Maine South Theatre Dept.
Winter 2027
AUDITION / CREW / LEADERSHIP INFORMATION PACKET

2027 Winter Play

Much Ado About Nothing
By William Shakespeare

Directed by Ms. Samantha Kaufman
Scenic & Lighting Design by Tech Director Mr. Jon Luke Lassa
Costume Design by

Performance Dates: February 4th, 5th, 6th 2027

Relevant Links - READ FULL DOC BELOW BEFORE FILLING OUT ANYTHING!

Audition Sign-Up -

Here

General Crew Sign-Up -

Here

Leadership Application (Stage Management, Assistant Director, Dramaturg) -

Here

Essential Production Dates *Subject to Change:

October 27th - In-person Auditions from 3:30-6 PM
October 28th- In-person Callback Auditions 3:30 - 6 PM
November 12th - Designs and Read Through Rehearsal 3:30-**6 PM**
November 30th - December 18th - Rehearsals resume M-F, 3:30- **6 PM**
—> **Saturday, December 5th -** 10:00 AM- 2:00 PM & 3:00 - 5:00 PM
—> **Saturday, December 12th -** 10:00 AM- 2:00 PM & 3:00 - 5:00 PM
******WINTER BREAK******
January 5th-6th- Rehearsals 3:30-**6 PM**

January 14th- 29th - Rehearsals M-F, 3:30-**6:30 PM** (with the potential for exceptions/Saturday rehearsals)

—> **Saturday, January 16th -** 10:00 AM- 2:00 PM & 3:00 - 5:00 PM

January 30th - 1st Tech Rehearsal, 9:00 AM- 3:00 PM

February 1st - 2nd Tech Rehearsal, 3:30- 8 PM

February 2nd and 3rd - Dress Rehearsals, 3:30- 8 PM

February 4th- Opening Night Performance (Call time is 5:30)

February 5th - Second Performance (Call time is 5:30)

February 6th- Closing Performance (Call time is 5:30)

TBD Strike, 3:30 PM-TBD … ALL CAST REQUIRED TO ATTEND. **Thespian points will not be awarded to those who do not attend strike.*

Some special dates/notes:

Saturday Rehearsal dates and rehearsals on days off school will be addressed on the detailed rehearsal calendar.

Current Saturdays scheduled are December 5th, 12th, and January 16th. Though they are scheduled for 6 hours with a lunch break, no actor will be called for more than 2 hours on those days.

Rehearsals & Crew Calls

Rehearsals will be held every day after school, starting November 12th beginning at 3:30pm and with increasingly longer end times ranging from 5:30-6:30pm with the exception of Saturday Rehearsals/Tech. A full, detailed rehearsal calendar will be provided at the first rehearsal. *Rehearsal times and dates are subject to change. **Not every actor will be called every day, but students should keep their time flexible as changes will arise**. Actors and production leaders are expected to attend every rehearsal for which they are called. Unexcused absences beyond illness and emergencies may result in dismissal from the production.

*A note: the call time is the START time not the ARRIVAL time.

Crew will meet every day from 3:30-5:30 pm. It will be mandatory that you commit to this schedule. Only 1 absence is allowed per week for crew heads and two for regular crew members. Leaving before work is completed for the day will be grounds for dismissal. Please adhere to the conflicts you list on your application.

Winter Play Crew General Application Link (ALL CREW MEMBERS FILL OUT FOR EVERY SHOW IF YOU WANT TO BE IN THE PROGRAM) - Linked Here

Winter Play Leadership Application Form (Stage Management, Assistant Director, Dramaturg) - Linked Here

Audition Instructions

You must audition with a joke and a monologue.

Step 1: Learn the play

- A digital script will be sent out this week. However, students will not perform a monologue from *Much Ado About Nothing* during auditions.

Step 2: Prepare a joke

- The joke must not be more than 30 seconds in length.

Step 3: Prepare a monologue

- Prepare a monologue from the Google Drive of Audition Monologues OR a monologue not on this drive may be used if the monologue was written by William Shakespeare

General Monologue Tips:

- Memorization is required. It is challenging to thoroughly understand a character if you don't know the words.
- You may use a chair if you'd like, but no other props or furniture or costume.
- Time yourself to be sure you are within the time range, as you will be cut off if you go over.
- Create a distinct character that shows off your acting abilities.
- Make bold choices and take risks - show us who you are and how you will build our ensembles!
- ***Most importantly, have fun!***

General Shakespeare Tips:

- Read a summary of the play your monologue is from
- Read a breakdown of the character saying the monologue
- Go watch "Finger Puppet Shakespeare: [Title of Play]" on Youtube to get a better sense of the plot
- Go to "No Fear Shakespeare" find the play the monologue is from and read the modern english translation of what you are saying.
- Look up any words you don't know the meaning to
- Look up any words you don't know how to pronounce
    - HOT TIP: If you are going to mispronounce something - do it boldly!

