



## AUDITION PACKET

Saturday, January 21st, 2012  
12:00pm - 4:00pm

Callbacks  
4:30pm - 7:30pm



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## [INSTRUCTIONS]

Please fill out pages 6-19 and be sure to bring with them with you to your audition along with a color photo of yourself (note: photo will not be returned). If you have not yet reserved an audition time please do so on our website.

Please read all of the letters and if you have any questions feel free to contact us via email at [Auditions@littlevillageplayhouse.com](mailto:Auditions@littlevillageplayhouse.com) or call 914-747-6206.



# WELCOME LETTER

Welcome to Little Village Playhouse Auditions!

If you are new to LVP, we are glad you are here. If you are an LVP veteran, welcome back!

## **LVP Musical Theatre Workshop Mission:**

At LVP, we endeavor to challenge students, in the fifth grade and up, to grow as actors, musicians, singers, dancers—as artists—by immersing them in the world of theatre with the objective of building a professional quality show. Students will work with professional actors, directors, music directors, choreographers, and often writers. They will learn how to work as part of an ensemble, as well as be motivated to push their individual artistic and emotional boundaries within the material. Classes in Theatre Games, On Camera Techniques, Mask, and others will be given to augment the rehearsal process. There may also be a student produced Revue for which students would be encouraged to perform a song of their own choosing. Our objective is to create an environment where everyone feels safe to express themselves, as unique individuals and as the characters they are creating on stage. We are not about building stars; we are here to train actors and to instill self-confidence and a respect for the world of theatre.

Most importantly, we are doing all of this hard work (and the students will work hard and sometimes long hours) for the joy of it. There is pride in their accomplishment and lots of fun throughout the rehearsal process!

## **The Audition:**

The students are auditioning for Adam Cohen (Executive Director), Stephanie Kovacs Cohen (Artistic Director), Galit Sperling (Director of Education), Amy Schiff (Musical Director), Jocelyn Jones (Choreographer), Marcus Baker (Musical Director), and Jeff Raab (Director). Any other people in the room are affiliated artistically with LVP.

The audition consists of one monologue and one song. Each should be 1 minute in length. These should be memorized and acted to the best of your ability. Please do not use any of us as your acting partner—pick a spot over our heads on which to focus.

We may or may not cut you off in the middle of your pieces. We do this for time purposes or to give you a note to see how you take direction.



### **After the Audition:**

Students needed at callbacks will come back from 4:30 to 7:30PM to read sides and sing music from the shows.

If you are not needed at callbacks, you may still be cast in the shows.

### **What next:**

Casting lists will be posted on the web at [littlevillageplayhouse.com](http://littlevillageplayhouse.com) by **Tuesday, January 24th**. Once the cast lists are up, please fill out an Online Registration Form!

If we don't hear from you in a timely manner, we will redistribute your role. Rehearsal information and show dates will be posted—make sure you mark your calendars and come to rehearsal on time! Rehearsals for the Theatre Workshop (8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades) take place at Little Village Playhouse, 42 Memorial Plaza from 5:15-9:15 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays depending on the show in which you are cast. Tween program (5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> grades) rehearsals will take place from 3:30-6:00 on Mondays or Wednesdays, depending on the show in which you are cast.

There will be added and extended rehearsals throughout the process with extended rehearsals everyday during Tech week.

Once again, Welcome to LVP! We are very excited about this upcoming season and we are thrilled that you want to be a part of it!

– Adam Cohen and Stephanie Kovacs Cohen

\*LVP also offers weekly classes in musical theatre to students from Kindergarten through fourth grades.



# AUDITION SHEET / THEATRE WORKSHOP

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Student Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Parent E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Grade level \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Cell \_\_\_\_\_

SONG \_\_\_\_\_

MONOLOGUE \_\_\_\_\_

Please list your special skills (i.e. gymnastics, juggling, skating/blading).

Do you play an instrument? (If so, which instrument and how well?)

What is your greatest strength and weakness?

What is the most important thing to you in your life?



