

RISING HEIGHTS YOUTH THEATER

AUDITION INFORMATION & MATERIALS

Welcome, Young Performers!

We are so excited that you are interested in auditioning with Rising Heights Youth Theater!

Auditions are an opportunity for us to get to know each performer, see what makes them unique, and discover how they might fit into our production. We are looking for performers who are willing to try, have fun, listen to direction, and work together as an ensemble.

Prior theater experience is not required. We recognize that children come to auditions with different levels of experience, confidence, and training. Our goal is to create an encouraging environment where each young performer has an opportunity to grow.

You do not have to be perfect! Come prepared, be yourself, and most importantly—have fun! Auditions can feel exciting, scary, or maybe a little bit of both—and that's completely normal!

Remember that there is no single "right" way to audition. We want to see **who you are as a performer**, not a perfect performance.

BEFORE YOUR AUDITION

Please review the audition materials for your performer's age group and practice the assigned material before audition day.

Please remember:

- Performers should arrive on time and ready to participate.
- Please wear comfortable clothing that allows for movement.
- Performers should bring a water bottle if needed.
- Memorization is encouraged for the prepared audition material.
- Performers should be prepared to sing without accompaniment if necessary.
- We may ask performers to repeat a section or try something a different way.
- If the directing team would like to see an additional reading or cold read, we will provide the material at the audition.

Most importantly: Don't stress! We want our audition environment to be encouraging, welcoming, and fun.

FOR PARENTS & GUARDIANS

Please help your child prepare by:

- Reviewing the audition materials together
- Helping them practice, but allowing them to make the performance their own
- Encouraging them to get a good night's sleep
- Arriving on time

- Reminding them that auditions are an opportunity to have fun and meet other young performers

Please avoid:

- Comparing your child to other performers
- Putting pressure on your child to "get a part"
- Coaching them from the audience
- Treating casting as a measure of their talent or worth

Auditions are about finding the right role/placement, **not simply deciding who is "good enough"**.

Casting decisions consider the needs of the production and the ensemble, please refrain from interpreting casting as a judgment of your child's ability.

AGES 6–8

Your Audition Includes:

Part 1. "Slate Monologue"

Please prepare the following introduction. Performers should say the lines with a **bright, happy smile**:

Hello! My name is _____, I am _____ years old, and my favorite color is _____!

Tip: We are looking for a clear voice, a big smile, confidence, and personality.

Part 2. "Hard Knock Life"

Performers will be asked to sing the **first 17 seconds** of "Hard Knock Life."

Performance Version

<https://youtu.be/VTj2CtfpIKM?is=TNitQdhZSQUzUoTK>

Lyrics

It's a hard knock life, for us
It's a hard knock life, for us
Insteada treated, we get tricked
Insteada kisses, we get kicked
It's a hard knock life!

Tip: Practice singing the words clearly and with energy. Don't worry about sounding exactly like the recording—show us your personality!

AGES 9–11

Your Audition Includes:

Part 1. Choose ONE Monologue

Choose **one** of the following to perform! Anything in () is suggestions on emotions for the line!

Annie:

(Hopefully) My Mom and Dad left this locket when they left me at the Orphanage. They're coming back for me. I know I'm really lucky, being here with you for Christmas. (Sadly) But... the one thing I want in all the world... (Starting to cry) is to find my mother and father.

Pepper:

(Grouchy) Can't anybody get any sleep around here? Don't feel sorry for HER. We're the one's who aint getting any sleep! (Annoyed) And quit telling me to pipe down. You're just beggin' for a black eye pal!

Part 2. "Tomorrow"

Performers will be asked to sing the **first 1:08** of "Tomorrow."

Performance Version

https://youtu.be/HZq-G6wEH6k?is=HsCB2-jDE_1gi0JK

Karaoke / Instrumental Version

<https://youtu.be/eyidCwShXjA?is=EBY8e9rREXhKi4-e>

Lyrics

The sun'll come out, Tomorrow
Bet your bottom dollar that tomorrow
There'll be sun
Just thinking about, Tomorrow
Clears away the cobwebs and the sorrow
Till there's none!
When I'm stuck with a day, that's grey, and lonely
I just stick up my chin, and grin and say- Oh!
The Sun'll come out, tomorrow
So you gotta hang on till tomorrow, come what may!
Tomorrow, tomorrow I love ya tomorrow you're always a day away!

