



## Welcome Parents and Deck the Halls 2023 Cast!

We are so excited to have your student spend the next eight weeks with us! Our performers will be learning a Christmas themed show with brand new magical medleys! Our team has just re-written *Deck the Halls* and this version of the show will be based in New York City! This means new costumes, new sets, and new numbers (except for *Deck the Halls* of course - although it will be re-imagined)!

Our show will be mounted fairly quickly, with rehearsals meeting on Mondays from 4:00pm-7:00pm for the next ten weeks. Rehearsal and practice time outside of group rehearsals is expected. We understand that 7:00 might be late for some of our elementary students. Please let us know if you expect to pick your student up at 6:30 PM.

### **Communication:**

Email is our primary form of communication. Please make sure we have the correct email on file for you and that our emails aren't being sent to your Junk Folder.

### **Vocal Solos:**

We will be sending out tracks and lyrics for solos one week prior to the rehearsal in which the student will need to know it. This is to ensure your student has plenty of time to feel confident about their solo! If the student doesn't know their solo on the day of the rehearsal we have listed, they will have one additional week to have it learned. The solo does not need to be perfect, but the student needs to show that they have rehearsed. If the student still doesn't know their solo after the one-week grace period, we reserve the right to give the solo to another

student. Additionally, if you are not receiving our emails with this information, please let us know so that we can make sure we have your correct contact information.

### **Costumes:**

**This is new!!!** In the past, students have created their own costumes using an assigned color scheme. For this show, once cast, students will be given a costume list they will need to purchase. This will help make our show cohesive and united! If your student does not currently dance with us (some of these items they will have from past recitals), we anticipate this cost for all costuming will be around \$100.

In addition to the costume list assigned after casting, ladies will need the following:

- Nude leotard
- Black compression shorts
- Tan tights
- Tan jazz shoes
- Hair should be pulled back. Lipstick and some rouge is suggested.

Gentlemen will need:

- Black dress pants
- Black jazz shoes/boots

Additionally, after the show is cast, some students may be featured in technical dance numbers (like the Nutcracker for ballet students or the aerial number for our aerialists). CenterStage will provide these costumes for you!

### **\*\*Auditions:\*\* Please read very carefully! This is also different!**

Students do not need to audition to be a cast member in *Deck the Halls*. The directors work hard to make sure each student is featured in the performance. However, if students are interested in a vocal solo or being placed in a more advanced dance group they must submit a video audition.

### **Vocal Auditions:**

Students interested in a vocal solo should submit a video audition via email to [info@performcenterstage.com](mailto:info@performcenterstage.com) by Saturday, September 23rd. The audition should be a 1 minute Christmas song **sung to an instrumental track**. *Students submitting an audition a capella or singing along with an artist will only be assigned group vocal work*. Before submitting, please make sure that the track does not overpower your vocalist. Submissions after September 23rd may not be considered for a solo depending on if the creative team has already cast the show.

\*If you do receive confirmation from us that we have received your audition video by September 26th, please give us a call at 615.230.9341!

### **Dance Group Auditions:**

Students will be asked to memorize a dance sent out a week ahead of time. Instead of a live audition, we will only be accepting a filmed audition. Dance auditions should be filmed from the front and in a space you can move! Participating in the dance audition will help our team place your student within a dance group that will challenge them according to their technical ability. It is important that students submit an audition - regardless of whether they are in a weekly dance class. Students who choose not to participate in the dance call will be placed in our most beginning dance group.

With the special way that Deck the Halls is written, we make it a priority to feature all of our students in their gifts and talents. There are opportunities where only students in our ballet program as well as those taking current tap, jazz, and lyrical classes will be featured in a unique way. In order to be considered for these opportunities, students must currently be enrolled in those classes.

Please submit your audition to [info@performcenterstage.com](mailto:info@performcenterstage.com) by September 23rd.

\*If you do receive confirmation from us that we have received your audition video by September 26th, please give us a call at 615.230.9341!

### **Aerial Auditions:**

We will be holding auditions in person on **Monday, September 25th from 4:00 - 5:00pm** at CenterStage for all En Flight students interested in auditioning for the aerial production number. Both long silks and hammock will be performed. Students will demonstrate certain skills and may learn a combination.

