

INTO THE WOODS - THE AUDITION PROCESS

Preparing for your audition is as easy as 1-2-3!

Step 1- Fill out your Audition Form. You should bring it with you to the audition. Make sure you've attached a photo that shows your face!

Step 2 - Read the script carefully, along with the character descriptions provided by PVTC to identify your first-choice character.

Step 3- Refer to the audition packet to see what specific material you should prepare to showcase your first-choice character and rehearse for your audition.

Auditions will take place on **Thursday, May 7th and Friday, May 8th**. We will send an email reminder about auditions as they approach.

Callbacks will be held on **Saturday, May 9th between 3-6pm**. Actors who are interested in being cast in a lead role or as a featured dancer need to be available for callbacks on this date.

Naturally, each student will feel some nervousness about auditions, but rest assured that we strive to make the process as painless as possible. The auditions are a chance for the director to observe actors both in solo work and with others. Auditions will happen in small groups so that no student will have to audition in front of everyone at camp.

Please review the character descriptions and listen to the CD with your child, and then complete the audition form together. On the audition form, each child must identify **three** parts they would enjoy. For their audition, they should prepare the lines and section of song identified in this packet for their *first choice* character. If preparing part of a song is beyond your child's experience level at this point, we ask that they be prepared to sing part of a familiar song, such as "Happy Birthday". **These assigned lines and songs do not have to be memorized** however it will benefit your child's self-esteem if they feel they are prepared and familiar with their character choice.

Given that we only have two weeks of camp, students are expected to know their lines and lyrics on the first day of camp, July 13th, so we can maximize our rehearsal time. Students will, of course, work the music director on singing and director on acting at camp. **Consider what amount of time can be spent at home on the script in order to help determine which roles are appropriate to audition for.** Parent help at home is crucial for characters with greater amounts of spoken lines.

Each camper will be asked to dance as part of their audition. Please wear closed-toe shoes and comfortable clothing. When students arrive for their audition, we will teach simple choreography to all students, which everyone will use for their audition.

AUDITION FAQs

Question: Who will be at my audition?

Answer: A group of 8-12 other campers who are a similar age to you. You will audition with this whole group, so you never have to be alone! **PVTC Summer Staff** will also be there: the director, musical director, choreographer, stage manager, and projects instructors - all of these teachers are excited to work with you this summer!

Question: My audition is 1 hour, what will we do?

Answer:

A group warm-up/game - This puts new campers at ease and allows everyone to get to know each other and the teachers. It also allows us to see how performers work as an ensemble.

A simple dance combination - Each student will learn a short piece of choreography. Come to the audition in clothes and shoes that allow you to move!

Singing - Each actor must sing at auditions. If you are trying out for a specific part, you should learn the section of the song associated with your first-choice character. If this whole process is new to you, you can choose a simple song like "Happy Birthday" or the ABC's.

Acting - Certain characters require acting auditions. To find out if your character requires an acting component, click on the character names above.

DEMYSTIFYING AUDITIONS: DOs AND DON'Ts

DO Give yourself enough time to prepare for your audition. Be familiar with your song and lines, if your character speaks. Practice in front of other people, like friends or parents.

DO Get a lot of rest the night before your audition. Make sure you have your audition form and character prep sheet ready before you come to the theatre.

DO Make interesting physical and vocal character choices - don't be afraid to take risks!

DON'T Wait until the last minute to prepare for your audition. You want to be calm, confident, and relaxed.

DON'T Wear flip-flops or restrictive clothing to your audition. You want to be able to move freely.

DON'T Forget to have fun!

INTO THE WOODS - CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

BAKER (Ab3 - Eb5) - The Baker changes the most as a result of his journey through the woods. At first he is reluctant to seek the help of his wife. It is through the tribulations of gathering the Witch's items that the Baker realizes, in order to achieve his wish, it will take the help of his wife. The Baker has one of the most difficult roles. He must be strong willed, yet the audience must like him; while he's denying the help of his wife, he must also portray a sense of needing and even wanting her help. The audience should never doubt the Baker is a good-hearted person, trying to do what is right.