## SCHEDULING

This semester, we are instituting a new way of coordinating your schedules and theatre space/show schedules with our casting choices. Below, we have listed:

- \*Rehearsal days (Monday - Friday)
- \*Added weekend rehearsal schedules (each show will have 3-5 chosen from the list provided)
- \*Possible Tech week/Performance schedules.

Please note that we have listed five show/performance options. **WE ARE NOT PRODUCING FIVE SHOWS.** We simply have the luxury of keeping our show date options open.

We need you to mark your conflicts for **EVERY DATE LISTED**. As well as list all specific conflicts. During casting, we will take your conflicts into consideration, not only in casting the shows, but in determining which set of performance dates we will use.

Your conflicts greatly decide the outcome of how these shows are cast. Please write down **EVERY POSSIBLE GLIMMER OF A CONFLICT** so that we can do our best to make all of the schedules work.



## CONFLICT SHEET

1) Please circle all of the days you are available to rehearse from 5:15PM to 9:15PM (3:30PM to 6:00PM if you are in the 5th through 7th grade program) on a weekly basis. If you can only be at a part of a rehearsal, please list when you can be there.

*(Teen workshop will most likely rehearse Tuesdays or Wednesdays from 5:15 to 9:15. However, please fill out conflicts for each day.)*

*(Applicants for the Tween program should fill this out even though the Tween Program rehearsals will take place on Mondays or Wednesdays from 3:30 to 6:00.)*

MONDAY      TUESDAY      WEDNESDAY      THURSDAY      FRIDAY

2) Use the space below to list any specific (one time) conflicts you have during the months of January through June (i.e. Tuesday, December 4th). Please do this carefully as it will affect casting. Once the shows are cast we will expect you to be at all rehearsals not listed below (including holiday weeks), so list them all. This includes: chorus concerts, band concerts, vacations, other shows, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, etc. Please take the time to be as detailed as possible.

### **Specific Conflicts**



3) Put an 'X' next to all weekend, tech and pre-tech week rehearsals that are a conflict. If a portion of a particular rehearsal is a conflict, please write down the times you will be in attendance. Please include all school concert conflicts.

Participating in an LVP Workshop is a considerable time commitment.

We expect our actors to take it seriously and to make it a priority.

Be honest when you put down your conflicts but realize that the more conflicts you have the less likely you are to be given more material or a larger role.



**SCHEDULE • ADDED WEEKEND REHEARSALS**

*Each show (5-7 grade and 8-12 grade programs) will have 3 to 5 added rehearsals on weekends)  
(Please list all of your conflicts for weekend rehearsals below.)*

DATE	TIME	CONFLICTS
2/11 (sat)	12:00-5:00	
2/12 (sun)	12:00-5:00	
2/12 (sun)	5:00-9:00	
2/18 (sat)	12:00-5:00	
2/19 (sun)	12:00-5:00	
2/19 (sun)	5:00-9:00	
2/25 (sat)	12:00-5:00	
2/26 (sun)	12:00-5:00	
2/26 (sun)	5:00-9:00	
3/3 (sat)	12:00-5:00	
3/4 (sun)	12:00-5:00	
3/4 (sun)	5:00-9:00	
3/10 (sat)	12:00-5:00	
3/11 (sun)	12:00-5:00	
3/11 (sun)	5:00-9:00	
3/17 (sat)	12:00-5:00	
3/18 (sun)	12:00-5:00	
3/18 (sun)	5:00-9:00	
3/24 (sat)	12:00-5:00	
3/25 (sun)	12:00-5:00	
3/25 (sun)	5:00-9:00	
4/14 (sat)	12:00-5:00	
4/15 (sun)	12:00-5:00	
4/15 (sun)	5:00-9:00	
4/21 (sat)	12:00-5:00	
4/22 (sun)	12:00-5:00	
4/22 (sun)	5:00-9:00	
5/5 (sat)	12:00-5:00	
5/6 (sun)	12:00-5:00	
5/6 (sun)	5:00-9:00	
5/12 (sat)	12:00-5:00	
5/19 (sat)	12:00-5:00	