### **Performance Expectations:**

SpringBoard is a variety show program that features students in all of their strengths and also desires to push them. We expect that our students will work hard to learn everything they are cast in, not just the things they think they are good at! We sing, we dance, we act, we perform.

### **Casting:**

Your creative team will be casting the show over Fall Break! We will send out an email with assigned solos, groups, and costuming before the first rehearsal on October 9th!

**Rehearsal Schedule:** Mondays: 4:00pm - 7:00pm

October 9th: 4:00 - 7:00 PM

October 16th: 4:00 - 7:00 PM

October 23rd: 4:00 – 7:00 PM

October 30th: 4:00 - 7:00 PM

November 6th: 4:00 - 7:00 PM

November 13th: 4:00 - 7:00 PM

November 20th: 4:00 - 7:00 PM

November 27th: 4:00 - 7:00 PM \*\*\*Dress Rehearsal

December 2nd: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \*\*\* Final Dress Rehearsal - Lunch provided

Please arrive by 3:45 PM to get water, use the restroom, and get shoes on. Please make sure your performer comes ready to move and dance. Students should wear dance or tennis shoes. **No flip flops.** Students can also wear dance attire or something they can move around in. No jeans.

Rehearsals are closed; if a parent chooses to wait for their student the lobby is available. Please bring a water bottle and multiple light snacks daily.

Rehearsal videos are uploaded weekly to our YouTube channel, CenterStage Performing Arts Academy. This is a great way for students to practice their dances and songs before the next day's rehearsals. Because of how quickly the show is to be mounted, students are allowed to miss one rehearsal day, with the expectation they will make up their work at home. *Directors will work to block a student into a number they missed if they have time. Missing a rehearsal and being blocked into that number, even if you have learned it, is not a guarantee you will be blocked in it pending rehearsal time.* A student who misses multiple rehearsals or comes to rehearsal unprepared may be asked to sit out of some portions of the show and/or have any solos removed if the circumstance warrants.

During the show weekend, we ask students who have been given snack money or an allowance by their parents, to leave this in an envelope with a staff member at the soundboard or front desk. We have had students accidentally leave this money on seats or another student pick it up. If a student is caught purposefully stealing from another cast member, they will be asked to leave the production and CenterStage permanently. CenterStage has a zero tolerance policy in this matter.

**Show Schedule:**

December 2nd, FIRST SHOW! Call time 1:00 PM

Doors open: 1:30 PM

Show Time: 2:00 PM

December 2nd, SECOND SHOW! Call time 6:00 PM

Doors open: 6:30 PM

Show Time: 7:00 PM

December 3rd, THIRD SHOW! Call time 1:00 PM

Doors open: 1:30 PM

Show Time: 2:00 PM

December 3rd, FOURTH SHOW! Call time 5:00 PM

Doors open: 5:30 PM

Show Time: 6:00 PM

\*All Middle and High School students are expected to stay after the final show to strike and clean the theatre.

**Parent and Volunteer Expectations:**

“Front of House” operations during our show weekends rely heavily on our generous parent volunteers who run concessions, take tickets, and much more! We thank you for your contributions and know that your involvement helps strengthen the CenterStage culture. In order to continue providing top-quality performances, we want to help inform our parents on CenterStage’s offstage policies and expectations:

If you are prepping or helping your student on show weekends, please do this as quickly as possible and then find your seats to enjoy the show! At no point in time should anyone other than cast and crew be backstage while a performance is going on. If your student needs something from you, you can give it to a member of the staff and they can deliver it. The backstage dressing and green room of a theatre is special and holds the same privacy as the locker rooms for a football team or the dug out for baseball – we prepare, deliver notes, and pump up our cast here. Our students are backstage enjoying this special time with their friends, preparing themselves, and getting into the performance mindset to put on an amazing show for their audience. Having people that aren’t cast or crew backstage not only hurts focus and concentration but can also cause students to be late or miss cues. If your student needs you, we will come find you!

If a parent is concerned about anything regarding their student’s ability to perform in their role, they should encourage the student to speak with the director or member of staff. This could include things like choreography, music, blocking, quick changes, etc... We are in our students’ corners and want nothing more than for them to have a wonderful experience and show. Receiving a communication from a parent, no matter the intent, escalates the situation.

Oftentimes these concerns are best hashed out between performer and director. If it is a serious health or injury matter, then it is certainly appropriate for parents to reach out to staff. In these instances, please email us. This is the best way to get a hold of us. The team checks their emails several times an hour looking for such issues.

