# Fall Musical Audition Packet

We are extremely excited to be performing two beautiful, classic musicals this fall.  These musicals present lots of opportunities to shine for students age 6-22.  There is hilarious comedy, beautiful drama, sweeping ballads, and show-stopping dance numbers.  The messages of courage, friendship, forgiveness, and joy are presented in spectacular musical fashion.  Both of these musicals are great fun for the entire family.    
  
If you have any questions, send us an email at info@chrysalisyouththeatre.org  
  
Fall Schedule: September - December  
$400 per student, or $800 per family  
(If you do both musicals, the second one is 50% off.)

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**Auditions**

* We ask that every student prepare a short song or part of a song (1-2 minutes) to sing for our directors at auditions.  Your song should be from either another musical or from a Disney movie.  Please, no pop songs.  Memorize your song and bring a musical accompaniment track for it on either a cd or a personal music player (like an iPod).
* Auditions are divided up into one hour slots.  You may sign up for the slot that works best for you.  Within that hour you will be working alongside a small group of other students.  Your group will start with some fun, casual theatre games to get things going.  Our directors will then give a brief talk about the show, explain what they are looking for in each character in the show, and outline what the rest of the audition process will look like.
* Students will then be called up on stage one at a time to sing.  The directors will ask each student a couple of questions and then they will ask to hear the song.  After everybody has a chance to sing, they will be asked to look over and perform rough readings of scenes from the show.  When it's your turn to read, take your time and try to infuse as much personality into your reading as you can.
* Finally, your group will be taught a short dance routine.  You will learn it first as a group, then in smaller pairings.  While the routine may seem overwhelming at first, you will probably pick it up fairly quickly.  What makes it hard is getting the steps in your head so that you can remember them when you have to perform it without following anybody else.  Ultimately, every member of the chorus will get to dance in the show.  What we're looking for here is whether or not you have the coordination, confidence, and energy to warrant a featured dance role.
* Overall, relax, don’t stress too much, and try to enjoy yourself.  There is no such thing as a perfect audition, no matter how good you get.  Relax, do the best you can, and leave the rest up to the directors.

**Casting**

* With the creation of Chrysalis, we wanted to create a theatre program like no other.  Our casting policy reflects this goal.  When we cast a show, we look deeper than the external image each performer shows us. We recognize that the way a person auditions is not always an accurate representation of his talent level.  For that reason, what we attempt to do in the casting process is to learn a little bit about how each student is wired.  We look more at the personality and raw talent in a person than we do at the perfectly prepared minute of audition material.
* We see the chorus as a training ground for lead performers.  Some people consider the chorus to be a place for those who aren't good enough for lead roles.  But what would Broadway shows be without the incredible dancing and vocals of the chorus?  The best shows are the ones with strong talent throughout every role in the cast.  Towards that end, every student will receive the same hands-on, detailed instruction and opportunities to learn; whether they are a lead or a chorus member.

## We don't have one star: we have many!

*\*Please note, if you drop out after auditions, your tuition check will not be refunded to you.*

**Rehearsals**

* Rehearsals for Annie Jr. are:
  + Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 4:00-5:30pm
  + Saturdays from 9:00am-10:30am
* Rehearsals for Secret Garden are
  + Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 5:00-6:30pm
  + Saturdays from 10:30am-12:00pm
* A preliminary rehearsal calendar is available on our website under “Current Season”. Please print this and “x” out the days you know you will miss, as well as any days you might miss. We don’t want to schedule an important rehearsal for your character on a day you might not be there. Please note, no more than 5 conflicts are allowed for each performer. We have this policy in place in order to be fair to everybody involved. Your conflict calendar is due at auditions.
* Students are expected to arrive at rehearsal promptly, with their script, water bottle, and comfortable clothes they can move in.
* For dance rehearsals, we strongly recommend bringing dance shoes. While it is possible to dance in sneakers, doing so does affect your dancing. Sneakers also may not provide you with the proper flexibility or support, leading to greater chance of injury or long term health issues. Don’t worry, there is a simple solution! You can buy a nice pair of jazz shoes for $20-$40 just a few minutes away at the Capezio dance store at Vallco Mall (corner of Wolfe and Steven’s Creek). As long as you are careful not to wear your dance shoes on cement, they should last for a couple of years.