Tip: Your child does not need to memorize everything perfectly. We are looking for confidence, willingness to participate, creativity, listening skills, and the ability to work as part of an ensemble.

AGES 12–18

Your Audition Includes:

Part 1. Choose ONE Monologue

Choose **one of the following monologues**, preferably based on the character you would most like to be considered for. The character descriptions are provided to help you understand the personality and energy of each role. You do not need to say the descriptions aloud. If the casting team would like to see an additional cold read, we will provide a printed copy of the additional piece at the audition.

Grace: sweet, soft tempered, kind and organized secretary

Good afternoon, Miss Hannigan is it? Oh, good. I'm Grace Farrell and the New York City board of orphans suggested that— Miss Hannigan, I'm sorry but I don't have the slightest idea about this run-away that you're talking about. I'm not peddling anything. I'm the private secretary to Oliver Warbucks. Mr. Warbucks has decided to invite an orphan to spend the Christmas holidays at his home. I'm here to select one!

Warbucks: Bold, strong, take charge millionaire

(Returning home from a long trip, addressing his staff)

Where is everybody? It's good to be home. The flight wasn't bad. It took eleven hours and we only had to land four times. Now, first thing's first. Has the painting arrived from Paris? Let me see it before they hang it. Hmm, No, I don't think so. Any messages? The president? I'll get back to him tomorrow. Anyone else? All right, good to see you all again. Grace, if you'll get your notebook and -- Who is that? The orphan? But that's not a boy. Orphans are supposed to be boys.

Miss Hannigan: exhausted, bitter orphanage leader

Ah ha! Caught ya! I hear ya! I always hear ya! Get Up! All of ya! Well, is this the way you say good-Morning? I know it's 4 O'clock in the morning. That's Your problem. Now what do you say? What do you Say? Tell me how much you love me. Rotten orphans! You kids in here, get up! Put them things away. For this One's shenanigans you'll scrub the floors and strip the beds for the laundry man. Rise and shine!

Rooster: Sleazy con man

This is gonna be the best bunco job ever, Aggie. I know a guy outta jail who can doctor up a fake birth certificate or any other papers you want. But we need your help, Sis, for details about Annie that can help us pull this thing off. But we gotta do it fast, Aggie. Give 'em some of the old Rooster razzle-dazzle. In and out. Two-three minutes at the most. Get the money, get the kid and get outta town.

Lily: Rooster's girlfriend, snooty and sneaky

I'm Lily St. Regis from Jersey City. You know, like the hotel. I'm named after it! So you live in this dump?

The city may foot your bill but This aint exactly Buckingham Palace. Your pearls aint even Real. Rooster, I thought you said your big sis was livin' in Clover? She's livin' in the skids.

Officer Higgins:

Hey, you, little girl. Come over here. That dog There,

haven't I seen him running around the neighborhood? Ain't he a stray? You say he's your Dog? Hmmm? So what's his name? Sandy, huh? O.K. let's see him answer to his name. Call him by His name, Sandy. CALL HIM. Maybe he is your dog, but the next time I want to see him with a leash and a license, understand?

Part 2. Choose ONE Song

Choose **one** of the following songs to prepare. Whenever possible, please use the preferred performance version to become familiar with the song, and practice with the karaoke/instrumental version if you would like accompaniment while preparing.

“Little Girls” (this version is preferred!)

https://youtu.be/JKkfhNUEueY?is=mi5-yFUJDF_0irxN

Karaoke (instrumental) version

https://youtu.be/qBU2_KjQLSE?is=Gf-SSrE3iAe6gHsS

“I don’t need anything but you”

https://youtu.be/uBE_6hVMDZ0?is=4vo-yIAJI14XZKEf

Karaoke (instrumental) version

<https://youtu.be/NU8AGgW5tV4?feature=shared>

“Easy Street”

<https://youtu.be/NU8AGgW5tV4?feature=shared>

Karaoke (instrumental) version

<https://youtu.be/Mgvscv7jZFI?is=YiKds1Suwl-Po0WY>

A Note for Our Older Performers

For this age group, we are interested in seeing **character, confidence, vocal ability, acting choices, and the ability to take direction**. You do not need to imitate the actor from the recording. We want to see **your interpretation of the character**.

During the audition, you may be asked to:

- Perform your monologue again with a different direction
- Read an additional scene
- Sing a portion of your selected song
- Work with another performer
- Participate in a short cold read

Come prepared, be confident, and don't be afraid to make a strong choice!