

MHS Theatre Information Sheet

2019-2020 Season

<p><i>THE LOTTERY</i> Based on the story by Shirley Jackson., Dramatized by Brainerd Duffield. October 24, 2019 at 7:00pm</p>	<p><i>LOVE/SICK</i> by John Cariani January 30, 31 & February 1, 2020 at 7:30pm</p>
<p><i>THE 39 STEPS</i> by Patrick Barlow, John Buchan November 7, 8, 9, 2019 at 7:30pm</p>	<p><i>AS YOU LIKE IT</i> by William Shakespeare February 13, 14, 15, 2020 at 7:30pm</p>
<p><i>SINGIN' IN THE RAIN</i> by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, Nacio Herb Brown and Arthur Freed April 30 & May 1, 2 at 7:30pm, May 3 at 2:00pm</p>	

Welcome to Middleton Theatre!

We can't wait to get to know you! Getting involved is simple...

1) Fill out this [FORM](#). The emails entered on this form will be used for weekly email communication about MHS theatre activities which include ASR Club Day activities, Stage Crew, Production crew, Auditions, T.W.I.G.S.- student improv, and more.

2) Register for Theatre Club on FEE PAY

ALL Theatre Club fees should be paid through Fee Pay: <https://mcpasd.feepay.com/>

Required to participate: Theatre Club Activities Fee / \$21

Any student participating in MHS clubs is required to pay this fee. If you plan to participate in stage crew, auditions, or club day activities you must register for Theatre Club no later than **October 1st**.

Optional Fees:

- 2019-2020 Season Shirt / \$9 available through fee pay beginning Sept. 5. The season shirt displays the names and dates of the current season.
- Show Shirts / \$15 per show
Show shirts displays the logo and dates of the current show with an option to personalize.
- Tech Week Food / \$15 per show
Meals are provided for cast and crew during tech week by the Theatre Boosters.
- Additional MHS Theatre Spiritwear / Prices vary
- Field Trip Fees, Guest Artist workshops, etc. / Prices vary

Activities

Auditions

Fall Auditions - September 9, 10 & 12, 4:00-6:00

Winter Auditions - December 2-5, 4:00-6:00

Spring Musical Auditions - February 17-19, 4:00-7:00

Stage Crew - Begins September 17, and meets Tuesdays and Wednesdays throughout the year.

Production Crews - Sign-up up for each individual show to work backstage on a production. Participation is loosely based on participation in stage crew and the needs of each show.

Audition Bootcamp (formerly Broadway Bootcamp) - Learn about monologue and song selection, acting a song, and audition strategies for the future MHS shows, college auditions or community theatre shows.

Instructors: Ms. Brunner and Guest Artist: Meghan Randolph, Artistic Director of Music Theatre of Madison

Tuesdays from 6:00-7:30 / Session 1 - October 15-29 or Session 2 - November 12-26.

Musical Theatre dance prep - Tap and jazz technique classes will be held throughout the year. More information coming soon.

ASR Play Circles - Let's circle up and read a play together. Theatre educators recommend that aspiring artists read at least one play a month. Look for announcements about play reading circles in room 2002 during ASR.

T.W.I.G.S. / Student led improv - Keep your improv skills honed and learn new games with fellow students. Meets weekly during the first ASR2 of the week.

REHEARSALS & SCHEDULING

Below are approximate rehearsal times for main productions and stage crew. Each director will provide a specific scene & character schedule when rehearsals begin.

Rehearsals/Stage Crew	Fall, Winter Play	One Act	Shakespeare	Musical	Stage Crew
Monday	4:00-6:00	4:30-6:00	4:00-6:00	4:00-5:30 <u>and</u> 6:00-8:30	
Tuesday	6:00-8:00	4:30-6:00	4:00-6:00	6:00-8:30	4:00-6:00
Wednesday	6:00-8:00	4:30-6:00	4:00-6:00	4:00-5:30 <u>or</u> 6:00-8:30	4:00-6:00
Thursday	4:00-6:00	4:30-6:00	4:00-6:00	4:00-6:00	

Addition of a Sunday matinee for the Spring Musical

This year a Sunday matinee will be added to our Spring Musical performance schedule. This does NOT automatically effect casting (see the Double Casting section below). However, it does mean that we will get to share our very hard work with more people! This additional show will only be added for the musical. It also means that the cast party will be held right after the Saturday night show, allowing for an earlier start and end. Call times for the Sunday matinee will begin at (approximately) 11:30 or 12:00. Strike will take place after Sunday's performance. All members of the cast and crew are expected to help with strike.

