is able to assess the abilities of the children auditioning, which in turn helps them to cast the child in the role that is just right for them.

### **My child doesn't want to act on stage. Is there anything else he or she can do?**

During the audition, up to 4 Assistant Directors (ADs) ages 10 and older are selected to help teach and direct the show early in the week and take on technical responsibilities at performance time. Their logistical help and creative ideas are a vital part of our process and the experience of the ADs can be just as valuable as that of any cast member. Anyone wishing to be an Assistant Director must take part in the audition session. It is a

common misconception that junior high and high school students can only be involved in an AD capacity. Please note that there are roles in the show designed for older students as well. **If your child wants to be an AD, please let the check-in table know right away and they will inform the actor/directors.**

### **What if my child is not cast in the show?**

The quality of experience that the Missoula Children's Theatre wants each child to receive is one of its main reasons for limiting the number of children that can be in the show. While some towns may have 15 children audition, others will have as many as 300 or more. With only one week and two directors there just isn't enough time and manpower to accommodate such a situation. Over the last 37 years of touring, the Missoula Children's Theatre has found there are a maximum number of children that two directors can teach well in one week. If more kids are added, at any age level, the directors become spread too thin and therefore are unable to give the appropriate amount of individual attention to the children to make each child's personal experience safe, positive and successful.

Auditions are a subjective process and do not always seem fair. With many students auditioning for a limited number of roles, the decisions of the Tour Actor/Directors are not easy. This is admittedly the most difficult aspect of their job. How one reacts to disappointment is a tremendous test of character. **Children will look to parents and guardians as an example of how to react. Compliment them for their efforts and for taking a risk auditioning for the show! All youth who audition will receive a certificate and a treat!**

### **When are rehearsals conducted?**

Rehearsals are 4 ¼ hours each day and consist of two 2-hour blocks of time with a 15-minute snack break between the two sessions for those cast members involved in both sessions. It's important to note that not all cast members are involved in every rehearsal session. Each child's schedule for the week is dependent on the role in which they're cast. Schedules will be handed out to cast members after the group audition on MONDAY, and then a schedule will also be posted online here: <https://oneida.extension.wisc.edu/theater/>

### **Are snacks provided?**

Families will need to provide healthy snacks for their children during the week of the Youth Summer Theater Program. There will be a designated table at the Lakeside Center where youth will store their snacks/water bottles.

### **Who are the actor/directors?**

A team of two adult professional Actor/Directors with the Missoula Children's Theatre will be visiting Rhinelander for the week. These individuals are typically college graduates with training in either education, theatre, musical theatre or a combination. During their week-long residencies throughout the continent and beyond, MCT Tour Actor/Directors serve as ambassadors for the arts; especially the performing arts. They have the joy of directing and performing as well as the adventure of travel. Simply put, they have the opportunity and the privilege to change the lives of thousands of young people by carrying out MCT's Mission.

### **Do the Actor/Directors have background checks?**

Yes. The Missoula Children's Theatre takes their hiring practices very seriously. Each individual on our touring staff goes through interviews, reference checks, criminal background checks and fingerprinting – both background checks and fingerprinting are completed by a nationally recognized company. In addition, Oneida County Extension/4-H staff and volunteers have also received background screening through UW-Madison and Oneida County.

### **How long is the show?**

The show is approximately 60-70 minutes in length – there is no intermission.

### **How much are tickets to the show?**

There is no cost to view the show! Please consider donating to Oneida County 4-H to help fund positive youth development programs like this one in Oneida County. The true cost of the summer theater program is more than \$5,000, but thanks to donations and support, we are able to lower the cost per child to participate. Your donations to 4-H stay local and help local youth and teens. Donations can be made via cash or check. Checks may be written out to "Oneida County 4-H Leaders' Association."

### **What happens if my child gets sick during the week?**

We understand that illness may occur during the week and the Tour Team will try their best to accommodate a missed rehearsal due to an illness. However, due to the short timeframe the cast has to prepare for the performance, if your child is out for more than one day it may be not be possible for them to still participate in the role that they were cast.

### **Supervision**

- **During Designated Rehearsal Times and Snack Time:** Participants will be under the supervision of the Missoula Children's Theatre Inc. Actor/Directors.
- **Before or After Designated Rehearsal Times:** Parents and guardians will be responsible for supervision of their child.

Oneida County 4-H DOES NOT provide supervision outside of audition, rehearsal times, and designated snack times. Youth who only have rehearsals from 8-10 a.m. throughout the week will need to be picked up by a parent/guardian (or approved pick-up person) by 10:15 a.m. Please review your child's rehearsal schedule when they receive it on Monday, July 21 to see when they have rehearsals and when they will need to be picked up.

### **Can parents/guardians/siblings watch rehearsals?**

All of the rehearsals are open to participants, parents, and family members. Be aware, however, that it may be fun for the students to surprise their parents at the end of the week by showing what they have accomplished! Please understand that we cannot allow guests to disrupt the rehearsals. Productive rehearsals depend on the focused work of the cast members involved.

### **How much are show T-shirts?**

The Missoula Children's Theatre tour team will be selling show T-shirts during the week and the team will let parents know how much they will cost.

### **Can I purchase a DVD/Flash Drive of the performance?**

During performances, flash photography and video recording is not allowed. 4-H is contracting with Nate Sheppard Media to professionally record the performance. The Oneida County 4-H Leaders' Association will be selling DVDs, Flash Drives (USBs), or digital links before and after the performance on Saturday. Cash/check accepted. When the DVDs/flash drives are ready for pick-up, they will be shipped. Checks may be written out to "Oneida County 4-H Leaders' Association."

### **Can I take photos during the performances?**

Flash photography is not allowed during the performances, HOWEVER there will be a time for photos immediately following the show! The actor/directors will arrange the cast members for photos after each show!

### **How will my child benefit from this experience?**

- An opportunity to try something new or to challenge yourself!
- An opportunity to gain life skills like creativity, communication, decision-making, problem solving, caring for others, and making healthy choices!
- A way to build self-esteem, confidence, and resiliency!
- A chance to meet two professional actor/directors!
- A chance to meet new friends!
- To be with other people who might share your interests!

[Oneida County 4-H](#) is partnering with the [Missoula Children's Theatre](#) to expand access through diversity, equity and inclusion, nurturing developmental relationships among young people and through youth-adult partnerships, and offering opportunities for civic engagement and leadership. The primary goal of the Missoula Children's Theatre is the development of life skills in children through participation in the performing arts. 4-H's mission is to empower youth to reach their full potential working and learning in partnership with caring adults.

**THANK YOU TO OUR PROGRAM SPONSORS!!!**

