

Stage Stars®
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Saturday, 25 January 2014

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Dear All,

Welcome back to a brand new year at Stage Stars 2014. As we head towards our very busy show season there are lots of exciting things happening at Stage Stars HQ to help celebrate our 10th anniversary. I've managed to condense most of it into this newsletter, but we also keep our main website as up to date as possible so do keep visiting to see the very latest news.

New Child Protection, General Terms and Conditions and Other Policies

We have recently updated all our policies as part of a biannual review in line with the Level 3 Safeguarding qualifications our staff now have. We will be issuing a copy of our new child protection training along with other crucial updates next week. They can also be found on our website.

Outstanding Auditions and Cast Lists

As I mentioned last week the level of auditions this year was unbelievable and we generally had a hard job casting shows, so much so it took us two full evenings and some extra time on Friday to finalise them. We believe we have got a fair, and strong cast for this year's show, with just the Youth Group productions still to audition. Congratulations to every single student, some of whom made an incredible improvement, year on year.

New Members

We are now accepting new members in all our classes. This will last from now until February when we close the classes however spaces are becoming very limited in both groups. We intend to cast the new shows by the end of January so now really is the best time for them to join. If you do have any friend or family that wish to attend please bring them along to a session, we can help them complete enrolment forms whilst here or they can fill these out online.

New Shows

Once again I just want to remind everyone of the dates for this year's shows will be as follows, so please keep these weeks free as it is essential students are able to attend each of the rehearsals during show week to be able to take part:

Childrens Groups: 4th – 10th May 2014

Juniors Group: 11th – 17th May 2014

Youth Group: 18th – 24th May 2014

Student Information

We are updating all our contact details for you, especially the emergency contact details. This will also allow us to keep better track of attendance, and reward students with our new reward system. Please can we ask you return the update form to us ASAP as students will not be present on our new system until this has been done.

Stage Stars ME

The site is currently being updated and we will be putting the back tracks and vocal tracks for the three new shows on there shortly. Remember Stage Stars ME is a free service for our members, and exclusively available to them by visiting www.stagestars.me

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DVD

DVDs for Splash, A Little Princess and Mrs Leaf are still on sale from the front desk and can be ordered directly from here. They cost just £10 each. DVD's of 10 Years of Magic and Aladdin are also now available for the same cost.

New This Is Us DVD

We are updating our prospectus DVD to celebrate our 10 Years so there will be a number of cameras around the site over the next few weeks to capture all our sessions. We will share with you the link once this has been completed so you can see all the amazing things are students get up to, and why we have continued to grow over the last 10 years.

Fees

Fees paid after 25/01/14 will be classed as overdue and will incur the late payment charge of £5, to cover the extra admin costs. If payment is not made after 4 weeks from the beginning of the term we are unfortunately no longer able to offer students a space as we now have very limited space in classes available. If you are unsure of whether you have paid your fees or not please come and speak to us on the Admin desk.

Show CD's

CD's of our shows including the vocal and backing tracks will be available to purchase from February from the front desk at a cost of £3.50 each to assist with students learning words.

Replacement Scripts

Unfortunately it has now become impossible for us to continue to replace scripts each week, or when they are lost. We are therefore having to charge a £3 replacement cost if a script is lost to be able to replace it to cover are photocopying and binding costs. Please can we ask students write their name on their scripts, and where possible put them in covers as we are then able to return any scripts left behind at Stage Stars to their owners.

IMPORTANT NEWS

Notre Dame have emailed me today (24/01/14) to tell me we are unable to use the school hall on Saturday 8th of February and are unable to provide us with an alternative. This is a very rare occurrence but will mean we need to cancel the session as at this point we cannot find an alternative venue. We will instead be adding in an additional session on Saturday 22nd February. This means there will be NO Stage Stars on 8th and 15th of February but we will return a week early, on Saturday 22nd to make up for this and still give us the rehearsal time we need.

Thank you

I just want to end by saying thank you for your continued support. Due to the good attendance at our 10 Years of Magic and pantomime productions, we have been able to invest in new equipment for our young people once again. Due to the huge number of comments about the improvement in sound and lighting over the last year, and specifically the pantomime, this initial investment will once again be used to ensure we continue to improve our technical equipment to help make this May's shows are best ever!

Once again we wish you a happy new year, and congratulations to all on the excellent auditions, as we begin to increase the effort to stage our 10 Years of Magic May Shows!

Scott, Sophie, Joe, Becky and Jess