## SCHEDULE • TECH WEEKS/PERFORMANCES

*This includes the week prior to tech week.*

### POSSIBLE SHOW 1

(note: Tweens will not have this full of a tech schedule, but please put down all conflicts so we can choose our 3 tech rehearsals correctly)

#### PRE-TECH WEEK CONFLICTS

5/15 (tues) 5:15-9:15

5/16 (wed) 5:15-9:15

5/17 (thurs) 5:15-9:15

#### TECH WEEK

5/20 (sun) 12:00-5:00

5/21 (mon) 5:00-9:15

5/22 (tues) 5:00-9:15

5/23 (wed) 5:00-9:15

5/24 (thurs) 5:00-9:15

5/25 (fri) 5:00-9:15

#### PERFORMANCES

5/26 (sat) 11AM CALL 2PM SHOW

5/27 (sun) 6PM CALL 8PM SHOW



## SCHEDULE • TECH WEEKS/PERFORMANCES

*This includes the week prior to tech week.*

### POSSIBLE SHOW 2

#### PRE-TECH WEEK CONFLICTS

5/14 (mon) 5:15-9:15

5/16 (wed) 5:15-9:15

5/18 (fri) 5:15-9:15

#### TECH WEEK

5/20 (sun) 5:00-9:00

5/21 (mon) 5:00-9:15

5/22 (tues) 5:00-9:15

5/23 (wed) 5:00-9:15

5/24 (thurs) 5:00-9:15

5/25 (fri) 5:00-9:15

#### PERFORMANCES

5/26 (sat) 5PM CALL 8PM SHOW

5/27 (sun) 12PM CALL 2PM SHOW



## SCHEDULE • TECH WEEKS/PERFORMANCES

*This includes the week prior to tech week.*

### POSSIBLE SHOW 3

#### PRE-TECH WEEK CONFLICTS

5/22 (tues) 5:15-9:15

5/23 (wed) 5:15-9:15

5/24 (thurs) 5:15-9:15

#### TECH WEEK

5/27 (sun) 5:00 – 9:00

5/28 (mon) 5:00-9:15

5/29 (tues) 5:00-9:15

5/30 (wed) 5:00-9:15

5/31 (thurs) 5:00-9:15

6/1 (fri) 5:00-9:15

#### PERFORMANCES

6/2 (sat) 5PM CALL 8PM SHOW

6/3 (sun) 12PM CALL 2PM SHOW



## SCHEDULE • TECH WEEKS/PERFORMANCES

*This includes the week prior to tech week.*

### POSSIBLE SHOW 4

#### PRE-TECH WEEK CONFLICTS

5/21 (mon) 5:15-9:15

5/23 (wed) 5:15-9:15

5/25 (fri) 5:15-9:15

#### TECH WEEK

5/27 (sun) 12:00-5:00

5/28 (mon) 5:00-9:15

5/29 (tues) 5:00-9:15

5/30 (wed) 5:00-9:15

5/31 (thurs) 5:00-9:15

6/1 (fri) 5:00-9:15

#### PERFORMANCES

6/2 (sat) 11AM CALL 2PM SHOW

6/3 (sun) 6PM CALL 8PM SHOW



## SCHEDULE • TECH WEEKS/PERFORMANCES

*This includes the week prior to tech week.*

### POSSIBLE SHOW 5

#### PRE-TECH WEEK CONFLICTS

5/29 (tues) 5:15-9:15

5/30 (wed) 5:15-9:15

5/31 (thurs) 5:15-9:15

#### TECH WEEK

6/3 (sun) 12:00-5:00

6/4 (mon) 5:00-9:15

6/5 (tues) 5:00-9:15

6/6 (wed) 5:00-9:15

6/7 (thurs) 5:00-9:15

6/8 (fri) 5:00-9:15

#### PERFORMANCES

6/9 (sat) 5PM CALL 8PM SHOW

6/10 (sun) 6PM CALL 8PM SHOW



## LVP POLICY STATEMENT

### Please read and sign at the bottom

Our goal at Little Village Playhouse is to create a piece of theatre through collaboration and ensemble work. While there will always be parts of different sizes, in ensemble theatre we are all of equal importance. There may be a wide range of ages in any particular cast. This can be a positive thing. If you are not comfortable with this please take that into consideration before you decide to audition for the workshop.

