



## Welcome to the Riverdale Children's Theatre's FALL 2024 Auditions!

Please read the important information below and fill out the audition form provided. Auditions are open to all kids in 3rd-12<sup>th</sup> grade. **\*PARENTS; PLEASE READ THE ENTIRE PACKET THOROUGHLY. PLEASE PRINT OUT THE AUDITION FORM AND BRING IT WITH YOU TO THE AUDITION. THE AUDITION INFORMATION FORM MUST BE READ AND SIGNED BY THE PARENT BEFORE YOUR CHILD IS ABLE TO AUDITION.**

### Initial Audition:

**FOR Lion King Jr. All auditionees must sign-up online** All auditionees should be prepared to sing one of the audition selections indicated below. **Please see the suggested audition selections at the end of this packet for ideas of songs to sing.** (If your child has not prepared or has never done a show before, we will have them sing Happy Birthday or a song they know.) All should come wearing comfortable clothing with appropriate footwear to learn a short dance combination. (*no crocs, flip flops, ugs or construction boots*)

**For Sweeney Todd School Edition: All auditionees must sign-up online** then they will be given a link for audition materials and to sign up for an audition slot. At the audition, they should be prepared to sing an audition selection from the audition webpage with the track accompaniment. All should come wearing comfortable clothing with appropriate footwear to learn a short dance combination. (*no crocs, flip flops, ugs or construction boots*)

**RCT Conflict Policy: Conflicts** must be submitted at the auditions. Due to the high volume of material and limited rehearsal time please note- If you are in another production or considering auditioning for another production, regardless of show dates - that is a conflict, so please list it on the conflict sheet.

1. **All conflicts must be handed in by Callbacks.** After casting has been finalized, additional conflicts or new conflicts are considered unexcused absences, and may lead to forfeiting your role.
2. **Cast members with unexcused absences may be released from the production.**
3. **Cast Members may not miss any performances.** Please do not ask about this.
4. The week prior to our performances will be an intensive rehearsal and tech week; all actors will be expected to attend the daily rehearsals. **Participants may have no conflicts during tech week or pre-tech week.**

**Callbacks** At callback auditions, the casting committee may ask certain actors to sing again, read a scene or dance again. All kids who audition will not be called back, but that does not mean that they are not being considered for the show. Many parts are cast after the initial audition and do not require a callback. Also, if you are asked to sing or read for a specific part, this does not guarantee that you will be cast in that part, or are being considered for that part.

***Final Casting is determined by an RCT committee, and often a child's talent level is not the only reason they were cast (or not cast) in a role. Casting is a complicated process and many factors are taken into consideration. The committee's decisions impact the production and the entire program.***

### **RCT Casting Philosophy:**

The casting of roles is part of the reality of putting on a theater production. Unfortunately, we have had a few incidents of parents or kids being unhappy with their parts and approaching our staff with inappropriate discussions. Please trust our casting team to make the best decision for your child and the show, and know that we understand how much this experience means to your child. We always work to highlight everyone's individual talents in the production.

Theater is about community, and in the spirit of community we take an ensemble approach. Every cast member is important to the finished piece. That does not mean that every cast member will have the same number of lines or features in the show. For us, theatre is about the process of working together as a team to put on an amazing show, and the individual journey for your child to be a part of something that they can be proud of. ***If your goal is to make your child a star, or if you or your child feel you must have a lead in the show and nothing else matters, then this is definitely not the program for you.***

Our casting is done by committee to avoid any potential conflicts and to provide an impartial perspective of each child's ability. Casting takes many things into account (age, experience, maturity, vocal range, acting ability, dance ability, schedules, cast member behavior during previous productions), and each decision is difficult for our casting committee. We must do what's best for each individual actor, as well as what is best for the play as a whole. We do not have favorites, or cast because of the length of time a child has been with us. We always work to cast the child with the best combination of skills that fit the role, in a role they can handle.