Step 4: Sign up for an audition.

- **Sign up for an audition time on the callboard outside of the auditorium, across the hall from the Drama rm.!** But…ONLY after you have read through this whole packet (there is more information below)
- You will be auditioning in groups of 8. Each person will present their monologue in front of that group and the director at that time, and then you will be dismissed. Audition slots are 15 minutes long.
- *Please know that if you sign up for an audition slot that a) no one else signs up for or b) is a bit later than all the other slots that are filled…I may contact you to ask you to move to an earlier time.

Step 4: Complete the audition application

- You will not be able to audition if this form is not complete.
- No auditionees can audition without filling out this form in its entirety and acknowledging that a guardian has reviewed the information.
- You must know all of your conflicts before you fill out the form.

Step 5: Break a leg!

- Arrive to your audition location at least 15 minutes before your audition times.
- Have fun and keep breathing!

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

These leadership positions are assigned at the same time as casting, and you can indicate an interest in them via the audition form (if also auditioning) or the Crew form if you are not.

You do not have to be auditioning to be a leader! BUT…you must be AT LEAST a sophomore!

- **Student Directors**
    - The Student Director/s assist the director with rehearsals and company spirit. They should be strong workers with creative ideas that help to unite the cast and crew into one team. This role is a leader and role model to all in the cast and crew. They help lead warmups, may occasionally block scenes, occasionally run scenes, and provide ongoing feedback. This position also helps with company initiatives, including creating bios, planning company events,promoting spirit days, etc. This

role is typically granted to student leaders with proven excellence in rehearsals on and offstage.

- **Stage Managers:**
  - The STAGE MANAGER is with the cast and director from the very first rehearsal until the closing of the show. They are in charge of keeping the cast on track in rehearsal, taking diligent notes for the directors and actors, communicating needs from the rehearsal room to the tech director and visa versa. They are responsible for taking attendance of all actors on a daily basis and managing the actors' conflicts sheets (so organization and experience using Google Sheets is a must). When it comes time for tech, they are the ones calling all the technical cues of the show over the headset.
  - The ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS might come on to the rehearsal process about 2 weeks before we go into tech. They assist the stage manager in multiple tasks in these rehearsals such as taking line notes for the actors, writing down blocking, playing music if necessary, etc. When it comes time for tech and show, they are each backstage with actors on headset and are getting cues from the stage manager when certain

- **Dramaturg**
  - The dramaturg will work closely with directors and designers to research, understand, and responsibly portray the world of the show. They will also be asked to help create lobby displays to help the audience to engage in the world of the show.

***If you are not auditioning but would still like to be a leader, please fill out this **crew/leadership only application**

EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL:

ELIGIBILITY: NO PASS, NO PLAY for ALL STUDENTS

Students participating in ANY/ALL co-curricular groups, clubs, productions, and/or teams MUST meet Maine South eligibility and attendance policies. If at any time during the rehearsal process these requirements are not upheld, you will be pulled from the group, cast, team, etc. and replaced. Refer to your student handbook for the eligibility policy and requirements. You are also expected to be a kind, courteous, and respectful citizen.

A NOTE ON PROFESSIONALISM for ALL STUDENTS

All cast members are expected to be professional, courteous, and respectful throughout the rehearsal and performance process. This includes being on time and present at rehearsals, meeting deadlines, and wearing appropriate attire and footwear to rehearsals. **All cast and crew students will be equal members of the ensemble, and disrespect toward peers will not be tolerated**. The opportunity to appear onstage means you are the public face of SHS and the Fine Arts Division, and you are expected to take this responsibility with pride.

Publicity:
As is customary with theatrical productions, students will be photographed and/or videotaped. Stories related to our production may be featured in the newspaper and on the school website. By signing this form, parents/guardians are providing consent that their student can be photographed and/or videotaped for publicity-related purposes.

Social Media:
It is an absolute certainty, in both professional and amateur theatre, that you will not always get a role or the role that you wish for. Each and every audition process will bring forth more talent than can be used in a single show. For this reason, you must carefully decide how you intend to answer the question posed on this audition form: "Will you accept any role in this production?" Once the cast list is posted, it is expected that you remain positive and supportive of one another. If you do not have anything nice to say, do not say anything at all. This means in person, in writing, and on all social media outlets. Students that are determined to be acting in a hurtful manner toward others may be removed from the production.

Audition and/or Leadership questions? Contact the director, Samantha:
(skaufman@maine207.org)

Crew questions? Contact Mr. Lassa : (jlassa2@maine207.org)