

# notesoncasting

## A Message from the Education Director:

One of the primary goals we strive to impress upon the students in our Musical Theatre Workshops is that "There are no small parts, only small actors." We encourage teamwork, corporation & generosity of spirit among the kids to stage a play they can be proud of.

While every student is guaranteed a role and an on-stage presence in our Musical Theatre Workshop productions, all casting decisions are at the sole discretion of the Adventure Theatre Staff and/or the Director of the production. We reserve this right as way to ensure that all children receive roles for which they are best suited on levels of educational value as well as on aptitude. We refuse to let a child fail; so we seek to cast each in a role in which he or she will feel challenged and proud of their work.

Adventure Theatre does not cast on basis of race, sexual orientation, social status, favoritism, seniority or by virtue of outside pressure.

We as professional educators, who place great importance on our philosophies and programming, appreciate your reiterating this important message at home. To help you and your child through the casting process, we have gathered some tips to help you support them and to encourage open and honest communication about their thoughts and feelings.

We look forward to working with your child this summer and beyond, and we appreciate your support of us as Educators as well your dedication to be a loving parent to your very special young person.

Kathryn Hnatio  
Education and Outreach Director

- **"It's a team effort."** Remind your child how important his/her role is to everyone in the show – and how much her fellow casemates' need her voice strongly heard in the chorus to communicate to the audience the atmosphere of the scene. Teamwork is among the most important lessons any of us can learn, and working together as a group to create a beautiful show is intensely rewarding no matter what your role!

- **"There are no small parts, only small actors."** This is a mantra that has historical relevance to many an actor who played many roles, big and small and did a fantastic job!

- **"You've got more to do!"** What's really cool is that your little superstar gets an opportunity to play two (or three) roles, not just one big one ~ that takes a lot of talent to develop not one persona but multiple ones!

- **"You are the best (insert your child's role here) I've ever met and I'm so proud of you."**

Encouragement is the process of focusing on your children's assets and strengths in order to build their self-confidence and feelings of worth. Through praise we let our children know that we appreciate their efforts not just their accomplishments. Praising children encourages them to keep trying. It helps develop confidence and imparts a feeling of being loved, appreciated, and supported by you. Praise your child every night for all the hard work and effort they are putting into the process- we here at Adventure Theatre will make sure to do the same every day in support of your child's hard work and dedication.

- **"Let's ask your Director what they see (insert your child's role here) doing during the play."** Place trust where it should go- into the hands of your child's Director. You can feel comfortable promising your child that his or her Director has a vision that might not be in the script and that although there may be only two lines, in reality the Caterpillar is on stage in every scene and has many gags that will make the audience roar with laughter! Encourage your child to speak with his or her Director to be reassured, and you can feel free to do the same throughout the process.

## Family Project!

Rent movies in which now famous actors played smaller roles and observe how much they did with their moment in the limelight!

Examples include:

- Gwyneth Paltrow as Young Wendy in Hook (1991)
- Scarlett Johansson as Molly in Home Alone 3 (1997)
- Robert Pattinson as Cedric Diggory in Harry Potter (2005)
- Elijah Wood as Video Game Boy in Back to the Future II (1989)
- Sarah Jessica Parker as Carolyn McAdams in Flight of The Navigator (1986)