



High School Musical JR Audition Information and Important dates



Welcome to Western Arts Theatre Inc. We're so excited to stage our next all junior show – High School Musical Jnr and just as excited to have you be a part of it. Listed below is all the information you'll need to prepare for your audition. This pack is designed to make the process as easy as possible. If you have any questions or concerns, please email us at westernartsproducer@gmail.com

The Show

Disney Channel's smash hit movie musical comes to life on your stage! Troy, Gabriella and the students of East High must deal with issues of first love, friends and family while balancing their classes and extracurricular activities.

It's the first day after winter break at East High. The Jocks, Brainiacs, Thespians and Skater Dudes find their cliques, recount their vacations and look forward to the new year. Basketball team captain and resident jock, Troy, discovers that the brainy Gabriella, a girl he met singing karaoke on his ski trip, has just enrolled at East High. They cause an upheaval when they decide to audition for the high school musical that is being led by Ms. Darbus. Although many students resent the threat posed to the "status quo," Troy and Gabriella's alliance might just open the door for others to shine as well.

Audition Dates

Solo Vocal Auditions

Monday, December 3rd 7:00pm - 10:00pm Solo Vocal Auditions

Thursday, December 6th 7.00pm - 10:00pm Solo Vocal Auditions

Sunday, December 9th 1.00pm – 4.30pm Solo Vocal Auditions (Reserved for Junior auditionees)

Dance Auditions

All auditionees are required to attend a dance audition; Juniors are from 7 – 11 years, Seniors are from 12 – 18 years. You will be notified at your solo vocal audition if we require you to attend a different dance call.

Sunday, December 9th 10:00am - 11:15am Senior Dance Audition

Sunday, December 9th 11.30am – 12:30pm Junior Dance Audition

Call Backs

Monday, December 10th 7.00pm – 10.00pm (as required)

Invitation to call backs will be made Sunday December 9th. Any material will be emailed to you to prepare for your call back although this will be kept to a minimum in consideration of the time frame.

Audition Venues

Sunday auditions – Masonic Centre, 840 Mt Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds

Monday and Thursday auditions – Essendon Baptist Church, 134 Buckley Street, Essendon

Solo Vocal Audition

Bookings for auditions can be made through trybooking: www.trybooking.com/ZJPW – this link is also available on the Western Arts Theatre Facebook page or Western Arts Theatre website.

Please print out and turn in the attached Audition Form when you arrive for your audition. All auditionees will require the signature of a parent/guardian on their Audition Form as they are under 18 years of age.

Please arrive 10 minutes before your audition time to be fully prepared, have audition forms filled out and have your casting photo taken.

For your vocal auditions, you will need to perform one song in the style of the show.

Songs need to be performed to sheet music; no backing tracks or acapella will be allowed. A piano accompanist will be provided. As the Production team may not have time to hear your whole song, please prepare the best section of the song to make sure it shows off your best vocal range, ie. If there are three verses in the song, maybe only prepare just one verse, the chorus and bridge. The recommended time for a song is between 1:30 – 1:50 minutes.

During the audition there may be a vocal range check and auditionees may be asked to repeat a short phrase.

Please ensure that your sheet music:

- **Is in the correct key**
- **Has any cuts/alterations clearly marked**
- **Is printed and in a display folder**

Please DO NOT:

- Staple the pages
- Provide your music as PDF on your tablet or device.

You may be asked to read dialogue for the role you are auditioning for, or for a role the creative team feel you may suit. Script excerpts will be available when you arrive, and you may read through them before being called in. There is no pressure in the reading of the script –it is simply an opportunity for the production team to see how you work. You will not be required to memorise the script. We do ask that you try to use your best American accent when reading.

Dance Audition

Please wear comfortable clothing that's easy to move in. Other things that you will need to bring include dance shoes or sneakers (no bare-feet please) and a water bottle. Long hair needs to be tied back.

The dance call will be a fun and supportive environment even if you don't think you are a dancer, and everyone will be encouraged to smile and give it a go!

Don't be nervous. Every one of us on the audition panel has stood before an audition panel before and knows how you feel. Just do your best and have fun!

