



Theatre Handbook

2015 – 2016

The Academy for Academics and Arts
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1. Introduction

The Academy Children's Theatre (ACT) is a non-profit (501c3), theatre service organization associated with the Academy for Academics and Arts. ACT is committed to promoting the value of theatre in all its forms including: theatrical production, theatrical design, technical theatre, performance groups and classroom studies. ACT achieves its goals through the dedication and commitment of the parents, family members, and guardians of current AAA students involved in the activities of Academy Children's Theatre. ACT also enjoys the support of alumni and friends of theatre from across the community. ACT activities are organized by a Board of Directors; composed of a volunteer Executive Council and the ACT Faculty.

2. Education, Performance and Technical Theatre Opportunities

Students have multiple types of theatre opportunities throughout the year:

2.1. Drama

Students in 6th – 8th grade will have the opportunity to audition for Drama class with Mrs. Tumminello in the first week of school. The class will be centered on learning the fundamentals of performance through movement, voice and speech, improvisation, script analysis, character development and theatre history. The classes will be aligned with the State Standards for the Fine Arts and will engage in a creative process that connects the theatre curriculum with core subjects.

2.2. Academy Stars and Clowns

The Academy Stars and Clowns are the ambassadors for the Academy for Academics and Arts. Directed by Ms. Fleischman, Theatre Artist in Residence, these sixth, seventh and eighth grade students dazzle audiences in Huntsville and around the state with a lively song and dance presentation. The groups' eclectic variety of music appeals to audiences of all ages.

The selection process for Stars and Clowns involves a solo audition in the first week of school. The performance groups attend classes four days a week; after school rehearsals are occasionally required. Invitations to perform come from civic groups, business conventions and conferences, schools, churches, and other community events. The group has also performed at Panoply since its inception.

Membership in this group gives students more than a performance experience. The personal commitment by a student to be a part of the group, audition, attend all the rehearsals, care for costumes, learn theatrical make-up techniques and perform for the public teaches lifelong skills that transfer to academic success and career opportunities. In addition to proficiency in song and dance, the students learn problem solving skills, interpersonal skills, communication skills, poise and self-confidence. Students also promote the arts to their peers and to the community.

Being a part of the Stars and Clowns is a yearlong commitment from 60 students and a team of faculty members. In addition to the direction from Ms. Fleischman, faculty sponsors Ms. Frevert and Ms. Bennett supervise the group and provide technical direction.

2.2.1. Audition Description and Permission Form

Stars and Clowns auditions occur annually in the first week of the school year. For the audition, each child is required to sing a solo. Each child will need to provide sheet music or instrumental only CD with his/her selection. During the audition, students will also learn a new number and accompanying choreography.

Parental permission is required to audition for the Stars and Clowns. Please remove the "Stars and Clowns Audition Permission Slip" from Appendix D, complete and sign, and return to school with your child by Tuesday, August 4, 2015.

2.2.2. Performances

The Stars and Clowns prepare for and conduct a Holiday Tour in December and a Spring Tour in the latter part of the semester. Bus transportation is provided for tours. Tour destinations vary year to year.

An Academy Children's Theatre (ACT) Night is held at the school prior to the Holiday Break in December and again near the end of the school year in May. The Stars and Clowns perform for friends and family on ACT Nights to showcase their accomplishments.

Stars and Clowns traditionally perform before the AAA student body, faculty, family and friends on the morning of the last day of the school year in December and May.

2.2.3. Rehearsals

Stars and Clowns rehearse each week during the school day at their regularly scheduled class period. After school rehearsals are sometimes necessary in preparation for specific performances. Faculty sponsors will keep parents informed of the after school rehearsal schedule. After school rehearsals are from 3:00 pm - 5:30 pm and occasionally on Saturdays.

2.2.4. Costumes & Makeup

Academy Clowns are introduced to costume and makeup design by designing their own individual clown costume and clown makeup. Please see Appendix B for more details.

