

Audition Materials for Wesley Chapel High School's Spring Production "Our Town" by Thornton Wilder

Audition Date : Wednesday January 21, 2015 in Room 229 from 2:10-4:30pm
Performance Nights : Thursday April 9 & Friday April 10, 2015 at 7:00pm

"Our Town" is one of the most popular plays performed in American high schools. It is the story of a small town, Grovers Corners, that exists only in the past. Today, Grovers Corners is gone and all that is left are memories and a graveyard. We follow the main character, a young woman named Emily, as she falls in love and is married. Halfway through the play, she dies in childbirth and joins the dead in the graveyard. Emily is given the chance to go back in time to any day she wishes, and to relive her life, with the condition that she cannot change anything. Choosing her birthday, she discovers that her life had been filled with small, meaningless things and petty obsessions. She had never taken the time to tell those she loved how she really felt, or to make the most of her life.

"Our Town" is a story that, at best, causes us to realize how many missed opportunities there are in our own lives, and to resolve to make the most out of our lives every day. Presented in pantomime, with minimal set, the play evokes the sensation of a town that has long since disappeared - and that all we are seeing are memories.

Read on – if you are interested in auditioning, please complete and return the attached information sheet. After you have read the instructions, if you still have any questions, please ask Mr. Gaudet in Room 229. Thanks!

What You Need to Know to Audition

- **Auditions are open to all Wesley Chapel High School students, regardless of experience.**
- Auditions will be held on Wednesday February 22nd between 2:10-4:30pm.
- All parts will be "placed." That means that you might be cast for a part that you did not audition for..
- This will be a single cast, not a "split cast." This means that cast members will perform their roles on both Friday and Saturday nights.
- The director makes all final casting decisions.

What Will Happen in Your Audition

- Actors will be called in small groups to perform scenes from the script.
- All auditions are "open." This means that you will perform in front of other students who are also auditioning for roles.
- You may be called back to do another script reading from the play's script, with other actors.
- You may be called back a number of times. Do not leave until you are dismissed – you may miss a callback, in which case you will forfeit your part!

What You Must Have to Audition

- You must have a cumulative 2.0 grade point average to audition. You must also have received no "F"s on your Quarter 2 report card and no more than one "D."

- You must have no more than 6 absences in Semester 1 in any class.
- You must have good availability. Please check the rehearsal schedule.

What You Need to Know If You Get the Part

- Rehearsals will vary, depending on your role. Some roles will meet more than other roles. Be prepared and available for ALL rehearsal dates. Rehearsals start Friday, January 23rd.
- You'll be expected to attend all rehearsals for your character.
- If you have any scheduling conflict with the schedule, which is not on your audition form, please give the director at least one week notice. No actor may miss more than 2 rehearsals without medical documentation. No actor may miss more than 3 rehearsals, with or without medical documentation. Excessive absences mean you will be cut from the play. For real.
- Be ready to begin acting promptly as scheduled. Tardies count as ½ of an absence. Food and gum are not allowed in any rehearsal rooms.
- You will be expected to work hard and have fun.

What You Should Know If You Didn't Get the Part

- You might be a fantastic actor who just didn't fit this particular play. Or you might just have had a bad day. You are absolutely encouraged to try out for our next production.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Female Leads

Stage Manager (41 lines + 11 pages of monologue)

Emily Webb (120 lines)

Mrs. Gibbs (97 lines)

Mrs. Webb (53 lines)

Male Leads

George Gibbs (95 lines)

Mr. Webb (48 lines)

Female Characters

Mrs. Soames (18 lines)

Rebecca Gibbs (13 lines)

Prof. Willard (5 lines)

Woman in Balcony/

doubles as a Member of the Dead (5 lines)

Lady in the Box/

doubles as a Member of the Dead (5 lines)

Male Characters

Dr. Gibbs (45 lines)

Howie Newsome (26 lines)

Sam Craig/

doubles as Baseball Player (15 lines)

Joe Stoddard/

doubles as Baseball Player (15 lines)

Constable Warren (13 lines)

Joe Crowell (10 lines)

Man in Auditorium/

doubles as Among the Dead (10 lines)

Simon Stimson (7 lines)

Wally Webb/

doubles as Baseball Player (5 lines)

Si Crowell (4 lines)

DOUBLING

Some minor characters have been “doubled.” This means that one performer will play two minor characters that appear in different scenes.

PRODUCTION STAFF

The final weeks, and the night of the production will require a sizeable production staff. We will need students to make costumes, work the box office, usher, do hair and makeup, and work with set and props. Students who are interested in working behind the scenes should fill out a Backstage Application.

You may both audition for a role AND apply for a backstage position.

GET THE SCRIPT!

If you’re serious about the play - get a copy! “Our Town” is one of the most popular plays out there, and there are numerous copies in libraries and bookstores in our area.

Then of course, you should actually read it. :))