Production Team

Producer: Meg Warren

Director: Sarah Charles

Musical Directors: Bec Muratore

Co-choreographers: Alex Karaoutsadis & Liam McWhinney

Stage Manager: Tristan Lawrence

Costume & Wardrobe Coordinator: Elise Kurvink

Set Design and Construction: Tim Warren

All members of the production team and all child minders of the show have a valid Victorian Working with Children's check. There will be a qualified First Aid Officer at every rehearsal.

Character descriptions

The Students

Troy Bolton

Captain of the Basketball team, met Gabriella over the winter break and, thinking he would never see her again, reconnects at school after the break. Popular within the high school but confused about who he is and where he fits in. Troy has the full range of emotions: independent, driven, athletic, yet smitten with Gabriella.

Range: G3 to G5

Chad Danforth

Basketball team member and Troy's best friend. Lives and breathes basketball. Partners naturally with Troy and has a strong personality.

Range: G3 to A5

Zeke Baylor

Basketball team member with a secret passion for baking. Has an unrequited crush on Sharpay. Popular but a bit awkward.

Range: C3 to C5

Sharpay Evans

Has had the lead in every school musical since Kindergarten. President of the drama club and most popular girl in school (so she believes). Has a love interest in Troy and hates that Gabriella has grabbed his attention. Over dramatizes everything. Needs to be a strong dancer and hold her own in all scenes.

Range: A3 to D5

Ryan Evans

Sharpay's barely younger twin brother. He is a true star in his own right and loves to sing and dance. He desperately wants to be his own person outside of Sharpay's shadow. He wants the best for his sister but struggles with her ego. Needs to be a strong dancer.

Range: B3 to A5

Kelsi Nielsen

Pianist for the drama club. Composer of the winter musicale. Nervous and quite awkward yet knows how to deliver the 'zingers' at Sharpay when need be. Will need to look like she is a pianist and actually playing the piano as she 'accompanies' songs on stage.

Range: F3 to D5

Gabriella Montez

The "New Girl" to East High School who met Troy over the winter break. Wants to try to fit into to the new school without any pre conceived ideas of herself. Is intelligent, charming and innocent. Loved by everyone except Sharpay.

Range: D5 to F3

Taylor McKessie

Head of the Brianiacs and always keen to recruit new members for the Scholastic Decathlon in a hope that they might win at least once. She convinces Gabriella to join their club and is baffled why she would be so interested in Troy Bolton. She is assertive in her nature.

Range: B3 to C5

Martha Cox

Fun loving, big- personality member of the Brianiacs. She has a secret passion; she loves to dance, particularly hip hop. Needs great comic timing and 'over-the-top' Must be a strong dancer

Range: B3 to C5

Kratnoff

Member of the Brainiacs. A complete know-it-all. A non-singing role.

Ripper

Head of the skater dudes. On the outside he is a skater but has a secret; he plays the cello.

Mongo

Skater dude and Ripper's "side kick". A non-singing role.

Jack Scott

School announcer who is confident and suave behind the microphone, but not so sure of himself when he isn't. Known as the "Velvet Fog of East High" and has a 'gift of the gab' radio voice. A character actor with superb diction and good comic timing. A non-singing role.

The Adults

Ms Darbus

East High's eccentric drama teacher. Dislikes the Jocks and Coach Bolton. Runs a tight classroom but would love it for everyone to share her passion for the arts. Over the top and a would be Broadway star. A non-singing role.

Coach Bolton

Coach of East High Wildcats basketball team and Troy's dad. Dreams of the Wildcats winning the championships and for his son to be picked up by a scout for College ball. Doesn't understand Troy's new found preoccupation with the theatre and doesn't appreciate "Darbus the Deranged" control over the school. A non-singing role.

Ms Tenny

The school Chemistry teacher. Extremely encouraging of her students in a hope that all students would have a love of science. Very happy when she discovers Gabriella's academic prowess. A non-singing role.

Casting Announcement

Casting of the show will be done at the conclusion of the call backs on Monday, 10th December. Roles will be offered on Tuesday, 11th December. Full cast will be announced on our website and Facebook page on Saturday, 15th December in preparation for our meet and greet on Monday, 17th December.

Important Dates

Please notify us of any unavailability on your audition form. If not notified, we expect you to be available for all of the following dates unless in the case of an emergency or upon negotiation with the Production Team.