The following are a list of policies, please read them and sign the bottom of this form.

- 1) Your behavior in class must be in sync with the goals we have. We are here to learn about all aspects of theatre, from the shows we do, the games we play and from each other. It is fun and definitely has aspects of socialization within it, but ultimately you are not here to hang out and chat.
- 2) When the show gets closer it is inevitable that some people will have what we call 'down time'. This is periods of time where not everyone is active in rehearsal. At this time you may do homework or read. At no other time during the rehearsal process are you to do other work.
- 3) Our absence policy is as follows: Everyone is to hand in a schedule with his or her conflicts checked off. After that you are allowed three other excused absences before we will ask you to not participate in class anymore. You should not miss any rehearsals during the two weeks prior to the show. Any missed rehearsal that is not listed on your conflict sheet (except for family emergency or illness) is considered an unexcused absence. For every unexcused absence, we will assign LVP Community Service Hours, during which you will be required to come to LVP to help with administrative or production needs. In the case of family emergency or extreme illness, please be considerate to your cast members and call to let us know you will be late or won't be at rehearsal, or we will count this as an unexcused absence.
- 4) Rehearsals begin promptly. You are to be at LVP ready for class/rehearsal on time. If you are going to be late you have to call us at 914-747-6206 and let us know. If you do not, you will not be allowed to attend rehearsal that day and it will count as an unexcused absence.
- 5) All actors are expected to help maintain the cleanliness of the LVP studio space. Actors must clean and clear the space after each rehearsal.
- 6) After the final show every student must participate in Strike (disassembling the set). It is mandatory that you stay for that. It is part of the process. What we put up, we must also take down.
- 7) The cast might go on, what I call, a Community Service Tour. We will take excerpts of the shows and perform them at community centers, children's hospitals, old age homes, etc. This may or may not happen. All students are expected to attend as many of these performances as they can.

I have read and understand the above policies.

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



## STUDENT MEDICAL INFORMATION/RELEASE FORM

Actor's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Parents' Names \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ cell/alternate# \_\_\_\_\_

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, IF PARENT CANNOT BE REACHED, CONTACT:

_____	_____	_____	_____
name	day phone	evening phone	cell phone

_____	_____	_____	_____
name	day phone	evening phone	cell phone

### HEALTH HISTORY

The following information will be released to the Teaching and Production Staff of Little Village Playhouse, as well as any emergency medical personnel, so that any necessary and/or appropriate accommodations can be made to ensure the safety of your child and to enable your child to successfully participate in the Theatre's programs. Please indicate health problems or disabilities that my require any accommodations:

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> wheelchair mobile           | <input type="checkbox"/> visual impairment          | <input type="checkbox"/> cardiac condition        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> speech impairment           | <input type="checkbox"/> seizure disorder           | <input type="checkbox"/> hearing impairment       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> behavioral/emot.disorder    | <input type="checkbox"/> bleeding/clotting disorder | <input type="checkbox"/> diabetes                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> uses braces and/or crutches | <input type="checkbox"/> learning disabilities      | <input type="checkbox"/> neurological impairments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> hypertension                | <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____               |   |

Does your child have asthma? **(Yes) (No)**

If yes, does your child have an inhaler or other medication that should be administered? **(Yes) (No)**

(Please include a separate letter with name and dosage, as well as conditions under which it should be administered.)

Is your child allergic to any of the following?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> foods (please specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> insect bites or stings          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Penicillin             | <input type="checkbox"/> any medication (please specify) |

Is your child currently taking any medication? **(Yes) (No)**

If yes, please describe condition and medication \_\_\_\_\_



(If your child will be taking medication while at the theatre, please include a separate letter with name and dosage, as well as conditions under which it should be administered, or times at which it should be administered)

Does your child have any chronic or recurring illness? \_\_\_\_\_

Any specific activities to be limited or encouraged by physician's advice? \_\_\_\_\_

Any dietary restrictions? (Yes) (No)

### MEDICAL RELEASE

Insurance Company \_\_\_\_\_

Policy # \_\_\_\_\_ Group# \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Child's Doctor \_\_\_\_\_ Doctor's Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor's Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Child's Dentist \_\_\_\_\_ Dentist's phone# \_\_\_\_\_

*In case of an emergency, you hereby give permission to the staff and volunteers of Little Village Playhouse to contact and/or provide emergency medical assistance. Little Village Playhouse is not responsible for the quality of any medical treatment administered to your child by any emergency medical personnel.*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, agree to the statement above regarding Emergency medical treatment that may need to be administered to my child, \_\_\_\_\_.