**Volunteer Needs**

* We are one of the few youth theatre organizations that does not require parent volunteer hours. However, we do have a number of volunteer needs, and we would love to have parents involved.  
  + Memorizing lines and other homework can be difficult for children. We would really appreciate it if you could help your child remain positive about it, and if you could help them in these tasks.
  + Carpooling is a great way for parents to help each other out with the task of transporting students to and from rehearsal. It can also be a great chance for students to bond with each other, and for students who live further away to still be able to participate. Please check out the carpooling page on our website and consider joining a carpool near you, or creating one in your area.
  + We have a lot of beautiful sets that were donated to us by Mission City Opera. We sometimes need help moving these sets to or from our storage unit. This is especially true during tech week. Having help with this from parents and students can be a tremendous blessing, and that allows us to do more in less time and with fewer struggles.
  + Costumes and props are a huge, huge part of each show. While we do our best to take care of these ourselves, we certainly appreciate any help we can get from parents or students. Even if we are renting or borrowing costumes, it can be extremely helpful to have someone drive over and pick them up for us.
  + We need a photographer (or two or three) to take pictures during tech week rehearsals and during the meet-and-greet after each performance. While there are many talented photographers out there, we need somebody who has experience taking pictures of musicals. This requires a very specific skillset that involves taking pictures in terrible lighting conditions, of large groups of people who never hold still, and oftentimes are jumping, spinning, or performing other activities that make for difficult photography. It’s of no use to us to get several hundred photos of which 95% are blurry, out of focus, or poorly framed. We post these on our website and Facebook page, and they are one of the few things the students have to remember the show by, so they have to be good.
  + Somebody needs to design and put together our program and lobby display. These are two of the first things that the audience sees. They are a great way of welcoming and impressing the audience, thereby encouraging these people to donate, audition, or get involved in some other way.
  + During tech week we will need lots of help clearing and cleaning the stage at the beginning of the week and after the final performance of each week. We will also need to set up the lobby and backstage space, set up lights and sound equipment, and various other things. We also need folks to contribute snacks or drinks for the audience to enjoy during intermission, and snacks for the students. Last but certainly not least, we need some friendly parents to hand out programs and man the concessions tables at each performance, and clean up trash and discarded programs after.

Again, if you can help with any of these volunteer needs, or if you can help us find someone else who can, we would really, really appreciate it. We could probably scrape together a show either by cutting these things out or by doing them ourselves, but the experience for the students and the audience would be far inferior. However, with your help we can fill these needs and we can really do something special with them.

If you would like to help out, either sign up on the volunteer sign-up sheet located at the end of this packet, or send us an email at [info@chrysalisyouththeatre.org](mailto:info@chrysalisyouththeatre.org).

# Tech Week Survival Guide

Welcome to the Chrysalis Youth Theatre tech week survival guide!

Contained within these pages is information vital to the successful navigation of the final week of rehearsals. Sure, you could probably hack your way through this week on your own. But why do that when you can learn from the vast library of experiences of those who have come before you? By reading this document, you will learn common mistakes to avoid, what to eat, drink, wear, and bring, and tips and tricks to make even the beginner look like a seasoned professional.

If you have any questions, or if you feel that there is something that should be added to this guide, please contact us at [info@chrysalisyouththeatre.org](mailto:info@chrysalisyouththeatre.org) .

**-Steven Brown**

**(Artistic Director)**

# What is Tech Week?

**Technical week**

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

  (Redirected from [Tech week](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Tech_week&redirect=no))

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**“Technical week** (also called **tech week**, **tech**, **torture week**, **production week**, or **hell week**) refers to the week prior to the opening night of a [play](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Play_%28theatre%29), [musical](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musical_theatre) or similar production in which all of the technical elements (such as [costumes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Costume), [lights](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stage_lighting), [sound](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sound_design), [set](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theatrical_scenery) and [makeup](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Makeup)) are present during rehearsal for the first time.