- First Rehearsal/Meet & Greet: Monday, December 17th – 7.30pm – 10.00pm
Parents will be required at the first hour of this rehearsal – 7.30pm – 8.30pm
- Intensive Rehearsal Weekend: Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd March - 10am and 5pm each day
- Bump In: Sunday, 7th April – 9.00am onwards (a roster will be organised for this – you will be required to contribute for at least 2 hours on this day)
- Bump Out: Sunday, 14th April – 5.00pm onwards (a roster will be organised for this – you will be required to contribute for at least 2 hours on this evening)

Other rehearsals: Starting the Thursday, 31st January, rehearsals will be held in Essendon every Monday and Thursday evening from 7:00pm to 10:00pm and on Sundays from 12:00pm until 5:00pm. See below for rehearsal venues.

Cast Fees and Membership

All cast members are expected to pay a Cast Fee of \$170. This covers a show libretto, commemorative show patch, catering on both days of rehearsal weekend, a fundraising box of chocolates to sell, costuming and the show fee. Each fundraising box of chocolates, once sold, will reimburse you \$60 on your initial Cast Fee payment. The Cast Fee is due at the first rehearsal on **Thursday, 31st January** and can be paid by direct debit, via a trybooking link or cash at the rehearsal. The trybooking link will be provided with the email welcoming you to the cast. We are more than happy to work out payment plans if this helps your family in any way.

Additionally, membership is required to be a part of the show. Membership costs are:

Individual membership - \$30

Family membership - \$80 (covers 2 Adults and 2 Children under 16)

Memberships last for 12 months and we advise that at least one parent is a financial member along with the cast member. Membership is due at the Meet and Greet on **Monday 17th December** and can be paid by direct debit, trybooking or in cash. Membership must be paid in order to cover all cast with public liability insurance.

Feel free to talk to the Producer about this should you have any questions.

Fundraising and Promotion

Cast members may be asked to participate in fundraising and promotion for the show. These may include performing at a fundraising event, distributing promotional material, appearing on broadcast radio programs, participating in photo-shoots and/or promotional performances at public venues. Availability will be considered once these events are secured.

Cast and Parent involvement

As a cast member and family of a Western Arts Theatre show, we ask that you contribute to the building of the show in some way. This will include helping at working bees for set construction, costume assistance, contributing to bump in and bump out and helping back stage. Many of the jobs that need to be completed are not designed for the kids in the cast so we are always appreciative of the help of parents and older family members. A form with the ways you choose to help with the show will be distributed at the Meet and Greet on Monday 17th December.

Rehearsal Information

Rehearsal times and venues will be as follows:

Monday and Thursday rehearsals – 7.00pm to 10.00pm

Essendon Baptist Community Church – 138 Buckley Street, Essendon
(entry down side stairs off Buckley Street)

Sunday rehearsals – 7.00pm to 10.00pm

St John's Uniting Church – Cnr Mt Alexander Road & Buckley Street, Essendon
(entry off Mt Alexander Road)

Not all cast will be required at all rehearsals. A detailed rehearsal schedule will be provided with at least 2 weeks' notice in all cases. Whilst we try our best to accommodate younger members of the cast, keeping their rehearsal times earlier than older members of the cast, there will be times when the junior members of the cast will be required until 10.00pm. We will attempt to keep this to a minimum.

Please note: All rehearsals will be closed rehearsals.

Production Week & Performances:

Performances will be at St Bernard's College Theatre, Rosehill Road, Essendon. Details of how to access the theatre will be provided closer to the dates of performance.

Production Week

Sunday, 7 th April	9.00am - onwards	Bump In
Monday, 8 th April	6.00pm - onwards	Tech Rehearsal
Tuesday, 9 th April	6.00pm – onwards	Dress Rehearsal
Wednesday, 10 th April	6.00pm - onwards	Dress Rehearsal

Performances

Thursday, 11 th April	6.00pm - onwards	Opening Performance (7.30pm)
Friday, 12 th April	6.00pm - 9.30pm	2 Performance (3.30pm and 7.30pm)
Saturday, 13 th April	2.00pm – 9.30pm	2 Performance (3.30pm and 7.30pm)
Sunday, 14 th April	2.00pm - 5.00pm	Closing Performance (3.30pm)
Sunday, 14 th April	6.00pm – onwards	Bump Out