### CONSENT TO LEAVE LVP PREMISES – Please check one of the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ I DO give permission for my child to leave the LVP premises without supervision (such as to wait in the parking lot for a ride or to go into the town to get food).

\_\_\_\_\_ I DO NOT give permission for my child to leave the LVP premises without supervision (such as to wait in the parking lot for a ride or to go into the town to get food).

Parent's or Guardian's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



## LVP PARENT VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Your best Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Does your company have a foundation or grant program?

\_\_\_\_\_

Special Skills: \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle any way you might be able to help out at LVP.

SEWING    COSTUME FINDING    PROP HUNTING    SET BUILDING    SET PAINTING

SET LOAD IN/SET STRIKE    OFFICE WORK    ACCOUNTING    PR/MARKETING

CONTACTING SCHOOLS    ORGANIZING    GRANT WRITING

CONTACTING HOSPITALS/NURSING HOMES FOR OUR GOOD WORKS PROJECT

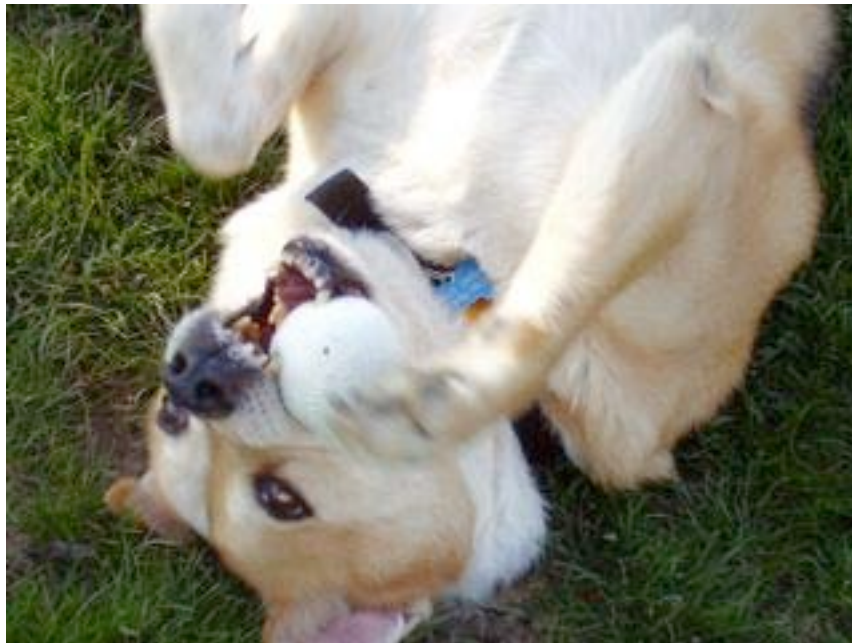
OTHER (PLEASE LIST): \_\_\_\_\_

Thanks so much for your information and interest in LVP! We are thrilled to have you and your family at LVP and we look forward to a fantastic season! Your help is very much appreciated!



## PHOTO POLICY

LVP reserves the right to use any photos taken during rehearsals or performances on our website, in brochures, or in other LVP promotional materials.





## ON CASTING

“God, I hope I get it!” Just as it was sung in the popular musical, “A Chorus Line”, this is the wish every actor has whispered after auditioning for a role he really wants to play. So how does he actually get cast in the role?

Casting is a tricky thing.