## **Casting Notes**

- ***There are lots of great parts in every show.*** Everyone will have an opportunity to shine! A cast list determines that you are in the show, but often does not reflect *exactly* what your responsibilities will be in performance.
- ***Parents, please try to temper your child's casting expectations.*** Discourage the expectation of being cast in a "big role". Please speak to your kids in advance and help them focus their excitement on being a ***part of the show*** not a specific role. This will lead to a better casting experience for your kids.
- ***RCT Drop-Out Policy*** When you audition for RCT there is an expectation that you want to be a part of the production and not just a lead role. For those performers who only want a certain role, we have added a line on the audition form that allows the auditionee to indicate if she/he will accept any part or only a specific role. ***If you indicate that you will accept any role and then drop out*** that makes it difficult for RCT, as we now have to recast the part you were cast in and there were kids who were not cast in the show because of cast size constrictions. ***Dropping out after callbacks or when the cast list is posted may result in your child being ineligible for future productions.***
- In order to provide safe and quality program we can only cast a certain number of actors in the each show. If you are not cast in this production we hope you will consider auditioning again in the spring. Details can be found on our website.  
[WWW.RIVERDALETHEATRE.ORG](http://WWW.RIVERDALETHEATRE.ORG)

**The Productions: Please See the Attached Info/Schedules detailed info on each production.**

**Locations:** All Rehearsals will either be at Christ Church of Riverdale-5040 Henry Hudson Parkway east or College of Mount Saint Vincent 6301 Riverdale Ave. You will be given a detailed rehearsal schedule at the first parent meeting.

**Tuition is \$495** and may be paid online once the cast list is posted or by check at the parent/cast orientation meeting. The tuition fees cover all of the expenses associated with the productions.

**Program Fundraising Commitment** Each cast member will also be responsible for selling 1 page (\$100) of ad space in our program to local businesses or space can be used as a good luck "shout out" from family member. Ad deadlines are 3 weeks prior to opening night.

**Scholarships** are available for families with financial need. A scholarship application is available at [www.riverdaletheatre.org](http://www.riverdaletheatre.org). To be considered for financial assistance, ***all scholarship forms, along with financial documents, should be submitted by callbacks please.***

**Volunteering** Each family will be responsible for 4 hours of volunteer duties. RCT relies on parent volunteers to keep program fees as low as possible. Volunteer duties include set load in and out, set painting, marketing, fundraising, concessions, ushering and backstage monitors. ***For families who are unable to volunteer, we will accept a \$75 opt out fee in lieu of volunteer hours.***

We hope this helps you understand our casting process and hope you will support us in the difficult task. Most importantly we want everyone to have fun and we applaud your efforts for coming out and auditioning!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David Walsh".

Founder/*Executive Director,*

*Riverdale Children's Theatre*

Riverdale Children's Theatre  
AUDITION INFORMATION FORM

Students Name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/Guardian NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

*PARENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: I acknowledge that I have read the audition/show information sheet, the RCT casting philosophy and the drop out policy. To the best of my knowledge I have listed all of my child's conflicts with rehearsals, performances and tech week. I understand that adding any conflicts, vacations, etc, after the casting is done may result in my child forfeiting their role in this production.*

Parent's signature \_\_\_\_\_

---

Please list any previous Acting, Singing ,Dancing Experience, or attach Resume:

Please list any conflicts with show schedule

Please read carefully and check ONE:

- I will accept any role in the production
- I only wish to participate if I am cast in the following role(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
*\*\* Please note if you check this box and are not cast in the role you or your child listed, you may not be cast in this production.*

*Do not write below this line*

SP	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
V	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
D	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Song \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Role Considerations:

CBF: \_\_\_\_\_



# Disney LION KING JR!

Director Becky Lillie Woods

Choreographer Monique Streeby

**Ages: 3rd thru  
8th grade**

## Auditions

**Sunday, Sept. 22nd**

1:00pm - 4:00pm

**Monday, Sept. 23rd**

4:00pm - 6:00pm

### Callbacks

**Sunday Sept. 29th**

(TBD)

### Location

#### Hayes Auditorium

University of  
Mount Saint Vincent  
6301 Riverdale Ave  
Bronx, NY 10471

## At a Glance

Disney's The Lion King has captivated the imagination of audiences around the world, and the beloved film comes to life on our stage with Simba, Rafiki and an unforgettable cast of characters! Take the journey from Pride Rock to the far away jungle and back again in this inspiring, coming-of-age tale. The Lion King JR. features classic songs from the Broadway musical and animated feature film, including "I Just Can't Wait to Be King," "He Lives in You," and "Hakuna Matata."



