**Cast Notes – July 1st**

Hello Cast Members,

We are getting down to our last few rehearsals before tech week. This update is packed with a lot of information. So, I am also posting this document on the website so you may download/print it for ongoing reference. I have tried to categorize the information for this week’s notes.

***TICKET SALES AND SHOW PROMOTION***

1. Early Bird Tickets have been extended through July 4th. Please share this information on social media and with your family and friends. We need your help disseminating the information about ticket sales.
2. If you have not done so, please like our Facebook page and invite your friends to like the page as well. <https://www.facebook.com/evolvetheatrics>
3. Please share our posts. Visibility on social media is the key to filling our houses each night. You may also follow us on Instagram at: <https://www.instagram.com/evolvetheatricsmi/>
4. We will be posting once a day from now until the show. We ask that you share as many of these posts as possible.

***Notes From Past Week of Rehearsals***

1. Please make sure you have reviewed any scene being blocked before you arrive at the rehearsal. Make sure your lines are highlighted and you have a writing utensil to write your blocking notes. We ran into a couple difficulties this week.
2. If the blocking includes vocals, it is your responsibility to practice with the accompaniment track prior to the rehearsals for blocking of that song. Liam, please review your vocals for Wells Fargo Wagon and for Gary Indiana. Pick a Little ladies, please review your vocals for Pick-a-Little Talk a Little.
3. Character versus caricatures. Please strive to find the genuine person in your role. While some of our characters may be more “eccentric” or “comedic”, it is still important for each one of them to be real. If I feel your portrayal is verging into the realm of caricature, I will let you know.
4. I was very pleased with how everything went with the first rehearsal in the theater. Now that we have acclimated to the space the next rehearsals should be much easier.
5. All future rehearsals on the stage will be unmasked (see notes further down) and make it much easier to hear voices and see facial expressions!

***Reminders***

1. Adding extra conflicts at this time is VERY problematic. If you miss blocking for a scene there is no guarantee you will be able to appear in the missed scene. If you miss a run-through, it affects everyone in the show. We are not trying to be punitive, but we need everyone present at rehearsals. All conflicts were supposed to be submitted at that time.
2. If you miss a rehearsal, you need to ask if you are still going to be blocked into the scene. If you are still appearing in the scene, you must make arrangements for another cast member to get your blocking notes. You are expected to know your blocking when you return to the next rehearsal. If you wait until your return to get blocking notes, you will not be included in the scene. The production team cannot provide missed blocking notes.
3. Conflicts during tech week are NOT permitted. ALL cast members must be present for rehearsals during tech week. Tech week is critical to the success of the show, and we cannot work around missing cast members.
4. Make sure you continue to practice your choreography over this holiday break. It is VERY important that we do not have any regression in the mastery of the choreography. Any reviews scheduled for choreography are for the purpose of working together as a group and refining the presentation. We will not be reteaching the choreography. If you are struggling, you may want to find a practice partner. I know that several of our cast members are meeting to practice together.
5. Parents – please make sure your cast member reviews each song/dance several times, with the music, before the rehearsals resume again. Practicing 3 times for 15-20 minutes should be sufficient for keeping muscle memory.

***Rehearsal Schedule for Week of July 6th***

***Tuesday, July 5th***

**5:30pm-7:30pm Quartet Rehearsal –** at Helen’s house

***Wednesday, July 6th***

**6:30pm-7:30pm A2S4a Blocking –** Quartet, Ethel, Mrs. Squires, Alma, Maud, Laura, Hannah, Brielle, Kate, Harold, Marian, Marcellus, Tommy, Zaneeta, Gracie

**6:30pm-7:30pm 76 Trombones Choreography Review and Marian The Librarian Choreography Review–** Little Kids, Teen and Adult dancer for 76 Trombones. If your character just marches in the circle, you do not need to attend. All dancers for Marian The Librarian.

**7:30pm-8:30pm Rock Island**

**7:30pm-8:30pm Shipoopi Choreography Review**

**8:30pm-9:30pm A2S4b & A2S5 Blocking –** Harold, Marian, Marcellus, Charlie

**8:30pm-9:30pm It’s You Ballet Review –** Brielle, Hannah, Kate

***Thursday, July 7th***

**7:30pm-9:30pm A2S6a & A2S6b Blocking –** Full Cast

**8:30pm-9:30pm A2S7 Blocking –** Full Cast

***Sunday, July 10th* – *REHEARSAL AT THEATER***

**5:00pm-9:00pm Full Run Through of Entire Show –** please arrive by 4:45pm

*Please wear your show t-shirt to this rehearsal. We will be taking publicity photos during this rehearsal and we want everyone to be wearing their shirts.*

