

Center Stage Academy announces its fall theatre production, *James and the Giant Peach Jr.* Auditions are open to ALL Center Stage students in 2nd -12th grade.

Please review all the information provided in this packet. If you have further questions, please text 660-747-6133.

AUDITION INFORMATION

When: **Friday, August 26 at 4:30pm**

Check-in begins at 4:00

Where: **Center Stage Academy**

349 SE DD Highway

Warrensburg, MO 64093

Attire: ***Auditionees should dress for success in clothes that make them feel confident and enhance their individual personality. It's important to dress nicely and have a polished appearance so that directors know that you take the audition seriously. Hair should be pulled out of the face in a style that you like. Please no hats, it hides your face.***

Preparation: Students may sing a selection of their choice or prepare the pre-selected song. Additionally, each child needs to bring a completed audition form.

Audition Format

Upon arrival to the audition, each actor needs to check in, receive a number that should be pinned to their clothing, and have their photograph taken. Auditions will begin with a brief meeting (for actors) followed by actors performing their prepared song for the directors in number order. Students should not leave until all auditions are finished as callbacks will be announced at this time. If an actor is not asked to stay for callbacks, they are free to leave.

Callbacks

If the director finds it necessary to see any actors for additional readings or singing, callback auditions will directly follow the main auditions (estimated time 6pm). Depending on the number of actors called back, the process should last about 1-1.5 hours.

Additional Audition Information

Auditions will be closed (meaning only children auditioning will be allowed in the audition room.) Parents can wait in the lobby or can drop children off and pick them up when they contact you to let you know they are released.

As with all auditions, there may be some children that are not cast in the production. It is important to understand this before auditioning and for parents to help prepare their children for this possibility. We try to include as many actors as possible but logistically there is only

room for a certain number of performers on the stage. It is our goal to cast the best actor for each role while considering the many factors that influence casting: singing (quality and range), acting (character, diction, timing, projection, etc.), dancing (character movement and skill), height, physical appearance in relationship to others being cast, connection to the audience, ability and willingness to take direction, respect for directors and other performers, and overall attitude. If you are not cast, we encourage you to sign up to help backstage.

*Additional info for *James and the Giant Peach*. As you may know this is the production that was stopped one week short of performing before the Pandemic Shutdown in March 2020. Some actors may be re-auditioning for the show. If you'd like to be considered for the same part as before, please indicate that on your audition form. However at this point, all roles are open and the show will be cast based on the strengths of current auditionees.

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

Performances

October 29-30, 2022 at Warrensburg High School Lecture Hall

Rehearsals

- Rehearsals will be between the following times: Friday evenings 4:00-9:00 pm AND Saturdays from 9:00-5:00 consistently beginning the weekend of September 9 through Performance Dates. We may have a rehearsal on September 2 if enough people are available.
- Mandatory dress rehearsal on **Thursday, October 27 and Friday, October 28.**

Rehearsals will be scheduled on Fridays and Saturdays from **September 9-performance dates.** Detailed rehearsal schedules will be communicated by Tuesday before each weekend. Depending on their part, performers may not be called for rehearsal on certain days or they may only be called for a portion of rehearsal. Attendance is absolutely necessary at every rehearsal you are called for. On the audition form there is a place for you to put your known conflicts between these dates. If we know now, it is easier to accommodate minor conflicts. However, if we feel your conflicts will be too difficult to schedule around, you will not be cast in this production. Conflicts that come up after casting has been posted or rehearsals begin will not be considered in scheduling and you will be expected to be at the rehearsal.

Production Fee and Other Expenses

- Each cast member (regardless of part) is required to pay a **production fee of \$220.** This fee is used directly to offset the cost of show licensing, script rental, orchestration rental, facility rental, costumes and technical elements of the production. The production fee will be due in two payments. \$110.00 is due at the first rehearsal and \$110.00 is due October 1. Payments may be charged to your card on file at Center Stage.
- Optional Show T-shirt (\$15-\$20)
- Show Tickets (\$10-\$15 per ticket)

- Possible cost of costumes not supplied such as, socks, tights, shoes, jeans, etc.

Video Auditions

If you are unable to attend the audition, you may submit a video. Keep in mind, it is always better to audition in person but sometimes conflicts may be unavoidable. Audition videos and audition forms must be received by 4pm on Friday, August 26 to be considered. Please email a link to info@centerstageacademy.org.