Academy Stars wear coordinated costumes that are made by a seamstress commissioned by ACT to ensure consistency. Please see Appendix B for more details.

2.3. Technical Theatre

Technical theatre classes consist of a broad practical training in the areas of production and design. Our goal is to introduce the fundamentals of technical theatre and design with a clear insight into the necessary organizational, managerial and collaborative skills required for success.

Led by Mr. Mills, the students participate in classroom instruction involving key aspects of design, costuming, lighting, props, scenic art, sewing, set construction, sound and production management. Students also provide technical support for school performances/functions and special events. This teaches students to troubleshoot issues quickly and efficiently, to prioritize and meet production deadlines, and work well with artists, staff and performers. Belonging to this group involves a commitment to scheduled after school and weekend workdays.

2.3.1. Selection Process

Students interested in Technical Theatre are invited to express their interest during the first week of school. Students demonstrating good work ethic and attitude, along with a willingness to work well with others, are selected as members of the Tech Crew for the upcoming school year. The Tech Crew is composed of the Tech Leader Team and the Stagecraft Team.

2.3.2. Scheduling

Students that are enrolled in Technical Theatre classes constitute the Tech Leader Team. The Stagecraft Team consists of students with scheduling limitations. When the Tech Team is called for after-school or weekend workdays, both groups (The Tech Leaders and the Stagecraft Team) will work together.

2.4 Theatre Productions

There are two primary productions directed by Mrs. Tumminello within the school year. The Fall production will be a non-musical open to drama students, and the Spring production will be a musical with a school wide open audition.

Many volunteer opportunities are associated with the theatre productions. Academy students would not have the opportunity to participate in quality productions of this scale without the AAA family volunteer contributions to set construction, scenic painting, prop development, costume preparation, publicity, ticket sales, cast support, etc.

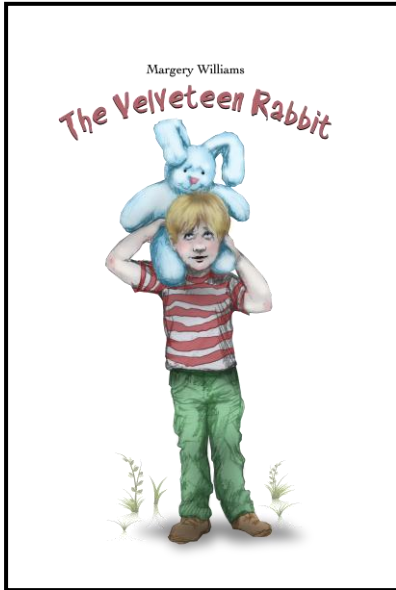
Specific productions planned, audition information, and further details for this school year are described in Appendix A.

3. *Expected Behavior*

ACT participants must be on their best behavior when representing Huntsville City Schools and AAA. Students are expected to follow all HCS and AAA policies of behavior during participation in ACT events.

Appendix A – Theatre Productions for 2015-2016 School Year

The Velveteen Rabbit



Description of Production

Academy Children's Theatre is pleased to announce the first production in their new home! An Academy Original, **The Velveteen Rabbit**, based on the beloved 1922 book by Margery Williams, is a modern twist on a timeless tale. The Velveteen Rabbit teaches a young child that a stuffed bunny can be more than just a frivolous play thing. Sometimes, one small thing that seems insignificant, can become an important part of life. In this modern adaptation of the classic book, the Velveteen Rabbit becomes a friend that helps his owner grow and learn what it is to feel love.

Selection Process and Audition Permission Form

Auditions will be held for drama students during their class period. Notification of audition dates and specific requirements will be communicated through Edmodo and Email. Although the

cast is limited to drama students, there will be many opportunities to participate. If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact Mrs. Tumminello.

