



AUDITION GUIDELINES

Welcome to the Palos Verdes High School Drama Department auditions. Please read the following material carefully. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Thompson at thompsonn@pvpusd.net or call (310) 378-8471 x 237.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Dear Parents & Students:

I am very pleased to have your son/daughter audition for the fall production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Be sure you have reviewed the rehearsal/performance schedule and that both you and your student fully understand all of the obligations that participation in this production entail. In order to make this production a success, it is crucial that your son/daughter be present at every rehearsal, unless otherwise excused by the Director. Please read the following audition information and sign the attached "participation agreement," signifying your understanding of your son/daughter's commitment to the show. Any conflicts must be listed on the conflict sheet. **Listing conflicts does not imply approval.** Students may be faced with the difficult decision of clearing conflicts in order to participate in the production. The Director must approve all conflicts.

THE AUDITION

Auditions will be held on Tuesday, August 28th at 3:00pm in the OAR. **Participation Agreements will be due at that time.** Please prepare one of the monologues from the packet for the audition. If you are interested in being considered for Titania, Oberon, a fairy, or one of Oberon's attendants, you will need to attend a short dance audition from around 4:30-5:00 in the Upper Dance Room (Rm 320).

CALLBACKS

Callbacks will take place Thursday, August 30th at 3:00pm in the OAR. Sides will be available at the callback.

FINAL CAST LIST

The final cast list will be posted online at <http://pvhsdrama.com/production> on September 1st. Please note that casting decisions are made by the Production Team and are **final**.

REHEARSALS

The majority of rehearsals will take place Tuesdays through Thursdays from 3:00-5:00pm. **Not all cast members will be called every day.** A couple of weeks before opening, rehearsals will intensify. **Please see the attached rehearsal schedule for details.**

CETA FESTIVAL

Please note that this play is being submitted into the CETA (California Educational Theatre Association) festival. Our show will be adjudicated by professionals and may be selected to be performed at the festival in January. This means that if you are cast in the play, you **CANNOT** make vacation plans for the holiday weekend of January 18th-20th and **MUST** be available to participate in the festival. We will be notified by Dec 1st if we are invited to perform. **If we are NOT invited, it is still required that you attend and represent PVHS at the festival.**

PRODUCTION EXPENSES

- A. Production Contribution of \$375, which goes towards: script, t-shirt, costume rental, tech dinners, cast party, professional set, lighting, costume, and sound design and staff.
- B. Ad Deposit of \$50 (check made payable to PVHS ASB) to help offset the cost of our programs. To be refunded if the student reaches the pre-determined goal in ad sales.
- C. **The production contribution and ad deposit are due at the 1st rehearsal** (2 separate checks)
- D. Costumes and Make-up: Each cast member is required to provide his or her own shoes for the rehearsals and performances. There may be some incidental expenses for undergarments. For health and sanitary reasons, you must provide your own make-up kit.

OBLIGATIONS

When you are cast it is assumed that you agree to the terms listed below:

1. You have parent permission to be in the show.
2. You have explained and submitted **in writing** on the participation agreement all special conflicts to the director.
3. There will be **NO ADDITIONAL CONFLICTS** other than those listed.
4. Only **2 absences** are allowed, regardless of their nature. On the 3rd absence, you **will be dropped** from the show.
5. If you are ill **you will call** and inform the director or stage manager **prior to** rehearsal time and leave a message.
6. Your grade point average will not fall below a **2.0**.
7. You will attend strike following the show on Sunday, November 4th and do clean-up work.
8. You are responsible for a \$375.00 production contribution and a \$50 ad deposit.
9. You are responsible for your own shoes and make-up.
10. You will be honest, dedicated, energetic, positive and willing to go the "extra mile" to make this a highly polished and professional show.
11. Should I fail to uphold my duties, I **will** be dropped from the show.

Support from home is extremely important. Please have your parents read and sign the attached form and bring it to the audition. If there are any questions please contact Mrs. Thompson at thompsonn@pvpusd.net or call (310) 378-8471 x 237.