Prior to this point, the actors may have been rehearsing in a separate rehearsal hall, or on the stage but without all technical elements present. At this point in the rehearsal process, it is expected that the creative aspects of the production are ready. [Actors](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Actor) have their lines memorized; lights, sound, [scenery](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theatrical_scenery), and costumes have been designed and completely constructed. If the production is a [musical](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musical_theatre), then the [orchestra](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orchestra) has rehearsed the music completely, and any [dancers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dance) are prepared with their [choreography](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Choreography) memorized. During technical week all of the various technical elements are fully implemented, making the rehearsals very similar to the actual performance.

The purpose of tech week is to rehearse the show with all technical elements in place. This allows the actors to become familiar with the set and costumes, the technical production crew to iron out unforeseen problems, and the director to see how everything comes together as an artistic whole. Tech week is when practical problems with the implementation of production elements are discovered. For example, an actor may report that their costume restricts their movement or that a hand prop is overly cumbersome. A set door that performed fine the week before may bang shut too loudly now that there are live microphones on the stage.

The first few rehearsals are characterized by the frequent stopping and starting of scenes so that the technical crew can practice their necessary duties (such as executing their [cues](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cue_%28theatrical%29) or scene changes correctly). Everything that goes wrong during a rehearsal is expected to be fixed by the next day.

For both the technicians and actors, it is the most hectic part of a show's run, as they are forced to do a massive amount of work getting timings and cues correct, often without having seen the scenes in their entirety. Tech week is a very stressful time for all involved in a production. As the week wears on, sleep deprivation increases and tempers often wear thin.

Once the show is running smoothly, the last one or two [rehearsals](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rehearsal) of technical week are often dress rehearsals open to the public in which the play is performed completely, sometimes with the audience purchasing discounted tickets.”

-<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Technical_week>

Tech Week Survival Tips

**Triple-check your calendar**! There are no conflicts allowed during tech week. Make sure that you allow yourself plenty of time before rehearsal so that you can get to rehearsal well-fed, well-hydrated, well-rested, in a calm frame of mind, and with all your snacks, water, dance shoes, undergarments, and personal hygiene products. You cannot be late for a tech rehearsal or a performance. If you get on the freeway at the last minute and you realize you’ve forgotten something, you will just have to do without it.

**Eat healthily!** You will be spending a week in a high-adrenaline, sleep-deprived, germ-filled environment. To stay healthy, happy, energized, and performing your best, eat solid, healthy, home-cooked food leading into and during tech week. If you eat lots of sugar, or lots of fast-food, your immune system will be weakened and your digestive tract will get clogged up. Chances are, you do not have an under-study in this show. Trust me, you do not want to have to perform when you have the flu, a sore-throat, a horrible cough, or any other type of illness.

**Be smart, stay safe!** You will have to be fully functional for the performances. Don’t go skiing, or skate-boarding, or participate in any other high-risk sports or activities immediately before tech week. If you have a broken leg, you will not only have a hard time performing, but you will be a safety risk every moment you are on or near the stage. You will need to be able to move around safely in the dark without tripping over numerous obstacles, and be able to quickly and surely dodge out of the way of set pieces, actors rushing late to get on stage, etc (and that’s not even counting dancing or using stairs or ladders). This is hard enough with two good legs. If you have a broken leg, torn muscle, or other serious injury, you are a nightmare waiting to happen.

# Survival Check-List

* **Appropriate undergarments/accessories**
  + Black socks
  + Neutral tights
  + White shirt or camisole or slip
  + Dress belt or similar
  + Hair pins/ties/etc

Remember, pant legs ride up, skirts fly up, white costumes can often be seen through, etc. Make sure that you are wearing undergarments such that anything the audience might see fits with your character (or time period), or at least covers anything that would be distracting to the audience (e.g., bare ankles on a guy wearing pants is extremely distracting). We don’t necessarily expect you to wear wool stockings, but we also don’t want to see Nike socks on a highly dignified British gentleman of the 1800s. There will be bright lights shining on you, and you will be running, jumping, lying down, reaching high in the air, etc. Assume the worst will happen at some point and dress accordingly.