## Time Commitment/ Rehearsals

**1st Rehearsal:  
Sunday, October 6th**

### Nala Cast:

Sundays

**2:00pm - 4:00pm**

Mondays

**4:00pm - 5:30pm**

Thursdays (TBD)

**4:00-6:00pm**

### Simba Cast:

Sundays

**4:30pm - 6:30pm**

Mondays

**6:00pm - 7:30pm**

Thursdays (TBD)

**4:00-6:00pm**



## Tech Week

**Pre Tech Week-** Due to The holiday vacation there will be additional and longer rehearsals the week of **December 16th-22nd**

**Tech Week: January 4th-8th**

**Cast members may have NO conflicts during tech week**

## Performance Dates

### Nala Cast

Friday 1/10/25 7pm

Saturday 1/11/25 2pm

Sunday 1/12/25 5pm

### Simba Cast

Thursday 1/9/25 7pm

Saturday 1/11/25 7pm

Sunday 1/12/25 1pm

*Show times are subject to change*

## Fees

\$495 per child  
+ \$100 Playbill Ad Fee

Program tuition Includes costume fees. Each child will receive a cast t-shirt and a link to a performance video.

**Scholarships are available.**

**To apply, log on to our website at**

[www.riverdaletheatre.org](http://www.riverdaletheatre.org)



# Audition Packet

*Fall Season 2024*



# ABOUT THE SHOW

Welcome to Pride Rock! Disney's The Lion King has captivated the imagination of audiences around the world, and the beloved film comes to life on our stage with Simba, Rafiki and an unforgettable cast of characters! Take the journey from Pride Rock to the far away jungle and back again in this inspiring, coming-of-age tale. The Lion King JR. features classic songs from the Broadway musical and animated feature film, including "I Just Can't Wait to Be King," "He Lives in You," and "Hakuna Matata."



# CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

## RAFIKI

A wise mandrill who acts as healer of the Pridelands and guides Simba on his journey home.

## MUFASA

The strong, honorable, and wise lion who leads the Pridelands.

## SARABI

A featured lioness, Mufasa's mate, and Simba's mother.

## ZAZU

The anxious yet loyal assistant to Mufasa who is always busy trying to do his duty.

## SCAR

The antagonist of the show, overcome with jealousy of his brother, Mufasa, and nephew, Simba.

## YOUNG SIMBA

An adventurous and endearing cub who can't wait to be king of the Pridelands.

## YOUNG NALA

A courageous lion and Young Simba's best friend. She is not afraid to speak her mind.

## SARAFINA

A featured lioness and Nala's mother.

## SHENZI

One of Scar's hyenas who plot to take over the Pridelands. She is the sassy one of the trio and is always looking out for herself.

## BANZAI

A slick yet childish hyena who works for Scar. He would be the leader of the group if hyenas weren't so lazy.

## ED

The third member of Scar's trio of lackeys. He has a loud, cackling laugh that is his only form of communication.

## TIMON

An outcast meerkat who lives in the jungle with Pumbaa. He is afraid of his own shadow, but pretends to be the confident, relaxed leader of the duo.

## PUMBAA

A kindhearted, sensitive warthog who enjoys his simple life of grubs and relaxation.

## SIMBA

Older Simba has more complex moments as he reunites with Nala, mourns his father, and returns to confront Scar.

## NALA

Nala Grows from a cub to a lioness before she confronts Scar.

## HYENAS

Scar's army, helping carry out his evil plot to take over the Pridelands.

## LIONESSES

The fierce hunters of the Pridelands and featured in "The Lioness Hunt," "The Mourning," and "Shadowland."

## ENSEMBLE

The ensemble plays various inhabitants of the Pridelands, such as giraffes, elephants, antelopes, wildebeest, and other creatures.

# ABOUT THE AUDITION

At the audition, each child will be asked to sing a short selection from the show (see below suggestions) or another musical theater selection.