When shows are cast, the directors and producers have a zillion things they have to take into consideration. When we cast at LVP, we are looking for good auditions, talent, directability, attitude, focus, acting technique, projection, choice of material, choices within the material, audition technique, and a willingness to try. We try to challenge each actor. We work to give each actor and each cast a good experience, in the rehearsal process and in performance. We look at group dynamics. We look at age and gender groupings. We try to cast so that the actors are in a group with friends but are also stimulated by meeting new people. Mostly, however, we cast to serve each show. As a theatre company, we are bound to serve the performance pieces so that they succeed as good theatre, as well as providing each actor with a successful experience within the show.

For me, casting is like putting together a giant puzzle. The actors who auditioned are the puzzle pieces. Our challenge is to move the puzzle pieces around until we fulfill the big picture and complete the puzzle to the best of our ability, satisfying all of our requirements for each show. It’s not an easy task when you consider there are so many puzzle pieces to place! Working around students’ schedules alone is daunting! Faced with such a challenge, it becomes clear how important the audition is. The audition process can be a scary, nerve-racking, arduous experience, but it is essential as it is only through auditions that we can meet new talent and see how returning actors have grown within the work, giving us an idea of how to begin to place them within a show. Parents, you should know, as the veteran LVP actors do, that we treat auditions fairly informally in that we are very kind and supportive of the actors when they come in to audition. However, we also teach them to come into the audition as if they don’t know us and are auditioning for directors and producers they are trying to impress. It is our hope that they take the audition process seriously enough to come well prepared. We know auditioning isn’t easy.

For every role, there are at least, AT LEAST 3 wonderful choices, and in many cases, many more—all of which would be great versions of these shows. Of course, this is why we can go to the theatre and see different casts do the same show many times. So many details to consider. So much talent. So many options. Believe me, we move those puzzle pieces around fervently. There is much debate. A lot of matching and moving and thinking and rethinking, trying out combinations of people for the different casts. It is hard work.

What happens when there is more than just one “best one”? What do you do when one actor may be “just right” for more than one role? What do you do when that is the case for many of the roles? We want everyone to be happy. Of course, this is not always the case. We realize that. We are actors, too. When I was in high



school, I played two leads in a row followed by a role with two lines total. I was crushed, at first. However, I found out as the process went along, that I had a ton of fun creating the character and that my two lines could get laughs! It was my lesson to remember that even though a character may only have two lines, the playwright wrote those two lines for that character for a reason—not just because—but because those two lines were important for that character to say in order to further the idea of the play.

It really isn't how big your part is—it's what you do with the part you have in order to best serve the play. "There are no small parts, only small actors." It's true. The other tidbit that came to mind while thinking about casting is this: During one of my casting jobs, I was casting model talent for a booklet. There was one part that the rest of the team said I should do—that I should cast myself. They were right. I could have done it. I looked right for the photo. It would have been fine. However, I liked this other woman more. She looked MORE like the part. She was kind and positive. She impressed me. So, I cast her over myself. We were both right for the part, but at that point in time, considering the other talent in the photo and a zillion other factors, she was more right. And that's how it goes in casting.

So to all of the actors, thank you for having the courage to audition. Thank you for wanting to be a part of the theatre and the LVP family. Thank you for all being so right for so many roles in these shows. And thank you for making such an amazing puzzle of an LVP season. The overall picture is beautiful, funny, intriguing, interesting, colorful, new, inspiring....We are all excited to bring the picture to life!

Now we challenge you to breathe and talk and walk and sing and dance for these characters in ways that have never been tried.

We offer you these parts...now we wonder, what will you do with them....

Stephanie Kovacs Cohen  
Artistic Director



## TO OUR PARENTS

Dear Parents,

If you read our “On Casting” letter, you know that casting isn’t an easy process. Our goal is to place a large number of students into a smaller number of roles, serve the integrity of the play and make everyone happy.

