



## AUDITION INFO

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Center Stage Academy announces its fall theatre production, *Godspell, Jr.!* Auditions are open to ALL Center Stage students in 2<sup>nd</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade. Students 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade will be considered for the *Godspell* Cast and students in 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade will be auditioning for the *Godspell Kids* which will be included in 1-2 songs during the show plus a pre-show performance to set the mood for the production. The production (and pre-show) will be directed/choreographed by Jennifer Renfrow with Musical Direction by Scott Maple.

Please review all the information provided in this packet. If you have further questions, please call 660-747-6133.

### AUDITION INFORMATION

**When:** ***Sunday, August 25, 2019 at 1pm***

Check-in begins at 12:30 (Auditionees can call parents to pick them up when finished.)

**Where:** ***Center Stage Academy***

349 SE DD Highway  
Warrensburg, MO 64093

**Attire:** ***Auditionees should dress for success in clothes that make them feel confident and enhance their individual personality. It's important to dress nicely and have a polished appearance so that directors know that you take the audition seriously. Hair should be pulled out of the face in a style that you like. Please no hats, it hides your face.***

**Preparation:** Students may sing a selection of their choice or prepare the pre-selected song. Additionally, each child needs to bring a completed audition form.

### ***Audition Format***

Upon arrival to the audition, each actor needs to check in, receive a number that should be pinned to their clothing, and have their photograph taken. Auditions will begin with the whole group learning and performing a short dance combination (dance experience not necessary.) Then actors will perform their prepared song for the directors in number order. As soon as they are finished with songs/monologues, students are free to go.

### ***Callbacks***

If the director finds it necessary to see any actors for additional readings or singing, callback auditions will be the **Monday, August 26 at 7pm**. A callback list will be posted on the Center Stage website as well as posted on the door by 9pm on Sunday, August 25.

### ***Additional Audition Information***

Auditions will be closed (meaning only children auditioning will be allowed in the audition room.) Parents can wait in the lobby or can drop children off and pick them up at the time listed above.

As with all auditions, there will be some children that are not cast in the production. It is important to understand this before auditioning and for parents to help prepare their children for this possibility. We try to include as many actors as possible but logistically there is only room for a certain number of performers on the stage. It is our goal to cast the best actor for each role while considering the many factors that influence casting: singing (quality and range), acting (character, diction, timing, projection, etc.), dancing (character movement and skill), height, physical appearance in relationship to others being cast, connection to the audience, ability and willingness to take direction, respect for directors and other performers, and overall attitude. If you are not cast, we encourage you to sign up to help backstage.

## PRODUCTION INFORMATION

### *Performances*

October 26-27, 2019

### *Rehearsals*

- Rehearsals will be between the following times: Friday evenings 4:00-9:00 pm AND Saturdays from 9:00-5:00 beginning the weekend of August 30-31 through Performance Dates.
- Mandatory dress rehearsal on Thursday, October 24 and Friday, October 25.

Rehearsals will be scheduled on Fridays and Saturdays from August 30-October 27. Detailed rehearsal schedules will be available on our website as they become available. Depending on their part, performers may not be called for rehearsal on certain days or they may only be called for a portion of rehearsal. Attendance is absolutely necessary at every rehearsal you are called for. On the audition form there is a place for you to put your known conflicts between these dates. If we know now, it is easier to accommodate minor conflicts. However, if we feel your conflicts will be too difficult to schedule around, you will not be cast in this production. Conflicts that come up after casting has been posted or rehearsals begin will not be considered in scheduling and you will be expected to be at the rehearsal.

### *Production Fee and Other Expenses*

- Each *Godspell* cast member (regardless of part) is required to pay a **production fee of \$125. Godspell Kids fee is \$85**. This fee is used directly to offset the cost of show licensing, script rental, orchestration rental, facility rental, costumes and technical elements of the production. The production fee will be due in two payments. Half will be due by September 1st and the remainder due October 1st. Payments may be charged to your card on file at Center Stage.
- Optional Show T-shirt (\$15-\$20)
- Show Tickets (\$10-\$12 per ticket)
- Possible cost of costumes not supplied such as, socks, tights, shoes, jeans, etc.

## ***Other Information***

- Cast members are required to be at ALL rehearsals for which they are scheduled and at ALL performances.
- Only conflicts listed on your audition form will be excused.
- If an absence is necessary, in case of emergency or illness, please contact the assistant director. More than two absences may result in dismissal from the show.

