

Little Women
Parent Information Guide
9/18/17

NOTE: The reading and understanding of this information guide has replaced a Little Women Parent Meeting.

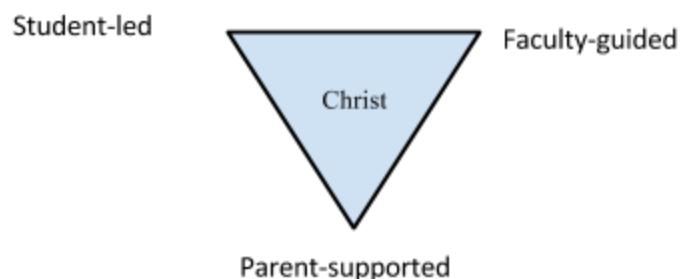
Vision

Arrowhead Theatre Arts (ATA) exists to magnify Christ through stage and story, cultivating an environment in which students may develop their imaginations and grow in godly character. We believe that a theatre arts program has the potential to give young people invaluable skills and insights into God's world. Beyond the practical benefits of learning acting and theatre production (in short: robust communication, leadership and creative skills), theatre can offer an enormous amount of *joy* to those involved: whether they are on stage or in the audience. Joy is a wonderful gift from God and something I love offering to communities through theatre. ATA hopes to provide entertainment that is full of delight and wonder appropriate for audiences of all ages.

Program Model

Investment

ATA's program model is built on the idea that students benefit the most when they have a stake in the program. Therefore, ATA is designed to place mature students in key leadership roles under the guidance of faculty and support of parents. At the beginning of the year, I (Mr. Bundy) established a student leadership team composed of six high school students. They have many responsibilities foremost of which is to create and maintain an environment for our actors, backstage workers, and volunteers that honors Christ by valuing diligent and creative work intermixed with warmth, joy, and kindness.



Arrowhead Theatre Arts

Classics

ATA is different from other youth theatre programs in that we seek to stage stories that not only entertain but provoke delight and wonder in all those involved. Over the years, I've found that one of the most important elements of a theatre program is choosing the *right* plays to produce. While there are many thought-provoking Broadway musicals, I think we do better in adapting the classics and creating original plays. Classic literature often offers unparalleled depths of wisdom and creativity that begs to be put on stage. I've discovered that classical works stir those engaged to think deeply about the characters and timeless themes. Secondly, I believe that classics can then inspire new, original, plays written by our own students, volunteers, or faculty for our own community.

Little Women

Mrs. Bundy and I have adapted our version of *Little Women* from Louisa May Alcott's work of the same name. The play will run between 1.5 to 2 hours.

Important Dates and Times

Our performances will be staged at Calvary Chapel Twin Peaks Retreat Center in Twin Peaks **on Friday, Dec 8; Saturday, Dec 9 (matinee and evening performance). Rehearsals meet every Monday from 3:30-6:30 PM** on the LACS campus. Finally, students with lines must have them memorized (off book) by **Monday, November 6th**.

By Thursday, September 21st, the detailed rehearsal and performance schedule will be posted at LACSarts.com/theatre. **For your child to audition on Monday, September 25th**, you as the parent must state on the audition form what conflicts, if any, your child has with the *Little Women* schedule. This will aid us as we are casting the production.

Student Expectations

Considering the Commitment

I know of few ventures as joyful, rewarding, and exhausting as taking part in a play. I (Mr. Bundy) see it as one of my main responsibilities to communicate this to parents and students *before* they commit. Because ATA exists to magnify Christ, we take our staging of plays seriously. We prayerfully consider who we cast in roles and ask you to prayerfully consider if your child is ready to be involved with our theatre program this spring.

My hope is to prevent my actors and actresses from burnout, as it is neither fun nor healthy! To help prevent your child from burnout, we ask that you consider the emotional weight and time commitment of a production. You know your child best, and you know whether he or she has

Arrowhead Theatre Arts

enough room in his or her life to fully commit to a role. We certainly do not want to scare anyone away; we simply want you to be aware, so you can make the best decision for your child.