### **When we cast the shows we are looking at the following:**

1. Numbers. Do we have the right number of actors to fill each show?
2. Talent. Who can play these parts? Who looks right? Who has the range to sing it well? Who has the emotional depth?
3. Age. Is there an age the role must be—young or old? Can we cast against that stipulation or do we need to adhere to it? Age. Different shows require different ages. Older does not mean a better actor. Some of the younger students here are working at a higher skill level than our oldest students. We expect all ages to learn from each other if they are cast in a show with a mixed age group. Some shows are not appropriate for younger kids, in which case they won’t be cast in them.
4. Who needs to be challenged in a specific way. Some actors may play two leads in a row. Some actors may often be in the ensemble. We must do what’s best for the play, as well as look at challenging each actor individually.
5. The ensemble. Do these actors fit together—will they all work well together or look right together.
6. The ensemble vs. the arc show. Has an actor been primarily in one type of show or the other—do they need to have the experience of the other type?
7. Schedules. The schedules of the shows (when they are performed and when they rehearse) and your schedules play a HUGE part in casting. Often, we may want an actor for a part in one show, but they can only rehearse on the nights of another show, thus taking them out of the running for the bigger role.

### **When we cast show, we do NOT pay heed to the following:**

1. “My child has paid her dues...” If a child is participating in the program, we assume that they are doing their best, working to hone their acting skills so that they may be their best and best serve the play. They have all paid their dues.



2. "My child is graduating, so he/she deserves a lead role." This is definitely possible. They may deserve one and they may get one. It would depend on the shows being cast and how they fit in. There are no guarantees.
3. In the past, we have heard, "I don't have any friends in that show!" Make them. This is the safest place to make new friends and to develop lasting relationships. Open up to new experiences.
4. "So-and-So always gets good parts. That's not fair." Actors get cast in the roles that will challenge them and in the roles we feel they can accomplish well, to best serve the play. Actors who come in with good, prepared auditions get cast in good roles. Actors who work on their acting/dancing/singing skills outside of LVP and come in having worked to grow their talent may also find themselves in good roles. As my mother always said, "Work for what you want, but nobody owes you anything. Life is not always fair. Make lemonade out of lemons and maybe you'll find you are exactly where you are supposed to be."
5. "How come my kid is not in the well-known show?" We try to choose a well- rounded season of different types of shows that will be interesting individually and as a whole for all involved. They are all important. They are all worthwhile. Many times, we try to have an ensemble show with an arced show to give the students a chance to work in both styles and to give that variety to the audience members that support both shows.

**What to tell your child when they are upset because they didn't get cast in the role they wanted:**

1. Speak with them about how they felt their auditions went. Talk about possibly preparing better the next time.
2. Discuss some of the information from above—and about the fact that there are many talented actors and fewer great roles. We would love to cast everyone in the roles they want—we really do want every child to be happy—but it just isn't always possible. The trick is to make each experience an adventure and find out what the role they did get can teach them.
3. Remind them that just because they may not have gotten the role they wanted does not mean they weren't great or right for the role. There are often many ways to cast parts...keep in mind that we are casting a whole season of shows that need to succeed with good casting. Holding on to that artistic integrity throughout all of the shows influences the casting.
4. Point out that their busy schedules also affect casting. You must be able to rehearse the show, to be in it.



5. Finally, emphasize that we look out for all the actors, no matter how big or small their role may be. Just because they may not have lines does not mean they won't have a great time during the process. We truly try to feature everyone in the result, but it is the process that is most important.
6. Talk about what is good about how they were cast...a new challenge, a great director, friends in the cast. Find the "known" positive aspects of the casting and focus on those—the "unknown" positives will reveal themselves throughout the process.

Our mission at LVP reaches beyond just putting up shows or creating good actors. We hope that the actors come away having a greater sense of themselves, buoyed by a healthy self-esteem. We hope they feel comfortable expressing themselves, and trust that their ideas are important and worthy of being heard. We hope they feel strong and brave enough to take risks on stage and in the world. We hope they can work well in an ensemble with humility, while retaining their sense of individualism. We hope they can learn from others, regardless of age, and respect them as creative beings. And when they hear the applause, along their life journeys, we hope they can take a moment to revel in their success, and then smile and thank their audience for supporting their efforts.

We hope this helps smooth out any bumps that could arise during casting time. We want everyone to have a great time here at LVP and to know that there is method to this casting madness, as well as the best of intentions behind every decision.

Stephanie Kovacs Cohen  
Artistic Director