Also worth mentioning: if you have a “quick change” in the show, or if you are uncomfortable undressing in front of others, please wear a slip or similar garment. Sometimes this decision is up to you. Other times it is required as you might not have time to go all the way to the dressing room, requiring you to change just off-stage in the presence of others. You may also have a costume malfunction that requires you to walk around backstage (or even onstage!) not entirely dressed. For your sake and the sake of others, please consider this issue and dress accordingly. When in doubt, subtle and modest is best. This is not the time to wear your Superman boxers. I remember a show where the zipper on a wedding dress burst apart and the actress wearing it had to spend the whole wedding scene onstage with her back facing the audience, with all eyes on her. Fortunately, she was wearing a slip. There was another time, however, when that same person had to change her dress on stage in the middle of a song, with all eyes on her. One night she forgot to wear a slip and didn’t realize it until she was already on stage. She had to make that change in her regular under-clothes. Fortunately, it was tech week and there were only a couple staff members in the audience. AGAIN: Assume the worst will happen at some point and dress accordingly!

Note: Quick changes have been known to be as short as 19 seconds for a complete costume change. Practicing at home can help to keep the stress down when you’re doing it for real during the show.

**Personal Hygiene Products**

* Stage make-up - *(Ben Nye basic kit at minimum. Research/shop well in advance)*
* Hairbrush and Comb
* Hair gel - *(some spike your hair, some flatten/style, be sure you get the right thing for your character!)*
* Hair spray - *(extra/super strength)*
* Breath mints
* Dental floss
* Deodorant/anti-perspirant
* Make-up wipes or wash cloth
* Hair curler/straightener
* Hair dryer
* Hand sanitizer (you never know when the bathroom might run out of soap)
* Lotion - *(your skin will get dried out by the makeup and the hot, dusty environment)*
* Allergy medicine/decongestant
* Non-Menthol throat lozenges/cough drops - *(never hurts, invariably there is always someone who needs them)*
* Towel and/or bathrobe - *(to use when putting on makeup or eating in costume or lounging backstage or to use when the bathroom runs out of paper towels for drying your hands)*

**Snacks**

* Nothing too messy/sugary/attractive to ants
* Nothing too sticky
* Nothing that will get seeds stuck in between your teeth, or turn your tongue, lips, or teeth black, purple, pink, or any other un-natural color
* Be sensitive to those around you (or those you have to touch on-stage!) (You don’t want to aggravate their allergies, or do a romantic scene with terrible breath.)
* Trail mix
* Energy bars
* Granola bars
* Bananas (though these can dry your mouth out)

**Water**

* Bring twice as much as you think you need (very few things worse than running out of water!)
* If you’re going to splurge on something like Fiji Water, this is the time to do it!
* Drinking lots of water will keep you healthy and energized, keep your vocal chords moist, etc.

Things to keep in mind:

* + You will sweat a lot! You will be singing, running, dancing, standing under banks of hot lights, and performing other high adrenaline, highly sweaty activities. You have to replenish this lost fluid.
  + In the theatre, there will be hot lights shining on you, lots of dust in the air, and air conditioning blowing. You WILL get dried out unless you drink lots of water!
  + I know one group that always ended up with at least one really bad bloody nose per production. That does happen if you don’t drink enough! You don’t want it to happen to you!

# Final Thoughts

Despite all the craziness and stress, tech week tends to be one of the most magical weeks of the entire production. You get to experience everything coming together into one special show, and you will bond with your cast-mates on a much deeper level than you have before. There will be hard times, but there will also be a lot of laughter and love, and many wonderful memories will be made.

