

TALAWANDA HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA PRESENTS:

# THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER

(\*PENDING RIGHTS APPROVAL – WE ARE STILL WAITING FOR FINAL APPROVAL FROM SAMUEL FRENCH AND CONCORD THEATRICALS)

*The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* is a comic play based off of the childrens book of the same name by Barbara Robinson.

In the story, Beth and Charlie Bradley's mother has unexpectedly been put in charge of the church Christmas Pageant. In her attempts to cast the play, the Herdman clan, the most inventively awful kids in history, show up and claim the parts. The result is a wild ride to the finish line along a journey of fun, mayhem and discovery that somehow makes this The Best Christmas Pageant Ever.

Auditions: Thursday and Friday September 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> from 3-5:30 in the Performing Arts Center at Talawanda High School.

Saturday September 17<sup>th</sup> from 3-5:30

*(if you have a child you would like to be part of the baby angel choir or manger animals only, please email me: [mgmortimore@talawanda.org](mailto:mgmortimore@talawanda.org))*

**For auditions:** please present around a 1 minute monologue from a modern play, film, short story, or poetry if you are interested in one of the larger roles. Something to show me your ability to present character driven work and memorization skill. Sides will also be provided for cold readings or for additional audition information. (Sides are scenes from the play that can be read/performed during an audition)

Performance Dates are:

Friday November 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM

Saturday November 12<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM and at 7 PM (2 shows that day)

Sunday November 13 at 2 PM

If cast, you must be able to commit to all performance dates, and tech week schedule. If you have never done theatre before, this can seem a bit crazy... we work a lot that week to make sure that when the audience is in their seats, the kids are 100% comfortable that they know their lines, their cues to enter and exit, their blocking (where to move around the stage and when), and what to expect from everyone on stage with them. Without this process, the kids lose faith in all of the above. We secondly want to make sure that the audience gets the best show possible, and that can only be done with consistent rehearsal. Thanks for your understanding.

During auditions there will be a form to fill out conflicts with any rehearsal dates (there can be no conflicts tech week or for performances). Please be prepared with your calendar to let me know what conflicts are already on your calendar. I will do my best to work around schedules *prior to tech week* as I understand how much families have going on. If I know this ahead of time, it will help me with casting. I don't want to cast someone in a large role that needs lots of rehearsal if their time is limited. I have other parts I can cast that can accommodate those with tight schedules.

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for distribution

Rehearsals are generally Mon – Friday from 3-5:30, allowing students from outside the high school time to get here and rehearse for a full 2 hours when they are called. I will only call students in if they are in a scene we are rehearsing (or hoping to rehearse) that day. My goal is to use your and my time efficiently. As we get closer to opening, I will require the entire cast to be present more and more often. During tech week, all cast members will be required to be present for each rehearsal. These dates and times are as follows: (times are subject to change, but should not exceed the hours I have indicated; if we are in good shape, it should take less, but you should prepare for this.)

Sunday November 6, from 1pm-8pm (bring a snack/bagged meal; no food allowed in PAC)

Monday-Thursday November 7-10, from 4:00 pm - 8 pm (bring a snack/bagged dinner)

Friday November 11 Performance: 5:30pm – 8:30pm (eat before coming)

Saturday November 12 Performances: 12:30pm – 4:30pm, dinner break, 5:30pm –

8:30pm

Sunday November 13: 12:30pm – 4:30pm.

Strike will follow this performance. THS Drama students/cast are expected to help with strike. Younger cast members/parents are encouraged to stay and help if available and necessary. The PAC is shared by so many different groups and we'll need to clear the stage and lights etc., of all of our set and production items so others can use the stage for their needs.

Roles: (roles with an \* require the most rehearsal time; roles do not need to fit age; I will cast for appearance and presentation of age)

\*Bob Bradley (Father – present throughout the play)

\*Grace Bradley (mother and pageant director one of our main characters)

\*Beth Bradley (age 10-12, our narrator; needs a strong voice and presence)

\*Charlie Bradley (age 8-10, traditional kid brother)

\*Ralph Herdman (age 12-14, ragged, scroungy, slouching manner, touch of adolescent cool)

\*Imogene Herdman (age 11-13, loud, bossy, crafty)

\*Leroy Herdman (age 10-12, tough, sure of himself)

\*Claude Herdman (age 9-11, tough, combative)

\*Ollie Herdman (age 8-10, looking for trouble, Claude's usual partner in crime)

\*Gladys Herdman (age 7-9, small, wiry, feisty)

\*Alice Wendleken (age 10-12, prim, proper, pain in the neck)

Mrs. Armstrong (managerial voice and manner, bossy; usually the pageant leader)

Mrs. Slocum (pleasant, motherly)

Mrs. Clark

Mrs. Clausing

Mrs. McCarthy (younger, less imperious version of Mrs. Armstrong)

Maxine (age 10-12)

Elmer (age 12-14)

Hobie (age 9-11)

David (age 8-10)

Beverly (age 7-9)

(2) Fire Officers

Shirley (age 5-7)

Juanita (age 5-7)

Doris (age 9-11)

Minister Hopkins

Extra angel choir members, shepherds, baby angel choir and manger animals

Rehearsals are TBA at this point, but will begin as soon as casting and rights have been secured.