## ***Video Auditions***

If you are unable to attend the audition, you may submit a video. Keep in mind, it is always better to audition in person but sometimes conflicts may be unavoidable. Audition videos and audition forms must be received by 1pm on Sunday, August 25 to be considered. Please email a link to [info@centerstageacademy.org](mailto:info@centerstageacademy.org).

## ***Casting***

The cast list will be posted at Center Stage Academy on **Wednesday, August 28, 2019**. A list will also be posted on the studio website. Please fill in the Production Agreement online form as soon as casting is posted. Please do not call the studio for casting information.

## **AUDITION MATERIALS**

Actors in 5<sup>th</sup> grade & up should prepare a 1-minute vocal selection from a musical of their choice. Actors in 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> may sing a 1-minute vocal selection of their choice OR the selection listed below.

Song title: *My Favorite Things* from The Sound of Music. (beginning through 1<sup>st</sup> chorus finish at 1:10) Here is a link to practice: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uNp8mPFVEIY>

If you select your own song, you must provide accompaniment track on a device cued to the proper place (no CDs or acapella singing.) If you are using a track off of youtube, take a screen recording so you are not dependent on internet or signal strength.

## ***Audition Tips***

- Be professional (positive, happy, organized, polite) from the second you step out of the car.
- Make sure to check in when you arrive with your completed audition form.
- When it is your turn, be confident, take a nice, comfortable stance and stand tall. Look REALLY happy to be there.
- Make sure you project your voice (including when introducing yourself) and continue doing so as you sing your song.
- Take a deep breath and focus. Make a clear nod to the accompanist or person running the CD player when you are ready to begin.
- Enjoy yourself during your performance.
- Do NOT apologize. Even if you make a mistake, or are sick or have a cold! Everyone occasionally messes up and directors understand that and won't hold it against you. Don't ask to try again.

## SYNOPSIS:

The story begins with Jesus declaring himself as God and King, in whom there is no beginning and no end. John the Baptist enters and sings "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord." John the Baptist baptizes the company. When Jesus wishes to be baptized, John kneels and wishes to be baptized by him instead. Jesus brings John back to his feet and tells him that he is here to save mankind in the song, "Save the People."

The company returns in clown costumes and begins to put clown makeup on their faces. Jesus assures them that he has come, not to abolish the law of the prophets, but to complete it. While the company moves like stylized marionettes, Jesus informs them that those who keep to the law of God will earn the highest place in heaven. To illustrate this, he tells the story of the widow and the judge. The story shows that God is a good judge who will vindicate those who cry out to him day and night.

Jesus preaches the law of offering gifts at the altar before God as the company mimes making offerings. Then, as they all clap in rhythm, they act out the story of a Master whose servant owed him debt. The servant asked for the Master's pity, and the Master remitted the debt. However, the servant was owed a debt by another and, when he did not show the same pity that he had been shown, the Master condemned the servant to prison until the debt was paid. Jesus tells the company that the moral of the story is that one must forgive as God forgives. If one does not forgive, then God will condemn one to prison.

One of the company members sings "Day by Day," which is a prayer for clear vision. The company joins into the song. The company then does a pantomime of the Good Samaritan story for Jesus, who then tells them to love their enemies and not to make a show of religion. If good deeds are done in secret, the reward will come from God.

One of the company members sings "Learn Your Lessons Well," in which he warns of eternal doom if one does not learn the laws of God. Jesus tells the company that no one can be devoted to two masters, and that no man can serve God and money. One of the company members tells a story of a man who spends his life accumulating things, but dies before he can enjoy it. She then sings "O, Bless the Lord, My Soul," in which she praises a patient and wise God. Jesus bids the company to put away thoughts of material things and anxieties about tomorrow.

The company recites the beatitudes ("Blessed are the poor in spirit," etc.) and Jesus answers them in a call-and-response manner. However, Judas recites the final beatitude about persecution, directing it at Jesus. The company freezes with fear, thinking about events to come. However, Jesus quickly changes the subject and sings "All for the Best," through which he assures everyone that, even if life is bad, their reward will be in Heaven. Judas sings a verse of the song as well, and he and Jesus perform a soft shoe dance. The company joins their singing.