Responsibilities and Expectations

To ensure that we fulfill the vision of Arrowhead Theatre Arts, we have the following expectations for those cast in a role.

Students are to:

- strive to maintain a Christ-honoring attitude amidst the thrills and difficulties of theatre production;
- attend all rehearsals promptly to which he or she is called;
- attend all performances by the call time on the schedule;
- memorize all lines and blocking notes by November 6th;
- turn off, or make silent, all electronics during rehearsals;
- bring a three-ringed binder to hold the script;
- take notes on blocking and character development;
- stay after final production to help clean and reassemble sanctuary.

Absences: Excused and Unexcused

Prompt attendance at all rehearsals and performances is essential for a successful production. The absence of even one character can greatly affect a scheduled rehearsal or performance. With that said, we know that emergencies do take place, and we will work around your child if an emergency presents itself. We recognize two types of absences: excused and unexcused.

The following are considered excused absences:

- a medical or family emergency;
- a conflict which has been written on the audition sheet or parent/student contract;
- a conflict in which an excuse has been (a) requested at least two weeks in advance in writing (email or letter) and (b) returned with approval by Mr. Bundy.

All conflicts which are neither an emergency nor approved in writing by Mr. Bundy are unexcused absences. If a child has two unexcused absences, we reserve the right to replace your child's role.

Replacement

In rare occasions, we have to replace a child's role in our production. For the benefit of the cast, crew, and final production, we reserve the right to do this in the following scenarios:

- a student has two unexcused rehearsal absences;
- a student is chronically late to rehearsals (at least four times by ten minutes or more);
- a student has not memorized his or her lines by Monday, November 6th;
- a student is placed on academic probation;
- a student is suspended or expelled.

Parent Expectations

We strongly believe that without parent support, our theatre program will not flourish. So we ask before you allow us to cast your child in a production that you be aware of the ways in which we need your help. Thus, parents, we mask the following of you:

- thoroughly review the rehearsal and performance schedule for any conflicts, listing them on the audition or parent/student contract;
- make sure that your child arrives on time (or a tad early) to rehearsals and performance call times;
- volunteer in one area for the production;
- check your email and our website (LACSarts.com) for regular updates.

Parent Volunteers

We have a variety of opportunities for parental help in our theatre productions, ranging from selling tickets to helping construct our set to helping with costumes. If your child is cast in a role, we will contact you about the areas you can help with.

Student Volunteers

If your child is interested in participating with *Little Women*, but not being cast in a role, there may be opportunities for him or her to help in other areas. If this is the case, please contact me at danebundy@calvarychapel.com.

Audition and Casting Process

We take great care in casting of our show. The casting process begins with the audition process, which actually includes you, the parent. Here are the steps from auditioning to casting.

1. Parents and student review rehearsal and performance schedule (available Thursday, September 21st) (LACSarts.com/theatre).
2. Parents agree to allow student to audition.

Arrowhead Theatre Arts

3. Student signs up for an audition time slot (LACSarts.com/theatre) (available Thursday, September 21st).
4. Student or parent completes audition form (LACSarts.com/theatre) (available Thursday, September 21st).
5. Student chooses an appropriate monologue (30 seconds – 1 minute / comedy or drama).
6. Student auditions with monologue (9/25/18).
7. Student returns for group reading (9/25/18).
8. Casting team (Mr. Bundy and Mrs. Bundy) prays, prays, prays for wisdom.
9. Director posts cast list about a week after auditions.
10. Student and parents review *Parent & Student Agreement*.

How do we cast?

We take a number of factors into account when we cast a child in a role, including, but not limited to the following:

- age, height, and other physical characteristics;
- schedule availability and commitments;
- maturity;
- performance in audition monologue and group reading;
- academics.

How much does it cost?

If your child is cast in a role, the registration cost is \$50. This fee helps with costuming your child and other needs of the production.

Thank you!

We hope to see your child at auditions this fall.

In Christ,

Mr. Bundy