BAKER'S WIFE (Bb3 - D5) *Into the Woods JR.* is truly an ensemble show. However, it is the Baker's Wife who drives the show forward and ties the characters together. The Baker's Wife is strong, determined, and patient. The audience should identify with her and root for a successful fulfillment of her wish. The role requires excellent singing and acting, plus a good sense of comic timing.

CINDERELLA (A3 - D5) Cinderella is at once beautiful, in a yet-to-be-discovered sort of way, and surprisingly clumsy and awkward. She persistently pursues her wish to go to the King's Festival, yet finds that "the Festival" ultimately does not meet her expectations. This is a great opportunity to cast Cinderella in an unusual manner. She should be able to sing well and be funny, without being a clown or mugging.

CINDERELLA'S FATHER This family is a bit off-beat at best. Cinderella's Father is actually only in one scene (although he could be added to others) and shows absolutely no interest in anything.

CINDERELLA'S MOTHER (Bb3 - D5) This role is a one scene wonder. The voice should be pleasant. Cinderella's Mother is a collection of remembered mannerisms and sayings.

CINDERELLA'S STEPMOTHER (G3 - D5) This family is a bit off-beat at best. Cinderella's Stepmother mocks her, represents the interests of her birth daughters over Cinderella's basic needs, and is selfish, mean, and nasty.

FLORINDA and LUCINDA (E4 - G4) This family is a bit off-beat at best. Florinda and Lucinda are spoiled brats who will do anything to win the heart of the Prince -- even if it means sacrificing flesh from their bodies!

GRANNY (Non-singing) Good speaking voice, fiesty and fierce,.

JACK (A3 - D5) Jack's own mother expresses her fear that Jack may not be the brightest boy. The fact that Jack's best friend is the family cow, Milky White, further brings into question his intelligence. However, Jack may enter the woods as a simple boy, but he leaves much more grown-up. You'll want to cast an actor capable of this transition. In addition to having many

lines, Jack is responsible for singing two of the best-loved songs, "I Guess This is Goodbye" and "Giants in the Sky." Therefore, he should be an excellent singer and a good actor.

JACK'S MOTHER (C4 - C5) This woman is overworked, a bit frazzled, and overwhelmed with the tasks of raising a young boy, running a farm, and making ends meet. Jack's Mother is described physically as "not quite pretty" and should be comfortable playing frumpy. This is mainly an acting role and therefore requires an actress with an easily projected, authoritative voice.

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD (Bb3 - C5) Pushy, bratty, over-fed, and spoiled best describe this character at the opening of the show. Her journey teaches her some very important lessons regarding strangers and trust. Little Red must be able to be loud vocally (think Annie gone very bad) and an actress able to be all the above, and still draw the audience's sympathy.

MILKY WHITE (non-singing) Jack's cow - can be a comedic role.

MYSTERIOUS MAN (Non-singing) This role is all that the name implies. The role may be doubled by the Narrator, as on Broadway, or may be played by a different actor.

NARRATOR (G3 - B4) This is the character who describes the action, but eventually gets involved...Generally, this role is doubled by the Mysterious Man.

RAPUNZEL (C4 - A5) Rapunzel must stand up to her mother and eventually leave her for the world. The role requires an excellent high soprano voice.

RAPUNZEL'S/CINDERELLA'S PRINCES (Bb3 - Db5) Pompous, conceited, and self-absorbed are the best ways to describe these brothers. They should be able to carry themselves with confidence that defies the Richter scale. They also have a bit of sibling rivalry! Both should be good, solid singers.

STEWARD (C4 - D5) This servant to Cinderella's Prince is a nice featured role. A few lines, both sung and spoken.

WITCH (Bb3 - C5) The Witch begins the show as ugly, old, extremely aggressive, sarcastic, and powerful. Ultimately, she sacrifices her power for beauty. The Witch should be mysterious and mischievous, and yet we learn that she is really only doing what she thought was best for her child. The Witch is perhaps the ultimate "character" role and should be played by an actress able to physically and vocally interpret the role.

WOLF (C4 - C5) The Wolf can be played any number of ways. However, he should be properly slimy and a bit creepy.