Other Information

- Cast members are required to be at ALL rehearsals for which they are scheduled and at ALL performances.
- Only conflicts listed on your audition form will be excused.
- If an absence is necessary, in case of emergency or illness, please contact the director. More than two absences may result in dismissal from the show.

Casting

The cast list will be posted at Center Stage Academy by **Tuesday, August 30**. A list will also be posted on the studio website. Please fill in the Production Agreement online form as soon as casting is posted. Please do not call the studio for casting information.

AUDITION MATERIALS

Actors in 5th grade & up should prepare a 1-minute vocal selection from a musical of their choice. Actors in 2nd-4th may sing a 1-minute vocal selection of their choice OR the selection listed below.

Song title: *My Favorite Things* from The Sound of Music. (beginning through 1st chorus finish at 1:10) Here is a link to practice: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uNp8mPFVEIY>

If you select your own song, you must provide accompaniment track on a device cued to the proper place (no CDs or acapella singing.) If you are using a track off of youtube, take a screen recording so you are not dependent on internet or signal strength.

Audition Tips

- Be professional (positive, happy, organized, polite) from the second you step out of the car.
- Make sure to check in when you arrive with your completed audition form.
- When it is your turn, be confident, take a nice, comfortable stance and stand tall. Look REALLY happy to be there.
- Make sure you project your voice (including when introducing yourself) and continue doing so as you sing your song.
- Take a deep breath and focus. Make a clear nod to the person running music when you are ready to begin.

- Enjoy yourself during your performance.
- Do NOT apologize. Even if you make a mistake, or are sick or have a cold! Everyone occasionally messes up and directors understand that and won't hold it against you. Don't ask to try again.

SYNOPSIS:

As the overture ends, Ladahlord, our mysterious narrator, makes his entrance on the empty stage, quickly joined by the rest of the Company ("Right Before Your Eyes"). The scene transitions into Painswick Orphanage, where the Matron Nurse calls for lights out. James talks in his sleep; he is having a nightmare about his mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Trotter, who were tragically killed when a Rhino escaped from the London Zoo. As Karl Kreatour warns the crowd about the rhino, James wakes up from the nightmare and frantically searches for his father's glasses and his mother's scarf, his only mementos of his parents. He spots a Ladybug and a Grasshopper and sends them on their way ("On Your Way Home"). Suddenly, the Matron Nurse announces that James has two aunts in Dover who have agreed to take him in. They rush to catch the train to Dover as Ladahlord follows along ("Right Before Your Eyes – Reprise #1").

In Dover, Vagrants crisscross the stage and introduce Spiker and Sponge, who survive by stealing, lying and bribing Billy and Bobby Bobby-Cop ("Property of Spiker and Sponge"). They learn that they have been named the guardians of James and quickly plan to use him as their own personal servant. Violet Funkschmeller, Ridgley Rapscaillon, Chris Cryermouth and Doreen Driggles commiserate with Spiker and Sponge over their forced motherhood. They pick him up from the train station and whisk him back to their cottage in Dover, where they inform him he will live in the basement with the rest of the creepy-crawlies. Spiker and Sponge decide on a day at the seashore, sending James inside to get the picnic basket. Meanwhile, Sponge walks directly into a spider web and catches the Male Spider between two giant pieces of bread, taking a large bite out of the horrible sandwich. James returns with the picnic basket, excited to play with his friends at the beach, but Spiker and Sponge command him to chop down the peach tree instead. Ladahlord keeps watch as James picks up the axe to chop down the tree ("Right Before Your Eyes – Reprise #2"). Before beginning on the tree, James rescues a poor Earthworm who is running for his life from an aggressive Centipede.

Suddenly, Ladahlord appears and offers James the chance to change his life by choosing a spell from his book ("Shake it Up"). The Garden Chorus and Insects help James assemble the potion for Crocodile Tongues. Ladahlord explains that James must add seven drops of well water and drink it all in one gulp ("Shake it Up – Reprise"), but James trips and spills the entire contents of the bag. Earthworm, Grasshopper, Centipede, Ladybug and a Spider each chase a crocodile tongue offstage.

The next morning, Spiker and Sponge are nursing their sunburns when they notice there is a peach in the peach tree... a giant peach! Sponge wants to eat it, but Spiker sees some potential in the peach, inviting Reporters, the Ladies Garden Guild, Bitsy Botana, Hollywood Agents and Buzz ("There's Money on That Tree") to view it. James wants to move to the seashore with all the money they've made, but Spiker and Sponge don't believe him when he claims to have made the peach grow. They break his father's glasses and rip his mother's scarf, declaring that liars must sleep outside ("On Your Way Home – Reprise").