Rehearsals and Commitment

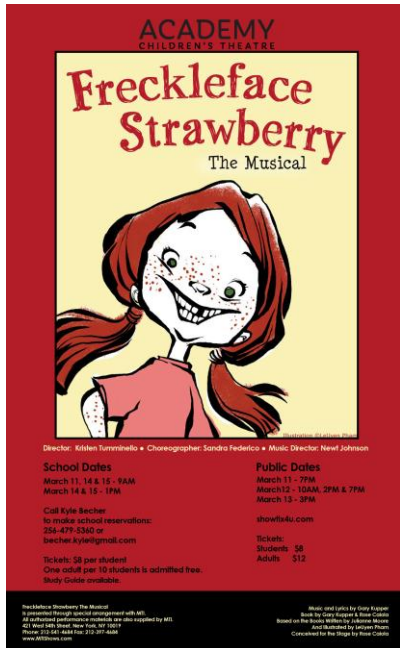
The Velveteen Rabbit rehearsals will take place during scheduled class time. When approaching the performance dates, there may be additional after school rehearsals that will take place on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays. Notification will be given a minimum of 3 weeks in advance. Rehearsal times will be posted on the school calendar.

Participating in this production comes with a sincere commitment to be a good team member as well as an individual who desires to achieve excellence.

Production Dates

Public performances will take place November 13, 14 and 15.

Freckleface Strawberry the Musical



Description of Production

The musical Freckleface Strawberry, based on the beloved NY Times Bestselling book by celebrated actress Julianne Moore, is a fun and touching family musical. Families can step inside the book's pages with Freckleface and friends as they learn to love the skin their in!

Selection Process and Audition Permission Form

Auditions will be scheduled for students after school in the latter part of the fall semester. Notification of audition dates and specific requirements will be communicated through homeroom teachers. The production will be cast through an open call for all Academy students.

Rehearsals and Commitment

All **Freckleface Strawberry** rehearsals will take place after school and on the weekend. Scheduled rehearsal days will be Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Schedules will be communicated prior to the start of the rehearsal process beginning in January. Any changes/alterations to the schedule will be communicated a minimum of two weeks in advance. Rehearsal times will be posted on the school calendar.

Participating in this production comes with a sincere commitment to be a good team member as well as an individual who desires to achieve excellence.

Production Dates

School & Public performances will take place March 11th through the 15th at Lee High School.

Appendix B –

Academy Clown Costume and Make-up Information

The Huntsville City Schools magnet program in conjunction with the Academy Children's Theatre will provide costumes and makeup.

Costumes

Ms. Fleischman teaches a Costume Design class in 6th grade. Each student executes costume design with support from Ms. Fleischman and parents or other family members. The students will discuss and perform design tasks in class. A contracted team of costumers will manufacture student designs.

Ms. Fleischman will provide guidance and assignments to sketch the costume. The student will then choose fabrics from the provided samples.

Here are some helpful hints for you to think about when planning your costume:

- Look at pictures of clowns or clown dolls for ideas ... then add more!
- Pick a theme! Flower child, baby doll, baseball, etc.
- Clowns are always happy, bright, and exciting!

When planning your Clown costume, design a removable Christmas accent that will be used during holiday performances. This accent could be a different headpiece, different socks, a Christmas vest, a Christmas tie or a Christmas decoration attached in any way. NO BELLS.

Good luck, and most importantly, "Be creative, Let it Show!"

Makeup Design

A makeup professional will teach a class on makeup techniques and design. AAA faculty will oversee this process and provide guidance where needed. The students will discuss and perform makeup design exercises in class. They will experiment with makeup and perfect their own clown face. Academy Clowns are expected to master the task of putting on their own makeup for performances.

Each clown will be provided a makeup case that contains his or her makeup supplies. Students are responsible for maintaining makeup supplies used throughout the year. Due to health reasons, each student is required to use their own makeup. Makeup may not be shared. Students will be required to replace any lost or damaged items given to them by the school.