***COVID TESTING AND PROTOCOLS***

1. A COVID surge is being predicted for Michigan in July. This surge will be due to the latest Omicron variant. Past cases of COVID and the vaccine will not provide immunity to this variant and this variant is more contagious than the last one.
2. Please wear a mask when you are in public places and when you are at outdoor events and in close proximity to other people. If we want to get through this production without a COVID outbreak, everyone has to do their part outside of rehearsals. A single case of COVID in the cast could result in having to shut down the show.
3. All cast members need to make this production a priority in staying safe and limiting the possibility of exposure. Feel free to use the show as an excuse should anyone given you a hassle about wearing a mask.
4. We will continue our existing rules regarding exposure and positive tests. So, even if we prevent an outbreak, a cast member could miss performances if exposed and/or ill.
5. **Testing Plans**
   1. **First Test on July 9th or 10th:** each cast member must take a rapid test on one of these 2 dates and send the results to the Evolve email address.
   2. **Second COVID test on July 15th:** each cast member must take a rapid test on July 15th and sent the results to the Evolve email address.
   3. **Third COVID test on July 20th:** each cast member must take a rapid test on July 20th and sent the results to the Evolve email address.
   4. If you are exposed to COVID at any point between now and tech week, additional testing guidelines will apply.
   5. With any positive test result, we will follow our past protocols as well.
6. We will be rehearsing without masks on stage for all rehearsals in the theater. So, it is imperative that you have a negative test result in order to participate.

***ETTIQUETTE FOR BEING IN THE THEATER***

1. Do not eat in the auditorium. We will take breaks and snacks may be eaten in the hallway. I understand everyone gets hungry. I will make sure you get breaks!
2. Only water is permitted in the auditorium. All other beverages must be consumed in the hallway.
3. Don’t touch any props that you see on the prop table or anywhere else unless it is your prop
4. Return all props to the prop table at the end of each rehearsal
5. Do not stand in the wings to watch the show or wait for entrances. If you can see the audience, the audience can see you. There are curtained areas in the wings where you may wait until just prior to your entrance
6. Do not talk backstage. The voices carry to the stage and auditorium. If someone has a hot mic, your voice will be projected over the speaker system
7. The stage manager is in charge. Please listen to her at all times and be respectful. She is working hard to coordinate all of the activities in the theater and she is an integral part of making the show a success.

***HAIR AND MAKEUP***

1. We will be providing videos with instructions for how to style your hair. We ask that each cast member style their hair for an upcoming rehearsal so the style may be approved. Those of you playing female roles may need to practice or experiment with hairstyles to find one that works for you.
2. We will be providing written instructions for applying makeup. You will need a stage makeup kit. If you have not yet purchased one, you should do so now. We are that each cast member apply their makeup for an upcoming rehearsal so that we may give you feedback.
3. Hair will be styled and makeup will be applied BEFORE arriving at the theater for dress rehearsals and performances. There is not enough time or space for everyone to engage in these activities at the theater. Please plan ahead to allow time in your schedule for these activities.

***COSTUMING ACCESSORIES***

1. **Hats -** If you are decorating a hat, please bring the completed hat to an upcoming rehearsal so that it may be checked into costuming. Label the hat with your name. Hats must be checked in by Saturday, July 16th.
2. **Adult male roles –** please turn in your pair of black pants by Saturday, July 16th and label the pants with your name.
3. **All female roles –** we have decided on white tights for the production. All cast members playing female roles will need white tights. It is strongly recommended that you have 2-3 pairs of tights so that you may leave a clean pair in costuming at all times. Please check in a pair of tights by Saturday, July 16th and label the tights with your name.
4. **Dance belts –** all adult males who are dancing will need a dance belt. Please make sure you have one by tech week.
5. **Base Layer –** what is worn under costuming at all times to facilitate costume changes backstage. Please arrive at the theater wearing your base layer.
   1. **Female Roles –** bike shorts over tights and a neutral colored camisole. Colorful camisoles will show under costuming. Exceptions to this base layer will be discussed on an individual basis.
   2. **Male Roles –** boxers/boxer briefs and a tank top. Tank may be white, gray or black. Other colors will not blend well under costuming.

***SHOW T-SHIRTS***

1. Will be distributed this upcoming week. Some cast members have already received their shirts
2. If you ordered extra shirts, please bring your payment to the next rehearsal. Extra t-shirts were $15/each.
3. Please do not modify your shirt (cutting or otherwise) until after July 17th.

**TECH REHEARSALS – July 16th and 17th**

1. Please plan to bring a sack dinner to be eaten on break. These are 8 hour rehearsals and we will be rehearsing over dinner time.
2. We will provide additional snacks to include cheese sticks, fruit snacks, and crackers/cookies. However, these snacks will not be enough to sustain you through the entire 8 hours.

**WATER BOTTLE AND SNACK DONATIONS**

1. We ask that each cast member bring a case of 24 water bottles to the rehearsal on either July 10th or July 16th. These water bottles will be put on ice and made available to cast members during tech, dress, and performances.
2. We would welcome volunteers to provide cheese sticks and other protein type of snacks for cast members. If you are willing to donate, please contact me and I will explain what snacks are appropriate.