All parents must watch the show from a seat. Aisles and the wall at the back of the house is reserved for staff only. The soundboard often has staff running to communicate changes to staff backstage or performers mid show. When the pathway is not clear, it can inhibit our ability to communicate and negatively affect the production. Stage managers will be asking patrons to find a seat if they are standing.

Brendan Tramel, CenterStage's Office Manager, ensures that patrons have an easy and positive experience upon entering and exiting the building. She is over our front of house volunteers, which include ticketing and concessions. Brendan is highly regarded in this role by CenterStage leadership, and we ask that you extend her courtesy and trust in this very busy and demanding role.

During our rehearsal process, our students learn a phrase called "Make It Work," and it means just that. There are many times in live theatre that things don't go the way we expected them to do, and in those moments, we smile, and figure out a way to do things.

We thank all of our volunteers for also having a "Make It Work" mentality, as well!

**Behavior Policy:**

CenterStage students are expected to conduct themselves professionally, kindly, and with humility towards all CS staff and cast members. CenterStage believes in teamwork and everyone is truly important to the success of a production. In that spirit, our staff goes out of it's way to never show favoritism, casting is always subjective. We expect all students to abide by the expectations stated above without exception. The production team and (ultimately) the director (s) have the final say on all aspects of a production. This includes changing staging, assignment of solos, or the order and content of the show.

When addressing a student's behavior, CenterStage will always have at least two staff members present and hold the conversation behind closed doors or in private. Directors usually give a student two - three opportunities to correct their behavior before bringing in the parent for a meeting. If the behavior is unsafe or of an urgent nature, the directors will act quickly and request a meeting with the parent and student.

Regarding parents, and all other concerned friends and family, we always welcome comments whether it be a "thank you", comment, critique or concern. It is truly our desire to create the best production possible with the most favorable experience for every performer. We understand

everybody wants their student to be “the star” front and center. We hope you all realize this is an impossible task from a director’s stand point. It is important that all involved understand the mammoth job every production is. Once rehearsals start, all staff are living, eating and breathing the work at hand, normally working very long hours with very little sleep. We use the talent available to perform the show as written, often making changes to choreography, song length, lyrics, etc. to create the best effect for every number in the show. If your student is part of the CenterStage Family, we assume that you trust our staff to make these judgement decisions without outside influence.

Noting the points above, we respectfully ask that all commentary be submitted in writing after the last performance. We will not have time to read, address and respond to your communication until possibly a week after the production has ended. We continue to “fine tune” the show throughout the performance schedule and often correct your concern as the schedule proceeds. Unless it is an absolute emergency (the director has final say on what an emergency is) requests for meetings will not be addressed until the week after the run of the show.

**\*Tickets:**

**Tickets go on sale November 18th at 1 p.m. at [performcenterstage.eventbrite.com](http://performcenterstage.eventbrite.com).**

\$11 for adults

\$9 kids aged ten and under

\$9 for seniors 65+

\$9 for active military (thank you for your service)

\$0 kids aged 4 and under (must sit on a lap)

**Purchasing tickets online:**

- using a computer, you are able to select your assigned seat
- using a cell phone or tablet, you will automatically be assigned the best available seats
- tickets will be emailed to you
- you do not need to wait in line to purchase tickets, or enter the theater on show day
- ticket availability is guaranteed
- tickets will have an additional surcharge of around \$4 per ticket

**Purchasing tickets at the door** (available at CenterStage, 1 hour before the show begins):

- tickets can be purchased with cash or credit card

- you will not be able to select your assigned seat. All tickets purchased at the door will automatically be assigned the best available seat
- if you are attending the show with others who purchased tickets ahead of time, you will not be able to sit together
- ticket availability is not guaranteed
- tickets will have an additional surcharge of \$4
- If you do not purchase tickets before the show day, we cannot guarantee availability.

If you need assistance purchasing tickets, please stop by the front desk during regular business hours or email [info@performcenterstage.com](mailto:info@performcenterstage.com).

All tickets purchased ahead of time, either online or in person will be subject to the surcharge.

**Refunds:**

No refunds will be issued the day of the show. Please organize payment and attendance with your party ahead of time.

Tickets cannot be transferred from seat to seat or show to show. You will need to request a refund and note the seat you would like to refund.