

Getting To Know... **Once Upon A Mattress**

AUDITION AND PRODUCTION INFORMATION

****LEARN THE SHOW!! CDs of all the show music are in Mrs. Halley's classroom for sale for \$1.00!
Scripts of the show are available for your review and borrowing in each middle school classroom!!

MEET THE DIRECTOR!

I am Mrs. Katie Franklin and am thrilled to be the Director of "Once Upon a Mattress". I have a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre from Syracuse University, where I studied voice, dance and acting. I worked as an actress for a time but then decided to go to law school. I worked as a lawyer for 10 years in Seattle. I have been a director, choreographer and musical director in numerous theatrical and dance productions. I have also worked as a fitness instructor for the past 15 plus years. This will be the 14th middle school musical that I have been involved with at St. John's Catholic School!

I am thrilled that Vicki Hatch-Moen, who assisted on the show last year, is assisting again with direction and choreography. Ms. Moen is a dancer, choreographer and also a fitness instructor!

Our Show: "ONCE UPON A MATTRESS"

From the script: "This show is loosely adapted from Hans Christian Andersen's classic fairytale, "The Princess and the Pea."" The musical opened in 1959 in off-Broadway, starring Carol Burnett as Princess Winnifred! "It was filmed for television in 1964 and again in 1972, with Burnett recreating her acclaimed performance in both versions." A 1996 Broadway revival starred Sarah Jessica Parker and received a Tony nomination for Best Musical Revival.

You can find more information about the show if you go to the website:
<http://www.rnh.com/show/380/Getting-to-Know-Once-Upon-A-Mattress>

PERFORMANCES

Thursday, March 8, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 10, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 11, 2018, at 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 11, after the show, Cast and Crew will "strike" the set (clean up!) and then have a Cast Party, so expect to be busy with the show from 12:30 p.m. – 5:00

(There is no Friday performance because it will be Lent.)

Every actor must be at every performance.

AUDITIONS – GENERAL

Everyone who wants to be an actor in the show must audition. No one is cut – everyone is in!
Each student will sign up for a 5-minute audition slot on one of the following days:

- Monday, December 4, 3:10-5:30
- Tuesday, December 5, 3:10-5:30
- Wednesday, December 6, 3:10-5:30.

The Audition Sign-Up Form will be posted on the 3rd floor outside Mrs. Halley's room in mid-November.

“CALL-BACK” AUDITIONS

Some follow-up auditions (“call-backs”) may be held on Thursday, December 7 and Friday, December 8, from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. Based on what I see in the initial auditions, I may ask some students to return and do more singing or reading from the script.

AUDITIONS – REQUIREMENTS

For Auditions, students should be prepared to do the following:

1. Introduce yourself (first and last name) in a strong and clear voice and state what grade you are in.
2. Sing a song or a part of a song (1-2 minutes long). I prefer that you sing a song from a Broadway or movie musical that is similar in style to our show. If not, Church songs or Christmas carols are also good choices. The song you choose should show off your voice to best advantage and be appropriate for the part for which you are auditioning. If singing is not your strong suit, sing “Jingle Bells” or “Happy Birthday”! Please DO NOT sing rap, hip hop, rock or pop songs. (See the handout on song suggestions.)
3. Boys or Girls: You MAY sing a song from “Once Upon a Mattress” for your audition.
4. Present a short monologue, or recite a poem or speech (1-2 minutes long or less) that shows your speaking, dramatic and/or comic skills. I also want to hear how well you can project your voice (in other words, can I hear you out in the audience without a microphone?). Review the characters in the show to help you prepare. Everyone should make his or her best effort to prepare for and audition for the part they want.

COST and FINANCIAL AID

- Financial Aid – No student is denied participation due to an inability to pay. Contact Diane Crockett in the school office – dcrockett@st-johnschool.org - for information.
- There is an \$85.00 fee for cast members and a \$35 fee for certain stage crew positions. The cost is \$100/family if more than one sibling is involved. Payment is made [through the website](#). Once payment is confirmed you will receive a permission form to be completed and returned to Diane Crockett in the school office.

REHEARSALS – A BIG COMMITMENT FOR 2 MONTHS!

Rehearsals begin on January 3, 2018.

Rehearsals are held Monday through Thursday, from 3:10 - 5:00.

During “tech week” (the week before the show), rehearsals will be 3:00 – 6:00.

Actors are expected to attend every rehearsal to which they are called. Actors might be called 2 days a week on one particular week, and then 3 days a week in the next week. It all depends on the actor's part and what scenes/numbers we are working on.

Of course, actors are excused for sick days, medical appointments, and school academic commitments.

Students are allowed two "unexcused absences" if necessary.

But actors may not miss rehearsal for other commitments normally occurring during 3:00 – 5:00 on Monday - Thursday, including, but not limited to: after-school clubs, select soccer, karate, instrument lessons, dance lessons, St. John's volleyball, etc. If you cannot miss these other activities, you probably cannot also be in the show.

An exception to that rule is CYO basketball because those practice schedules will have already been set before we cast the show. Students can play CYO volleyball as well (which starts in mid-February), BUT, if conflicts arise between volleyball and show rehearsal, rehearsal takes priority. The volleyball people have been really cooperative in avoiding conflicts so many kids participate in both. Actors may not miss rehearsal for volleyball practice or tryouts.

When actors are at rehearsal but not involved in a scene, they may do homework. (Even if actors are not called to a rehearsal, they may be at rehearsal and study.)

STAGE CREW AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

We need students for technical crew! This is a great way to be involved, especially for those who do not want to perform on stage or who are unable to make the rehearsal or performance commitment.

Stage Crew jobs are: stage managers, sound, lights, publicity, photography, make-up and hair crew, costume assistance, set building and painting, and backstage assistance during shows.

For the most part stage crewmembers DO NOT attend rehearsals until shortly before the performances. A sign-up sheet for stage crew will be posted along with the audition sign-up sheets.

PARENTAL HELP

My position as Director is a paid teaching position at St. John, but we rely on parents to help in many ways so we can put on a quality production! This is a very fun way to get your volunteer hours!

Volunteer needs are: Costumes (the biggest need!), props, publicity, photography, set construction and painting, make-up and hair crew, cast party, set clean-up, house manager, and many others. Please tell me if you have a particular skill or interest you would like to share.

"Once Upon a Mattress" will be a demanding and exciting show to put on. It will be a big time commitment and hard work, but if you join with us you will be glad you were part of it! I am happy to answer any questions you have regarding the show.

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