

# CMT Audition Question and Answer

Below are answers to many common questions we get from first-time performers and their families.

## **The Audition Process**

### **How long does the audition process take?**

The full process generally takes between 1 to 1.5 hours.

### **Am I guaranteed an audition the same day I arrive?**

Hopefully, yes. In order to give each performer ample time to perform his or her audition piece, we limit the number of performers in each audition group to no more than 30. If the number of people auditioning exceeds the number of slots available, you may be asked to return at a later date or time. We suggest that you arrive at least 20 minutes prior to your desired audition time.

### **Can I download or pick up the conflict calendar or CMT Policies forms in advance?**

Yes. Once the audition times are set, the registration packet (including the conflict schedule) is available online to download at [www.cmtworks.com](http://www.cmtworks.com) on the Auditions Page

### **Can I audition for any show, regardless of my age?**

No, you must be within the posted performer age range for the show at the time of the audition. We understand that you may look older or younger than your actual age or may have considerable experience or maturity but each performer must adhere to the age policy

### **What song should I sing?**

Choose an audition song that you are comfortable with and that shows off your personality and voice at its best. Most directors prefer that you not sing a song from the show you are auditioning for, but are happy to hear you sing a song that is similar in tone or style to the show. At CMT, any song will do, and many first-time auditionees choose something like "Happy Birthday" or "Take Me Out to the Ballgame." As for singing voices, in girls and women sopranos are the highest pitched voices, mezzo are mid-range and alto are the lowest. For men, tenor voices are highest, baritone is the mid-range and bass is the deepest adult male singing voice. Most boys we see are tenors.

### **What are callbacks?**

Callbacks are an opportunity for the production staff to see you one more time before making final casting decisions. If you are not called back, don't worry, because you are guaranteed a part in the show.

### **When will I know what role I got?**

Cast lists are posted online on the date indicated on your audition form. At auditions, you will be told the exact posting day and time for the cast list for your show. Please do not call the office for casting information.

### **If I don't like my part, can I quit?**

Yes, but you will not be allowed to audition for the next show and your tuition fee will not be refunded. We strongly discourage performers from quitting if they don't get the role they like, because we believe that every role is important and the experience of being part of the production is more important than being the lead. Also, many a times a role you didn't really want can surprise you and be more fun than you ever dreamed.

## **Costs to Participate**

### **How much does it cost to be in a CMT production?**

For the 2006 Season, the tuition fee, or your cost to participate in the show, ranges from \$150 to \$200 depending on the production. Cast members do not receive complimentary tickets so individual ticket prices range from \$10.00 to \$20.00. Optional costs are Sweatshirts/T-Shirts, Personal Messages in the Program, Photographs and the Cast Party.

### **Why do you charge tuition?**

Like many nonprofit theater companies, we are not able to cover all of our production expenses with ticket sales. The additional money from tuition allows us to put on fully produced show in a major theater venue and to provide you, the performer, and the opportunity to work with outstanding theater professionals. Collecting tuition from performers who are able to pay also allows us to make our programs available to those who cannot afford to participate.

### **What if I can't afford to participate?**

We offer two kinds of scholarships. Please inquire about scholarship application and information on the day of your audition.

## **Rehearsals**

### **When are rehearsals?**

Show rehearsals are scheduled Monday through Friday. Typically, weekday rehearsals during the summer season are in the mornings, early to late afternoons OR evenings. The spring and fall shows typically rehearse in the evenings from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. A detailed rehearsal schedule will be available at the Parents' Meeting for your show.

### **What if I can't make it to a rehearsal?**

When cast for a part, each performer makes a commitment to attend all rehearsals. If you are ill or will be late for a scheduled rehearsal, please call the Business Office at (559) 442-3140, and leave a message. If you know before auditions that you will not be available certain day(s), please note it on your Conflict calendar, which you will receive as part of your Audition Packet. Conflicts will not be accepted during the last ten days of rehearsal or during the performances. If you have too many conflicts on your form or have poor attendance during rehearsals, the director may recommend that you not audition or withdraw from the show.

## **Volunteering**

### **What is the volunteer time commitment for performer's family?**

Depending on how involved you wish to be, your total volunteer hours will vary over the course of the production.

### **Why do you require volunteer participation?**

While we are fortunate enough to have a professional production staff, parent volunteers are an essential component of each CMT show. We depend upon volunteers to accomplish much of the production workload. Both you and your child have roles in a production. For example, a typical CMT show includes a total of about 4,000 hours of volunteer time divided among the families of all cast members. There are several basic volunteer duties expected of every family and numerous elective areas in which to volunteer your talents and time.

### **What are the basic volunteer duties?**

Every family is expected to volunteer with load-in and strike. Load-In and Strike involve working with other volunteers to load and unload the set pieces, using rental trucks, into (Load-In) and out of (Strike) the theater. You should plan on a four-hour block of time (minimum) for each Load-in and Strike. In addition to this performer families are required to volunteer an addition (4) four hours toward the productions construction. Further details regarding this requirement are available at the Company Meeting.

### **What are the elective volunteer jobs?**

Parents, working under the guidance of a volunteer coordinator and our professional staff, may take on the following jobs:

**Costumes** - Assist costume designers with taking performer's measurements, record keeping and construction

**Props Construction** - Create or gather required props from director's list

**Set Construction** - Build the set pieces and backdrops for the show

**Cast Party** - Choose date and location, gather money; coordinate the event and provide supervision at the event.

**Lobby Display** - Create welcoming display in lobby using rehearsal photos, etc.

**Backstage Supervision** - Assist Coordinator with cast member preparations, behavior, noise control and meeting cues at the proper time.

**Wardrobe** - Assist cast members with costume maintenance and quick changes during performances.

**Stage Crew** - Work in the wings to assist cast members and move set pieces and scenery.

**Spotlights** - Operate spotlights from the catwalk during tech rehearsals and performances.

**Make-Up/Hair** - Assist cast members backstage prior to the show and/or during the performance

**Concessions** - Sell CMT memorabilia in the lobby before, after and during the intermission of public performances.

**Ushers** - Welcome and direct audience members to their assigned seats, be available to assist audience members during the show and monitor the lobby during the performance.

**Props** - From the wings, manage the prop table by assisting cast members in dealing with their props.

### **Still have questions?**

If your question is general in nature and you are not already cast in a show, please call the Business Office at (559) 442-3140 or send us an e-mail at [cmtworks@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cmtworks@sbcglobal.net).