Be prepared to get to know the good, the bad, and the ugly of every person involved with the production. You will all be tired and stressed, and you’ll have to be vulnerable in front of a lot of people. That’s a very uncomfortable place to be, and a potentially explosive (or implosive) combination. Please try to remain as calm and patient as you can. Stressing out does not make the situation any better. You may feel hurt by something somebody says or does, or you may be extremely irritated by the behavior of another person. Do not hold on to those feelings! Those feelings will only drag you down and make you (and the people around you) miserable. If you need to, find a happy place. Find a quiet corner backstage to relax, let go of negative emotions, and get into the right frame of mind for performing. Other cast members might bother you, or try to tell you some really funny joke. Calmly and respectfully communicate to them your need for some space. If somebody communicates this need to you, or if they just look like they need some space, please respect that need.   
  
Remember, the best you can do on a particular night might not be your usual best. We all have days and performances that aren’t as good as others. Don’t let that get to you. Just relax, warm up well, and do the best you can at that particular point in time.

* Be kind
* Be forgiving
* Be supportive
* Be patient
* Be sure to express appreciation early and often to family members and others who may be helping you with final preparations, transportation and nerves!
* Treat every day like a new day, every scene like a new scene. Don’t let the accident, argument, or embarrassing moment in the past keep you from loving and supporting all of your cast-mates and doing your best.
* You are a family! You will only succeed if you love each other, support each other, encourage each other, comfort each other, cry together, laugh together, and work together as one body to rise above any challenges that come your way.

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If you prepare well and follow the advice laid out above, you will be well set up for success. Go out there and shine!

-***Steven Brown***

Artistic Director

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

**-Isaiah 40:31** (KJV)

Use what talents you possess;  
The woods would be very silent  
if no birds sang there except those that sang best.  
**-Henry Van Dyke**

The only way of finding the limits of the possible is by going beyond them into the impossible. **Arthur C. Clarke**

When the best things are not possible, the best may be made of those that are. - **Richard Hooker**

Every artist was first an amateur. **Ralph Waldo Emerson**

Don't wait for extraordinary opportunities. Seize common occasions and make them great.  
**Orison Swett Marden**

Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed. **Booker T. Washington**

Always be a first-rate version of yourself,  
instead of a second-rate version of somebody else.  
**-Judy Garland**

No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.  
**-Eleanor Roosevelt**

It’s not what happens to you,  
but how you react to it that matters.  
**-Epictetus**

*If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs and blaming it on you...you'll be a Man, my son!*  
**~ Rudyard Kipling**

**Volunteers**

We have many jobs that must be done in order to do these shows, and to ensure a smooth and high quality experience for our students and the audience. Our directors will try to do all of these jobs themselves if need be. But there’s just too much to do and too little time to do it. However, with help from parents, relatives, and friends, we can do it all and do it at a high level. Please note: we do not require volunteer hours from parents, but we would really appreciate any help we can get.

If you would like to help out, please write your last name in the appropriate box below, along with the number of people you will have helping with each job (if more than one).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Job | # Needed | Your Family’s Name |
| Building/Moving Sets | 5-10 |  |
| Painting Sets | 1-10 |  |
| Finding/Renting/Creating Costumes | 1-5 |  |
| Finding/Renting/Creating Props | 1-5 |  |
| Creating the Program | 1-2 |  |
| Decorating the Lobby | 1-3 |  |
| Sound Crew | 1-3 |  |
| Lighting Crew | 1-3 |  |
| Tech Week Photographer | 1-3 |  |
| Tech Week Support Team | 1-5 |  |
| Makeup and Hair | 1-5 |  |
| Backstage Supervision (Tech Week) | 1-2 |  |
| Backstage Supervision (Performances) | 1-2 |  |
| Ushers | 10-20 |  |
| Cast Snack (Performances) | 6 |  |
| Concessions Snacks/Drinks | 10-20 |  |
| Load-In | 10-20 |  |
| Strike | 10-20 |  |
| Orchestra (play an instrument) | 20-25 |  |
| Organize Strike Party and Cast Party | 1-2 |  |