

GETTING INVOLVED WITH THE FASS THEATRE COMPANY

What do auditions involve?

FASS holds auditions on the first Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of classes in January (exact dates, times, and locations will be posted on this site). Everyone goes through a three-pronged audition involving acting, singing, and dancing, and everyone who comes out gets a part in the show.

The acting audition generally involves a small group of people reading parts of the script. The director may ask you to try a different voice or a different attitude, so that we can see what kinds of roles you might fit.

For the singing audition, you can prepare something ahead of time or give us "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" if you feel like it. If you want an onstage singing part, you probably want to prepare something ahead of time. Otherwise, we'll have you sing just a little bit so that we can find out what your vocal range is and how well you project your voice. So, it's no big deal if you don't consider yourself much of a singer.

For the dancing audition, our choreographer will run a group through a few dance moves to see how well people move in time to the music. No one has to dance individually, and skill levels vary as much, if not more, than in the singing rehearsal. Don't worry about bringing dancing clothes, but be prepared for some high-energy stuff.

Parts are given out the following Sunday afternoon at our cast read-through. We take over one of the lecture halls and go through the entire script, scene by scene. This is when everyone gets a feel for the show, and we have a lot of fun.

How do I get involved behind the scenes?

We're always looking for people to help out with behind-the-scenes stuff, from grips to technicians to costume managers. Many of our cast members help out with tech prior to the show, assembling props and painting sets. Others serve as grips, moving props and set pieces between scenes. Still others work in the control booths or behind a spotlight. And then there are the members of our band, many of whom also act in the show.

If you're interested in behind-the-scenes work, come out to the audition nights and fill out a tech form. We've got lots of opportunities for everyone who wants to be involved!

What kind of time commitment is involved?

We'll take whatever you can give us. Bring your schedule to auditions so that you can tell us what days you're available, and we'll try our best not to schedule you for any rehearsals you can't make (though there will always be a few people with conflicts). Most people will rehearse 1-2 nights a week, with larger parts sometimes requiring four weeknights. Scheduling 100+ people is no easy task!

Everyone in the show gets to dance and sing in the opening and closing songs, and while that may not sound like fun, it's actually the most social and fun part of rehearsals. We go all day on Saturday and Sunday, singing in the morning and dancing in the afternoon (or vice versa). Weekends are when people get to know each other and the cast really gels, so new cast members are encouraged to join the fun.

Time commitment for the tech crew depends on your availability. We do a lot of the preparation on weekends while the cast rehearses, and there's also work to be done on props during the weeknights.

The show runs on the first Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of February, and the week beforehand is when things get tight. We require everyone at the tech weekend, when we run last-minute rehearsals and get the stage prepared, and have dress rehearsals on Monday and Wednesday. Throughout the show week, we'll have rooms set aside for downtime, when you can either socialize or catch up on your homework.

On Friday, we run two shows: an early show, and the infamous "Friday Late", when past cast members come out to see the show and do their best to heckle and cheer us on.

Oh yeah, we also have parties every Saturday during January, and a party on each show night, ending up with the all-night strike party on Saturday.

This all sounds like a ton of your time, and it is. More importantly, it's a ton of fun. Everyone has a great time throughout rehearsals and the show, and in the end it won't seem like much time at all. Hey, if it wasn't fun, we wouldn't do it.

What if I miss auditions?

Even if you don't make it to auditions, the odds are that we can still find something for you to do, either on or off-stage. It all starts when you get in contact with us to see how you can contribute to this year's show!