PLAY SYNOPSIS

Theseus, duke of Athens, is preparing for his marriage to Hippolyta, queen of the Amazons, when Egeus enters with his rebellious daughter Hermia. Egeus wants her to marry Demetrius, but Hermia refuses because she's in love with Lysander. The Duke orders Hermia to obey her father or, according to Athenian law, she must face a death penalty or enter a convent. Hermia and Lysander decide to elope that night. They confide in their friend Helena; however, she's secretly in love with Demetrius so, hoping to win his affection, she tells him of Hermia's plan. That night, all four lovers set out into the forest.

Meanwhile, a group of Athenian tradesmen (known as the Mechanicals), led by Peter Quince, are planning to perform a play in celebration of the Duke's wedding. They rehearse *The Tragedy of Pyramus and Thisbe* in the same forest.

Elsewhere in the forest, the fairy king and queen, Oberon and Titania, argue over Titania's refusal to give up her page-boy to Oberon. He sends his servant Puck to find a magic plant to cast a spell on Titania. The juice of the plant, when squeezed onto the eyes of someone asleep, causes them to fall in love with the first creature they see when they wake up. Oberon uses the juice on Titania as she sleeps in her bower. Puck overhears the tradesmen rehearsing and magically transforms Bottom's head into that of an ass. The other men are terrified and flee the forest. When Titania wakes, the first creature she sees is Bottom and she falls rapturously in love with him. Helena chases Demetrius in the forest and their fighting disturbs Oberon. He tells Puck to use the magic plant on Demetrius too, so that he will fall in love with Helena. However Puck mixes up the two Athenian men and uses it on Lysander instead, who promptly falls in love with Helena. Both women are confused and Hermia furiously attacks her friend.

Eventually, Oberon lifts all of the enchantments and puts the humans to sleep. Titania is horrified that she's been enamored of an ass and is reconciled with Oberon. On waking, the lovers decide the night's events must have all been a dream. Lysander and Hermia return back to normal, and Demetrius admits he does love Helena after all. Bottom wakes up and recounts his 'strange dream'. The wedding of Theseus and Hippolyta becomes a triple celebration as the other human couples marry too. Quince and Bottom's troupe amuses the couples with their amateur performance of the play.

As the couples retire, Oberon, Titania and the fairies perform a blessing, and Puck asks the audience to applaud if they enjoyed the performance.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

Please note that this production will take place in modern day New York. Please see * for details.

THE ATHENIANS:

Theseus: Duke of Athens, who marries Hippolyta. He is a gracious man, who appears to be a good ruler. He tries to mediate the dispute between Egeus and Hermia, and is willing to give the artisans some credit for their farcical theatrical performance. Theseus is also a rational, down-to-earth man; he does not put any trust or faith in the imaginative world occupied by poets or lovers. *For this production he will be similar to a Mayor.

Hippolyta: Amazon queen who marries Theseus. *Mayor's wife

Egeus: stern-minded father of Hermia, who tells her that she must either marry Demetrius or die.
*Upper class New Yorker

Philostrate: Theseus's Master of the Revels. *Assistant to the Mayor

THE LOVERS:

Hermia: in love with Lysander but her father, Egeus, decides that she must marry Demetrius instead. She and Lysander decide to elope, and go to the wood outside Athens. Hermia is bewildered when Lysander deserts her, and quarrels with her friend Helena, accusing her of enticing Lysander away from her. Hermia is short and dark, in contrast to Helena. She is also hot-tempered. *Uptown New York chic

Lysander: an aristocratic young man who is in love with Hermia. He is tricked by the flower-juice that Puck puts on his eyelids into believing that he loves Helena, and he rejects Hermia. Then when Puck puts another herb on his eyelids that removes all error, he realizes once more that he really loves Hermia. He and Hermia marry. *New York hipster

Helena: in love with Demetrius, but he rejects her. She does not give up, however, and follows him to the wood. In the wood, she is astonished to find that first Lysander and then Demetrius (through the effects of the love-juice) confess their love for her. She thinks they are playing a cruel joke on her. Helena lacks confidence in herself as a result of being jilted by Demetrius, so she cannot believe in love when it does come to her. In contrast to Hermia, Helena is tall and fair. *SoHo chic

Demetrius: an aristocratic young man who once loved Helena but is now in love with Hermia. He rejects Helena, even though she still loves him. During the course of the play, as a result of the love-juice placed by Puck on his eyelids, Demetrius rediscovers his love for Helena, and the two eventually marry. *Hamptons chic

THE MECHANICALS:

Peter Quince: in charge of the production of the play, *Pyramus and Thisbe*, and takes the role of the Prologue (although according to the watching aristocrats, reads his/her lines very badly). *New York tour guide. May be played by a male or female.