Song choices should be no more than one minute long.

They may sing acapella or with a track accompaniment.

After they have sung, students will learn a short dance combination with other kids as a group.

**There is no need to be nervous! Have fun!**



# SONG EXCERPTS

Take some time to listen through the songs below and read through the scenes. Pick one of the songs to sing. You do not need to have it memorized. If you're not comfortable singing any of the selections below, we'd love to hear your favorite song to sing instead.

## **I Just Cant Wait to be King**

Everybody look left

Everybody look right

Everywhere you look I'm

Standing in the spotlight

*ZAZU:Not yet*

Let every creature go for broke and sing

Let's hear it in the herd and on the wing

It's gonna be King Simba's finest fling

Oh, I just can't wait to be king

Oh, I just can't wait to be king

Oh, I just can't wait to be king

# SONG EXCERPTS

*(cont.)*

## **Can you Feel The Love Tonight (Nala)**

He's holding back, he's hiding  
But what, I can't decide  
Why won't he be the king I know he is  
The king I see inside?  
Can you feel the love tonight?  
The peace the evening brings  
The world, for once, in perfect harmony With all its living  
things  
Can you feel the love tonight?  
You needn't look too far  
Stealing through the night's uncertainties  
Love is where they are

## **Circle of Life**

There's far too much to take in here  
More to find than can ever be found  
But the sun rolling high  
Through the sapphire sky  
Keeps great and small on the endless round  
It's the circle of life  
And it moves us all  
Through despair and hope  
Through faith and love Till we find our place On the path  
unwinding In the circle  
The circle of life



# SONG EXCERPTS

*(cont.)*

## **Hakuna Matata**

Hakuna Matata! What a wonderful phrase

Hakuna Matata! Ain't no passing craze

It means no worries for the rest of your days

It's our problem-free philosophy

Hakuna Matata!

# Sweeney Todd School Edition

## THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET SCHOOL EDITION

**Ages: 9th thru  
12th grade**

### Auditions

**Sunday, Sept. 22nd**

5:00 - 7:00

**Monday, Sept. 23rd**

6:30 - 8:00

(Go to website and sign up  
for an audition slot)

#### Callbacks

**Tuesday October. 1st**

(TBD)

#### Location

#### Hayes Auditorium

University of  
Mount Saint Vincent  
6301 Riverdale Ave  
Bronx, NY 10471

### At a Glance

Sweeney Todd has become a bloody, worldwide success since being awarded eight Tony Awards (including Best Musical), for its Broadway premiere and has now been adapted for high school performers in Sweeney Todd School Edition. For the 1st time ever, RCT will produce Stephen Sondheim's and Hugh Wheeler's (A Little Night Music, Pacific Overtures) tasty, thrilling, theatrical treat

**NOTE:** Please be aware that the show contains graphic depictions of murder and simulated violence, as well as explicit language



### Time Commitment/ Rehearsals

#### 1st Rehearsal:

**Sunday, October 13th**

at Christ Church Riverdale  
5040 Henry Hudson Parkway  
East, Bronx, NY 10471

#### Weekly rehearsal times:

**Sundays 2:00pm - 3:00pm**  
(small group rehearsals TBD)

#### Full Cast

3:00pm - 6:00pm

#### Tuesdays

#### Full Cast

6:00pm - 8:00pm

#### Thursdays

(small group rehearsals TBD)

6:30pm - 8:30pm

### Tech Week

**January 12th - January 16th**

Tech week refers to special  
dress and tech rehearsals the  
week prior to opening night.

Tech rehearsals and  
performances are at **Hayes  
Auditorium College of Mount  
St. Vincent**  
**6301 Riverdale Ave**

Cast members **MUST** have  
**ZERO CONFLICTS** during tech  
week and performances

### Performance Dates

#### January

**18th 19th 20th**

**16th, 17th(TBD)**

Show times are subject to change

### Fees

\$495 per child  
+ \$100 Playbill Ad Fee

Program tuition Includes  
costume fees. Each child will  
receive a cast t-shirt and a link  
to a performance video.

**Scholarships are available.**



**THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET  
SCHOOL EDITION**