

Auditions **Frequently Asked Questions**

Updated June 26, 2021

How do I sign up for auditions?

The Amherst Recreation office will start accepting appointments on August 2. Call them at 413-259-3065. Watch our website for more information about auditions, beginning on August 2.

Where are auditions?

The Bangs Center, 70 Boltwood Walk, Amherst, MA

When are auditions?

Auditions are in September. Watch our website for an announcement of exact dates and times.

How old do I need to be to audition?

To be eligible to audition, you must be at least seven years old and must have entered second grade or higher.

What time should I arrive for my audition?

Please arrive promptly at your appointed time. Arriving 5 or 10 minutes early is a good idea.

What will happen when I arrive?

You will sign in with the audition volunteers and receive one form to fill out and one information sheet to take home. The forms will also be available online at www.amherstacts.org/auditions. You are encouraged to download them, fill them out ahead of time, and bring them with you to auditions.

What should I bring with me to the audition?

Bring your completed audition form if you have downloaded it from the website. You can also fill out the form when you arrive. If you have tap shoes, please bring them.

Bring a list of other commitments that might require you to miss a rehearsal between October and January. You will be asked for that information on your audition form. You must inform us of any and all possible conflicts, including vacations, recitals, sports events, other theater group rehearsals and performances etc. Casting decisions will not be made without this information. No absences will be excused in January.

What if I have to cancel my audition at the last minute and Amherst Recreation is closed?

Send an email to producer@amherstacts.org

Do I have to come prepared with a song to sing at the audition?

Yes. Please prepare a song for your audition. An accompanist will be available for you to use. No a cappella songs will be accepted. If you want to be considered for a lead, you are required to sing a song from the show. Audition songs will be posted on our website in advance of auditions. If you choose to sing a song that is not from the show, please bring sheet music in the correct key for the accompanist.

Can I sing my audition song as a duet?

No.

Do I have to dance at the audition?

Please be prepared to move and wear proper attire (i.e., no flip-flops). If you have tap shoes, please bring them.

Do I have to read from a script at the audition?

Please be prepared to read from a script. Young children may be asked to participate in an acting exercise instead of reading.

Will I go into the audition room alone or in a group?

You will be called into auditions as part of a group of about 10 people.

Must parents accompany children to auditions?

Parents should accompany their children to help fill out the required forms. Parents are not permitted into the audition room.

Can I bring my own musical accompaniment (i.e., CD player) to the audition?

No.

Can I sing my audition song without piano accompaniment?

No.

What should I wear at the audition?

Wear comfortable clothing and shoes (dance shoes if you have them), such as workout attire. If you have tap shoes, please bring them. (no flip-flops, please)

How long will the audition last?

The audition will last a total of one hour and fifteen minutes. The first fifteen minutes will be spent filling out paperwork and getting photographed. You can expect to be in the audition room for approximately one hour.

Who will be in the audition room?

The director, musical director, choreographer, producer, and rehearsal stage manager will lead the auditions. There may also be additional support staff in attendance.

When will I know if I have a callback?

Callback phone calls will be made after the final day of auditions.

Will there be callbacks for chorus members, or just for lead roles?

Callbacks will likely be for lead roles only. There may be a callback for major dancers, however.

When are callbacks?

The date for callbacks will be announced on our website.

If don't get a callback, is it possible that I will still be cast in the show?

Yes. Callbacks are not necessary for all parts.

When will I know if I have been cast in the show?

Everyone who is cast in the show will be notified by phone a few days after callbacks have been completed. The complete cast list will be posted on our website.

If I am not cast in the show, will I get a phone call?

No. To find out if you have been cast, check the website.

Will everyone who auditions receive a part in the show?

Unfortunately, we are not able to offer everyone who auditions a role in this production. Our total cast size will be around 65.

When is the first rehearsal?

Rehearsals generally start in October.

When and where will rehearsals be held?

Regular rehearsals are scheduled for Wednesdays from 6:00-9:00 pm, Fridays from 6:00-9:00 pm and Sundays from 1:00-5:00 pm. All rehearsals will be held at either the Bangs Center or the Amherst Regional Middle School. Not all cast members will be called to all rehearsals, but you should remain flexible as schedules do change.

Technical Rehearsals and Dress Rehearsals will be held at Bowker Auditorium at UMass. **These rehearsals are mandatory.**

What are the dates of the performances?

Watch our website for an announcement of the January performance dates.

What if I have to miss some of the performances?

All cast members are **required** to participate in all performances.

How much does it cost to be in the show?

To be determined....

This fee entitles each cast member to two complimentary tickets to the show.

Will I be expected to help with costumes, set building and/or other tasks during the show?

All cast members are required to help with tasks in the months prior to the show and during the course of the production. These tasks can be done by the cast member or by a family member or friend. Details about volunteering will be available at www.amherstacts.org/auditions

Why are there mandatory show support activities for cast members and families?

A typical Amherst Community Theater production requires hundreds and hundreds of hours of labor. Much of this time is donated by the production team and non-cast volunteers in our community, but our extraordinary shows would not be possible without the work of cast members and their families. In order to coordinate our efforts and ensure a high level of support, we expect a minimum of 8 hours of pre-show donated time per cast member in November and December. The pre-show time may be spent in the costume shop or the set shop and may be performed by the cast member, a family member, or a friend. We also ask that a family member or friend provide support work during two performances in January. We believe that you will find working with Amherst Community Theater to be a fun, rewarding, and amazing experience. We can't wait to get started!

What parts will be available, and for what age groups?

The total cast will be composed of about 65 cast members, including children, teens and adults.