

Musical Theater Workshop 2018 Infortmation

We are so excited to offer an expanded version of last year's week-long workshop. Thanks to generous funding from the St. Lawrence County Art's Council, this year's Musical Theater Workshop will be a 3-week long program open to students in grades 7-12, as well as 2018 high school graduates. Please read this entire letter, even if you attended last year's workshop, as there are many changes to be implemented in this year's program.

THE SHOW

This year we are mounting a full-scale production of Claude Michel Schoenberg's *Les Misérables – School Edition*. It is a tale of justice, redemption and love, set against the 18th century French Revolution. With a large cast and familiar music, this show offers many opportunities for young actors to shine. It is an ambitious project, but well worth the undertaking.

Les Misérables has several adult themes, including suicide, innuendo, and mild swearing. We will be discussing the seriousness of these themes and the historical context in which they are relevant. The adult content is vital to the plot and not gratuitous in nature, but we are erring on the side of caution and rating the performance as a PG-13 production.

In order to familiarize yourself with the production, we recommend the following versions:

1. Original Broadway Cast recording:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZdjz6lLNgU&list=PL5NG2eg5epn1ajUWluDQ-MsF5pEq0iTM>
2. Royal Grammar High School's production of *Les Misérables – School Edition*:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qis52CMtM1Y>

FEES

Thanks to the generosity of the St. Lawrence County Arts Council, we are able to offer the 3-week workshop for the low cost of \$250. A limited number of small financial aid scholarships may be available – scholarships will be considered and distributed on a case-by-case basis. Contact us for more information.

AUDITIONS

Three weeks is a short amount of time to put together a show, even with full-day rehearsals. We have the expectation that participants will show up on Day 1 having learned music and lines. To that end, we will be holding auditions on Saturday, May 19th. Note that these auditions are for **placement purposes only**; each student who has registered for the workshop and paid the deposit is guaranteed to be cast. Auditions will consist of a voice warm-up, singing a short excerpt, and reading scenes. Once the cast list is released, everyone will be given their music and line, along with recorded tracks to assist in learning their role. We expect everyone to be thoroughly familiar with their part by June 25th – off- or nearly off-book. **Failure to adequately prepare your role may result in losing it.**

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

This year's program runs from June 25th-July 14th, Monday through Friday, 9am-4pm. The only day we have off is Wednesday, July 4th, and we plan to make up that day on Saturday, July 7th. We have two performances scheduled – Friday, July 13th and Saturday, July 14th. Please be advised that each day students will need to bring lunch, comfortable clothing, jazz or other soft soled shoes, a pencil, and a water bottle.

We look forward to a successful and fun 2018 season! Feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Molly and Samantha

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