After the song ends, Jesus coaxes the shyest child to tell them all the parable of the sower and the seeds, which represent the word of God. To further illustrate the parable, one company member sings "All Good Gifts." Jesus tells of a time when he will sit in glory and divide men into two groups like a shepherd divides the sheep from the goats. His righteous sheep will enter Heaven while the cursed goats will face eternal fire. The goats beg for mercy and sing "We Beseech Thee." The company then acts out the story of the prodigal son. They sing "Light of the World," a song which encourages everyone to be shining beacons in the world. Jesus stops them, telling them that all that has gone before was in preparation — their real work begins now. As he turns away, one of the girls steps forward and sings "Beautiful City," voicing the realization that a new community has been formed by their coming together. When the song is over, Jesus announces that one of the company will betray him, and tells Judas to do what he has to do quickly. Judas runs off. Then, in a recreation of the last supper, Jesus gives the company bread and wine and announces that it is his body and blood; they will all eat and drink together again in the kingdom of God. Jesus bids farewell to his followers and prays in the garden. Judas returns and embraces Jesus, who is then crucified on the fence upstage while the company climbs the fence and wails.

In the "Finale," Jesus sings as he dies, and then all movement stops. The company removes Jesus from the fence and carries him off as they sing "Long Live God" in counter melody with "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord". Afterwards, the company reprises "Day By Day" as they take their bows

## **CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:**

**JESUS** is a natural-born teacher. Cast a performer who is a good singer and is comfortable taking on a leadership position without being bossy or judgmental. Jesus experiences a full array of emotions during the show, so you want to find a solid actor who can convincingly perform this range.

Gender: Male

Vocal range top: G5

Vocal range bottom: D4

### **JUDAS/JOHN THE BAPTIST**

One performer plays both of these roles, which is quite a challenge. This actor must be charismatic in the opening, headstrong and comical in the middle of the show, and eventually turn on Jesus at the end. All of this while being a great singer, too. You will definitely want to cast one of your strongest singers and actors in this role. Be creative. There is no reason Judas/John the Baptist can't be performed by a girl.

Vocal range top: G5

Vocal range bottom: C4

### **Day By Day**

This song doesn't have a large vocal range, but it has great power and weight at the start and then livens up to a great celebratory number. Cast a singer who has the right vocal range, as well as the vocal control to lead the song from beginning to end.

Gender: Any

Vocal range top: A4

Vocal range bottom: C4

### **Learn Your Lessons Well Solo 1**

The key to patter songs is to find singers who are great enunciators and engaging storytellers. It is less about the melody and more about the lyrics.

Gender: Any

Vocal range top: C5

Vocal range bottom: G3

### **Learn Your Lessons Well Solo 2**

The key to patter songs is to find singers who are great enunciators and engaging storytellers. It is less about the melody and more about the lyrics.

Vocal range top: C5

Vocal range bottom: G3

### **O, Bless The Lord, My Soul**

Pull out your big guns for this song. Cast a great musician with both vocal control and power.

Gender: Any

Vocal range top: E5

Vocal range bottom: B3

### **All Good Gifts**

This heartfelt ballad sounds best when sung by someone who not only has a beautiful voice, but also can express honest, simple emotions while they are singing.

Gender: Any  
Vocal range top: F#5  
Vocal range bottom: B3

### **We Beseech Thee**

This high-energy number can almost be spoken if you don't have a great singer. It's the perfect song for the fun-loving class clown who enjoys performing but might not hit every note. Add a slight southern accent to liven the number up even more.

Gender: Any  
Vocal range top: D5  
Vocal range bottom: D4

### **Light Of The World**

Here's another song that can be spoken in rhythm. Cast fearless performers who are not afraid to interact with the audience.

Gender: Any  
Vocal range top: G4  
Vocal range bottom: Bb3

### **Beautiful City**

Look for a singer who can bring everyone together and deliver the message of the show in this beautiful, sincere song.

Gender: Any  
Vocal range top: C5  
Vocal range bottom: Bb3

### **Narrators**

There are a whole multitude of Narrators throughout the show. Cast students with loud, clear voices who are comfortable being in front of an audience and telling a story.

Gender: Any

### **Ensemble**

These cast members are the heart of Godspell JR. They will enact all of the parables and eventually become a community led by Jesus. Find actors and singers who are willing to try anything and enjoy playing.

Gender: Any