James notices something strange: there is a doorknob in the peach. Upon further investigating, his arms get stuck on the peach and, suddenly, he is sucked into it, coming face-to-face with human-sized insects! Introductions are made with Grasshopper, Ladybug,

Spider, Earthworm and Centipede. Suddenly, the peach's stem snaps and it goes rolling away from the cottage ("Our Adventure Begins!") Ladahlord narrates as the peach rolls past Spiker and Sponge, Farm Animals, Willy Wonka and Oompa-Loompas, finally splashing into the sea. They determine they are drifting across the English Channel to France ("Floatin' Along"). Though they are all hungry, the problem is quickly solved by James: he suggests they eat the peach ("Floatin' Along – Reprise").

Back at the cottage, Spiker and Sponge realize they are in big trouble without the giant peach. They take their money and run, narrowly avoiding an Angry Crowd and Billy and Bobby Bobby-Cop ("A Getaway for Spiker and Sponge"). Back on the peach, the Insects revive James from a nightmare. The Insects share their horrible past experiences with Spiker and Sponge, and James reveals to them that his parents are gone. The Insects explain that his parents are always with him ("Everywhere That You Are").

Days later, on the deck of the Jewel of the Sea, Ladahlord is in disguise as a ship's porter ("Right Before Your Eyes – Reprise #3"). Spiker and Sponge are onboard and en route to New York City, where they plan to set up their old routine ("I Got You"). They notice the peach floating in the distance and set out after it. On the peach, Centipede is seasick and attracts the attention of some Seagulls, but the peach has attracted the attention of some Sharks, too! James and the Insects form a plan to capture the seagulls with Spider's web and fly away from danger, but they need Earthworm to act as bait ("Plump and Juicy").

Ladahlord, dressed as a seagull, reveals that the plan works ("Right Before Your Eyes – Reprise #4"), and they quickly arrive in New York City, where Spiker and Sponge are waiting for them. The seagull web snaps, sending the Screaming Women, Lucille Van Koogelestein and Bunny Mackenzie the Third, into a panic as the peach lands on the Empire State Building ("Empire State/The Attack"). Spiker and Sponge threaten the Insects with fumigators, claiming they are taking James and the peach home, but before they can make a move, the peach slips free and lands on them. James is relieved that they will never hurt anyone ever again ("Welcome Home") and celebrates his remarkable new family.

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

James is the hero of our story, on an epic quest to find a family of his own and gain confidence in himself. Cast a young boy with an unchanged voice and someone who has great acting instincts. Make sure he can win over an audience and is comfortable being onstage.

Vocal Range

G#3 - E5

Ladybug immediately takes on a doting, maternal role in James' life. This is a fantastic role for a performer with a great singing voice and a regal demeanor.

Vocal Range

A3 - D5

Grasshopper, the leader of the Insects, is ever the optimist and assumes a paternal role in James' life. Cast a performer who can sing and act well, but foremost has a warm, inviting presence.

Vocal Range

A3 - F#5

Spider is a clever creature who becomes a fun-loving older sister to James. A young woman with a spunky personality and a great voice is a perfect choice for the role.

Vocal Range

B3 - C5

Earthworm is a gentle spirit, although he can be a bit of a coward. Luckily, he gains enough courage to save the day by baiting some gullible seagulls. Earthworm looks at James as a brother figure. Cast a performer who can sing well, and more importantly, someone who isn't afraid of being a little outlandish.

Vocal Range

B3 - A5

Centipede may be a bit of a grouch, but he is ever-loyal to the pack, and by the end of the story, he's won over by James. James sees Centipede as that cranky uncle with a heart of gold. Centipede should have a good singing voice, and be able to make strong, specific acting choices.

Vocal Range

G3 - F#5

Spiker and Sponge are the sort of aunts (or monsters) that you fear ever being stuck with. They take James into their home but only so that he can be their own personal servant. Spiker is the brains of the operation, and Sponge is more concerned with finding something to eat. These are great character roles for two young performers who are fantastic singers and actors. To play into the humor, cast a duo that contrasts completely in physical appearance.

Vocal Range

F3 - E5

Additional characters:

Matron Nurse

Billy and Bobby Bobby-Cop

Vagrants

Garden Chorus

Reporters

Farm Animals, Willy Wonka And Oompa-Loompas

Angry Crowd

Cruise Ensemble

Sharks And Seagulls

New Yorkers