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Information for Young People auditioning for *Cinderella*

All young people and their parents/guardians MUST read this information carefully before considering whether or not to attend the auditions.

Auditions: Sunday, 22nd September 2019, 2.00pm at The Courtyard

Who are we looking for? Girls and boys aged between 9 and 16 who love to perform. Our junior cast dance and sing and must visibly enjoy being on stage.

- **Girls** should be at least a good Grade 2 standard in modern and/or ballet.
- **Boys** should have any dance experience.
- **All young people** *must enjoy acting, dancing and singing, love performing and being on stage* and must have *great smiles! They must also be able to pick up dance steps really quickly.*

Do I need to prepare a song or dance? No! There is no need to prepare anything in advance – just turn up ready to dance and sing. You will be taught a song and dance steps at the audition.

What do I wear? You should wear loose-fitting, comfortable clothing and suitable footwear (*no jeans or trainers*).

What time do I show up? Auditions will take place in the Garrick Room at 2.30pm. Please arrive at The Courtyard no later than 2.00pm and report to the auditions desk in the foyer where you and your parents / guardians will need to fill in registration forms.

All young people auditioning must be accompanied by a parent or guardian, who should remain in the building until the auditions have finished – up to three hours.

What else must I bring? It is ESSENTIAL that you bring with you:

1. 2 passport-sized photos
2. A letter from your head teacher giving permission for you to take part *
3. A letter from your parent / guardian giving permission for you to take part
4. A photocopy of your birth certificate

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We cannot audition you unless you bring all these documents!

* You will need to tell your head teacher in advance of the auditions that if you audition successfully you will be absent from school for:

    - 5 days w/c 25th November 2019 ('production week' rehearsals)
    - Up to 11 half-days between 29th Nov 2019 & 11th Jan 2020 (performances)

The head teacher's letter must make it clear that they will give you permission to miss school during production week and on daytime performance days. Please also bear in mind that if your school is some distance from Hereford you will need to add on travelling time.

Immediately after the auditions we will need to give successful dancers and their parents/guardians a lot of additional information and there will be even more forms to fill in, so it is *essential* that parents and guardians remain in The Courtyard until their children are released. We will also be measuring young people for costumes. We will need to apply to your local education authority for a children's performance licence for each child; this is a time-consuming process and has to be completed 21 days before the start of rehearsals, so it is important we obtain as much information as possible from you on the audition day.

Rehearsals : 14th-29th November 2019

For those who audition successfully, rehearsals will commence on Thursday, 14th November and will take place daily (Mon-Fri) from 4.00pm to 6.30pm at The Courtyard. There will also be weekend rehearsals on 16th/17th and 23rd/24th November

During Production Week - w/c 25th November - rehearsals will normally commence at 1.00pm and finish at 10.00pm. You will probably not attend school during production week.

Before you think about auditioning, please consider carefully if you are able to commit to all rehearsals and performances – <u>we require 100% attendance at all times and absolutely no exceptions can be made</u>.

If you live some distance from The Courtyard, please think about whether you can get to The Courtyard on time for 4.00pm rehearsals and at 9.00am for 10.00am performances, and also about not leaving The Courtyard until 10 o'clock at night for evening shows. We know we are asking you to make a big commitment and feel it is only fair to let you know that panto is hard work – but fun!

You will be working with a professional director, choreographer and musical director and alongside professional actors, dancers, and musicians. You will be treated as young professionals and we expect you to behave professionally!

At the beginning of rehearsals and performances parents / guardians must deliver young people to the care of the chaperone who will accompany them at all times during the rehearsal or performance call. Our chaperones all have experience working with young people and are all DBS checked. Young people must be collected promptly at the end of each rehearsal and performance call. Our chaperones are only *in loco parentis* for the duration of the call and we cannot supervise young people at any other times.

To meet the children's performing licence regulations we may ask parents to assist with chaperoning for the rehearsals and performances. Parent chaperones will be under the supervision of a senior chaperone at all times, but will need to be DBS checked and licenced by the local authority. This will be explained at the auditions.

Performances : 29th November 2019 to 11th January 2020

You will see from the performance schedule that the production opens on Friday, 29th November 2019 and continues until Saturday, 11th January 2020. The young people will be split into two teams and each team will perform in one show every day (including some Sundays), alternating between mornings, matinees and evenings. There are 71 shows in the run so therefore every young person will perform 35 or 36 times. there are performances on Christmas Eve, Boxing Day and New Year's Eve.

On performance days young people must arrive at The Courtyard one hour before curtain up and must be collected within 30 minutes of the end of the performance. Each performance will last approximately 2½ hours, including the interval, and young people will spend around one hour actually on stage, including the curtain call.

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I hope we haven't put you off with all this info, but it is important that you know before the auditions what we expect of you and the commitment required. We look forward to seeing you at the auditions on 22nd September.

If you have any queries, please contact Mel Langford (Administrator) on 01432 346507 or mel.langford@courtyard.org.uk.