Appendix C – Academy Stars Costume and Make-up Information

The Huntsville City Schools magnet program in conjunction with the Academy Children's Theatre will provide costumes and makeup.

Costumes

Students who participate in the Academy Stars wear coordinated costumes that are made by a contracted team of costumers commissioned by ACT to ensure consistency.

Each Student will be responsible for maintaining their costume used throughout the year. Students will be required to replace any lost or damaged items given to them by the school.

Other Requirements

Parents are responsible for the following:

- **BOYS** - For performances, boys are expected to present a "clean-cut" appearance. They may be required to get haircuts at Ms. Fleischman's direction.
- **GIRLS** – Girls are expected to comply with hair and makeup guidance provided by Ms. Fleischman. Girls will receive a class on hair and makeup. They are responsible for providing their own makeup foundation. The magnet program will provide required lipstick.

Appendix D – ACT Permission Forms

STARS AND CLOWNS AUDITIONS 2015 - 2016 PERMISSION SLIP

Parents,

Your child has expressed an interest in auditioning for one of our elite performing groups: Academy Stars or Clowns. This signed parent permission slip, returned prior to auditions or brought to auditions by your child, will let us know that you are allowing your child to audition and are making a commitment to support your child's participation if he/she is selected upon auditioning.

For the audition, your child is required to sing a song. Each child will need to provide sheet music or an instrumental only CD with his/her selection. Students will also learn a new vocal piece and choreography.

Being a member of one of these groups is a privilege, which comes with a sincere commitment to be a good team member as well as an individual who desires to achieve excellence. The Academy for Academics and Arts Stars and Clowns enjoy a wonderful reputation in our school system, city, and state. That doesn't happen without preparation, dedication, and self-discipline.

Thank you for your interest in and support of the Academy for Academics and Arts. Part of our continued mission is to bring seasoned performers and quality arts to the public. **Please remember that without this signed permission slip, your child will not be allowed to audition.**

NAME:

GRADE:

HOMEROOM TEACHER:

PARENT'S SIGNATURE:

PARENT'S CONTACT INFORMATION:

Home Phone	
Cell Phone	
Email	

The Velveteen Rabbit

AUDITIONS 2016 PERMISSION SLIP

Parents,

Your child has expressed an interest in auditioning for our theatrical production – **The Velveteen Rabbit**. This signed parent permission slip, brought to auditions by your child, will let us know that you are allowing your child to audition and are making a commitment to support your child's participation if he/she is selected upon auditioning.

For the audition, your child is required to prepare a memorized monologue or poem. Along with a memorized piece, your child will participate in improvisational exercises and character movement exercises as assessment. As this is a script in progress, students may be asked to "cold" read from an alternate script for the audition.

Participating in this production comes with a sincere commitment to be a good team member as well as an individual who desires to achieve excellence. The Academy for Academics and Arts enjoys a wonderful reputation in our school system, city, and state. This doesn't happen without preparation, dedication, and self-discipline. We will have many after school rehearsals at which attendance is required

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PARENT'S CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Cell Phone	
Email	

Freckleface Strawberry

AUDITIONS 2016 PERMISSION SLIP

Parents,

Your child has expressed an interest in auditioning for our theatrical production – **Freckleface Strawberry**. This signed parent permission slip, brought to auditions by your child, will let us know that you are allowing your child to audition and are making a commitment to support your child's participation if he/she is selected upon auditioning.

For the audition, your child is required to sing a song. Each child will need to provide sheet music or an instrumental only CD with his/her selection. Your child must also prepare and deliver a memorized monologue or poem. They may be asked to learn a dance and repeat it in a group for the audition panel.

Participating in this production comes with a sincere commitment to be a good team member as well as an individual who desires to achieve excellence. The Academy for Academics and Arts enjoys a wonderful reputation in our school system, city, and state. This doesn't happen without preparation, dedication, and self-discipline. We will have many after school rehearsals at which attendance is required

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