Nick Bottom: a strong and confident character. At the first rehearsal he exasperates Peter Quince by wanting to play almost all of the parts himself. In the wood during a rehearsal, the mischievous Puck magically transforms Bottom's head into an ass's head, which scares his fellow players away but wins him the love of Titania. When *Pyramus and Thisbe* is performed, Bottom plays the role of Pyramus with great energy and enthusiasm, but little skill. *Struggling actor, waiter at the Stardust Diner.

Francis Flute: plays the role of Thisbe in *Pyramus and Thisbe*. Played by a male. *New York cop

Snug: plays the Lion in *Pyramus and Thisbe*. He is "slow of study." *Times Square costume character. May be played by a male or female.

Tom Snout: plays the Wall in *Pyramus and Thisbe*. Played by a male. *Construction worker

Robin Starveling: Plays Moonshine in *Pyramus and Thisbe*. *Central Park balloon maker. May be played by a male or female.

THE FAIRIES:

Oberon: king of the fairies. He has quarreled with the fairy queen, Titania, over who should have possession of a changeling boy that Titania is raising. Eventually Titania gives in to Oberon's demands, but not before he has played a cruel trick on her with the love-juice. Oberon uses Puck to manipulate the four lovers in the wood, but his intentions are benign. At the end of the play, he and his train enter Theseus's house in order to bless it. *Please note that in this production Oberon will be played by a female similar in style to Taylor Swift.

Titania: the fairy queen. She has quarreled with Oberon because Oberon wants her to hand over a changeling boy that Titania has been raising since his mother died in childbirth. Titania eventually allows Oberon to have the boy, but not before Oberon has played a trick on her, causing her to fall in love with Bottom, who is wearing an ass's head. *Titania will be played by a female similar in style to Katy Perry.

Puck: a mischievous spirit also known as Robin Goodfellow. He is Oberon's lieutenant and does his bidding. He takes a lot of pleasure in the confusion he brings to mortals. *Puck can be played by either a male or female and will assume multiple New York characters.

Peaseblossom, Cobweb, Mote, Mustardseed, and others: fairies that attend upon Titania. *Katy Perry backup dancers.

Oberon's attendants. *Taylor Swift's backup dancers

MIDSUMMER Audition Application

Student Contact Information:

Name: _____ Grade level: _____

E-Mail: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

____ I have no conflicts for the rehearsal or show schedule

____ I have the following conflicts*:

| Date(s) | Time(s) | Reason for conflict |
|---------|---------|---------------------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

*conflicts subject to Director approval

The role(s) that I am auditioning for (in order of preference) are:

1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____

4) _____ 5) _____ 6) _____

If I am not cast, I would _____ would not _____ like to be a part of the stage crew.

If interested in a crew position, please complete the crew application and attach

PARENT AND STUDENT PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT
FOR THE
FALL PRODUCTION

My son/daughter, _____, has my permission to be involved in the fall production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. I have read the audition packet and looked at the rehearsal/performance calendar. Both my student and I understand the time and financial commitment that he/she must make. I accept responsibility for my student attending all rehearsals and performances for the production and I will ensure that he/she is at all rehearsals on time (unless otherwise excused by the director previous to the time of absence). I will also provide transportation or make arrangements for transportation for my son/daughter to get to rehearsal at school. I will provide continuous support and volunteer to help make this the best experience for my son/daughter. I give permission for photographs of my student to be taken and to be used for promotional purposes. I understand that I am responsible for a production contribution of \$375.00 and a refundable ad deposit of \$50 (Please see audition guidelines for details).

| | | | |
|-------------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| STUDENT SIGNATURE | DATE | PARENT SIGNATURE | DATE |