Audition / Casting Policies

Casting for each production is finalized by directors/music directors/choreographers working collaboratively for each set of auditions. There is no preferential treatment based solely on grade, age, thespian status, or time investment. In addition, Middleton Theatre is committed to casting that is culturally conscious. Casting decisions may or may not reflect traditional or expected norms regarding gender or race, but will prioritize effective storytelling that empowers students' voices and encourages diversity, acceptance and inclusion.

Auditions: What we (the directors) are looking for...

- Attitude – are you a team player? How do you interact with others? Are you willing to take performance risks? How do you respond to direction?
- Responsibility/Commitment – are you reliable? Are you available for rehearsals or do you have a lot of other activities going on? Are you able to commit to this production?
- Flexibility/Adaptability – how do you handle the unexpected?
- Preparation – have you actually prepared for this audition and worked with the characters you are playing or are you cold reading?
- Performance Qualities:
 - Voice – do your vocal choices (tone, pitch, dialect, pacing) reflect character? Are the basics (enunciation, inflection, and projection) evident? Do you communicate the story?
 - Movement – does your physical presence and movement complement and tell the story? Are your movements true to the character? Do you engage the story physically?
 - Character – are your characters distinct and different? Have you thought about the character you are playing?
 - Commitment – how well do you fully invest in each moment and make specific character choices?
 - Responsiveness – how well do you make adjustments/respond to direction?
 - Chemistry – how well do you work with the others onstage?
 - Presence – are you confident onstage and do you appropriately draw the viewer's attention

Callback process

Callback auditions are held to get information that will help with casting decisions. Not every role will require a callback. Not every actor will require a callback. Depending on the specific demands of show, directors might need to see actor pairings, assess special skills, check vocal ranges, hear comedic timing, or test the ability to take direction. Callbacks are not a first cut, nor are they a guarantee. Actors should approach them with the same enthusiasm and professionalism as the general audition. Remember, a good show needs good collaborators, meaning your ability to adjust to direction, rehearse with energy, support cast mates, trust your directors and designers, and give yourself fully to the project is just as important as your skills.

Double Casting

The decision to double cast (two students are asked to share one role) is an extremely complicated decision made only to increase opportunities for student involvement. It should never be considered a blanket policy or expectation. Instead, it is an option that will be considered ONLY when we can ensure sufficient preparation for each cast to be successful. The following questions are the most important considerations.

1. Will there be enough non-stop, tech run-thrus for each cast to feel equally confident with the pace of the show? The fact that our stage is in high demand makes this consideration especially important.
2. Will the two performers sharing the role have the right approach and work as supportive partners throughout the rehearsal process?
3. Will all audiences experience an equally engaging presentation of the story?

If the decision is made to double cast, performers must fully understand the following..

1. Performers double cast in lead roles will not perform in the ensemble of the opposite shows. Your focus will be to challenge yourself and give the strongest performance possible in the role you were given.
2. Music, blocking and choreography will be taught once. Do not expect additional rehearsals or individual instruction past what is offered to everyone in the cast by the directors, stage managers, or dance captains.
3. Both actors are called for the same rehearsals unless an approved conflict is on the calendar.
4. In order to maintain the balance and chemistry of both casts, performers will not be allowed to switch performance dates. Division of shows would be either Opening/Saturday or Friday/Closing.

Safe Space

A successful artistic process requires an open exchange of ideas and sharing of unique talents. In order to maintain a healthy creative environment, everyone involved in this process is expected to choose respectful language and behavior that does not isolate, exclude or objectify other participants. Violations of this policy will lead to consequences and could potentially result in a reassignment or being asked to leave the program. MHS Theatre recognizes that persistent negativity undermines the spirit of collaboration and jeopardizes not only the joy of the process, but the enormous investment of time, talent, and hard work that leads to a successful production.

Website

Information is frequently posted on the website <http://www.middletontheatre.org>, including schedules, information for casts and crews, weekly newsletters, ticket information, etc. Please keep checking in. Thank you!

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