Parent Contact Information:

Name:_____ E-Mail:_____

Address:_____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone:_____

Volunteer Interest: _____

(please see "Parent Volunteer Jobs" on the following page for job descriptions)

Parent Contact Information: (*only needed if both parents would like to receive email communications and/or volunteer)

Name:_____ E-Mail:_____

Address:_____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone:_____

Volunteer Interest: _____

(please see "Parent Volunteer Jobs" on the following page for job descriptions)

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM PARENT VOLUNTEER JOBS

This description of volunteer opportunities should be reviewed prior to the Parent Meeting on **Wednesday, September 12th at 5:30pm.**

Banners – Pick up banners from “Minuteman Press” in Torrance. Responsible for hanging banners when and where permitted (director will advise where arrangements have been made) and take down at completion of the show.

Poster/Postcard - Coordinate with director to pick up posters & postcards from “Minuteman Press” in Torrance. Coordinate poster distribution Thursday, October 4th (a list of locations from previous shows will be provided). Postcards: Arrange for mailing with Perry Mailing Services.

Program/Ads: Work with a computer publishing program to create the program that will be distributed at each performance. Receive and edit bios from cast and crew members. Work with the director to prepare all written material in the program. Collect ads and insert ad art into program. Work with headshot photographer to receive headshots to insert into bios. Take final program to printer and pick up programs when complete. Monitor number of programs left during the production and order more if needed. Send follow up letters to each sponsor, along with a program, thanking them for their donation.

Display Case – Arrange creative display with cast and crew headshots and other show items and decor, within budget provided by director. Arrange for removal of all display case items & décor upon completion of show and return/storage of all items.

Ticket Coordinator - Oversee and fulfill all online ticket purchases. Be at each show 45 minutes before curtain to sell tickets.

Telegrams - Work with the director to design & purchase telegrams to be sold before the show and during intermission. Monitor and replenish telegrams as needed for performances.

Props - Work with director to create a prop list. Coordinate rental/purchase of props and deliver to the director. Replenish any perishable props during performances. Pack-up props during Sunday strike and return any rentals.

Concessions - Coordinate concessions donations and purchase of all snacks and beverages to be Sold during the shows. Monitor and replenish concessions as needed for performances.

Rehearsal Meals (Donation) - Provide a rehearsal meal for the cast, crew, and staff during Run-thru Week. Arrange for food, drinks, paper goods, utensils, and any cleaning supplies. Students will serve themselves and clear their own dishes, but parents are responsible for final clean up, including tables, floors and trash removal.

Tech Dinners – Provide dinner and dessert for cast, crew, and staff during Tech Week. Arrange for food, drinks, paper goods, utensils, and any cleaning supplies. Director will provide locations, final head count, and budget for each meal. Students will serve themselves and clear their own dishes, but parents are responsible for final clean up, including tables, floors and trash removal.

Wrap Party - Arrange for closing party for cast, crew, & staff on Sunday, November 4th, following strike. Organize food and drink within budget. Prepare invitation with location, phone number, time, and directions.

MIDSUMMER Crew Application

Name: _____ E-Mail: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Grade Level: _____

Please list any previous stage crew experience:

The crew position I am interested in is:

Please number 1-5 in order of preference

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| _____ Props/Stage Crew | _____ Lights | _____ Sound |
| _____ Costumes/Hair/Makeup | _____ Stage Manager | _____ Asst. Stage Manager |
| _____ Assistant Director | _____ *House Manager | _____ *House Crew |
| _____ Dance Captain | | |

Stage crew production contribution is \$150, which goes towards: t-shirt, professional set, lighting, sound, & costume design and staff, tech dinners, and cast party. Due at 1st crew meeting on September 6th

*no participation fee for House Crew or House Manager

Rehearsals/Performance Schedule:

Please see Crew Call Times schedule for details.

Student Conflict Information:

_____ **I have no conflicts for rehearsal or show schedule**

_____ **I have the following conflicts:**

| Date(s) | Time(s) | Reason for conflict | <u>Approved</u> |
|---------|---------|---------------------|-----------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

*conflicts subject to Director approval