



Roald Dahls's *Willy Wonka KIDS* Audition Packet

Auditions: Sunday, February 1st – 12:30-2:00 PM at the Mandel JCC

Dear Performers & Families,

Welcome to Playmakers Youth Theatre's production of *Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka KIDS*! Whether this is your millionth Playmakers show or your very first, we are so happy to have you here with us and can't wait to embark on this special experience together.

In this packet, you will find audition details, rehearsal & show information, an audition form to fill out, and a guide to the Playmakers Philosophy.

Willy Wonka KIDS is open to 2nd-4th graders. This is a 30-minute production based on the classic tale and is a creative, fantastical journey to Wonka's chocolate factory with a rehearsal process specifically designed to meet the developmental needs of a 2nd-4th grade cast. **Please note: we are running several programs this Spring. 5th-9th graders may audition for our production of *Newsies, Jr.* also auditioning February 1st. For K-1st graders, Playmakers Jr. begins February 15th.**

Auditions will be held at the Mandel JCC on **Sunday, February 1st** and are drop-in style, so they do not require appointment or registration. **You may drop in anytime between 12:30-2:00 PM.** Each child should come to auditions ready to sing a selection (roughly half) of a song they feel comfortable singing and that they know the words to. Auditions help us get to know each performer, but everyone who auditions will be given a role.

The audition form, which can be found in this packet, can be printed ahead and brought to auditions to save time. We will also have hard copies available. Feel free to be in touch at emiller@mandeljcc.org or (216) 831-0700 x1494 with questions.

We can't wait to see you soon!

Emma Miller, Playmakers Youth Theatre Director
emiller@mandeljcc.org (216) 831-0700 x1494

Jessie Pollak, *Willy Wonka KIDS* Director



Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka KIDS

Words and Music by Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley
Adapted for the Stage by Leslie Bricusse and Timothy A. McDonald
Based on the Book *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl

Directed by Jessie Pollak

ROALD DAHL'S WILLY WONKA KIDS is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
www.MTIShows.com

Audition Process & Casting Information

Please complete the attached audition form and bring it with you on February 1st. When the cast list is posted, you must email to accept or decline your role *and* register your child, including full payment of the participation fee.

Rehearsal Schedule & Conflicts

Rehearsals will be Thursdays (4:30-6:30pm, with a few occasional rehearsals running until 7:00pm) and Sundays (2:00-5:00pm, with a few occasional rehearsals from 11:00am-1:00pm instead) at the Mandel JCC. On occasion, rehearsal times and days may be adjusted to make-up for missed rehearsals or to supplement as we get closer to performance, particularly as we navigate Spring Break/Passover and get closer to tech week.

Not all cast members will be called to all rehearsals or to the entirety of each rehearsal. We do our very best to accommodate all conflicts until tech rehearsals and except for our performance dates, and we understand that young performers balance many activities. When rehearsals begin, you will receive more detailed schedules that will include call times. **Please be sure to list all conflicts (choir concerts, school commitments, other performances, after-school activities, family vacations, etc) on your audition form.**

Tech Rehearsal & Performance

We will have a mandatory tech rehearsal for all performers on Tuesday, May 26th from 4:00-8:00 PM. This show will have performances on Thursday, May 28th and Sunday, May 31st.

Participation Fees

There is no fee to audition. **Participation fees are \$300 for Mandel JCC members and \$350 for non-members. All participation fees must be paid in full prior to the first rehearsal and are due when you accept your child's role.**



Playmakers Youth Theatre Audition Form

Participant Name:

Participant School: Grade: Age: Sweatshirt Size:

If new to Playmakers or if information has changed:

Parent/Guardian 1 Name:

Cell Phone Number: Email Address:

Parent/Guardian 2 Name:

Cell Phone Number: Email Address:

Are you Mandel JCC Members? ☐ YES ☐ NO

For all auditioning: (use the back for more space if needed)

Please list theater, music & dance experience, roles played/in what production, classes & special skills.

Rehearsals are held on Thursdays and Sundays. Not all cast members are called to all rehearsals. Please list any rehearsal conflicts, including after school classes, sports, trips, Hebrew School, etc.,

This show will have a mandatory tech rehearsal and two performances. To help us cast the show with as much information as possible, please let us know your availability in as much detail as possible.

Performance 1: Thursday, May 28th at 6:00 PM **Performance 2:** Sunday, May 31st at 4:00 PM

- ☐ My child is fully available for either or both performances.
☐ My child is ONLY available for Performance 1 (please list details below).
☐ My child is ONLY available for Performance 2 (please list details below).

If you have a conflict, please describe in detail below which will assist us with our casting decisions.

How did you hear about Playmakers?

I am aware that there is a participation fee (\$300 for Mandel JCC members; \$350 for non-members) due before rehearsal. I carefully read the dates & confirm that my child is able to participate.

Parent Signature:



The 4 Ps of Playmakers: Pitch in & Promote the Playmakers Philosophy

Dear Families and Participants,

I grew up at Playmakers and Performing Arts Camp, as a performer, student, and camper, before becoming a counselor, assistant director, camp supervisor, and now, Playmakers Youth Theatre Director. That means that I know first hand the magic of this experience. I am also a professional director and producer, so I know that lots of feelings can come up during an audition process.

At Playmakers, performers of all experience-levels and ages bring a show to life alongside a supportive community. At Playmakers, children and teens build life-long friendships, find their voices, use their imaginations, challenge themselves, take risks, build confidence, work as a team, and explore their creativity. At Playmakers, we are proud of our performances but even prouder of our process, and know that, as our children and teens rehearse a show, learn choreography, and memorize lines, they are also building lasting memories and learning skills that help them grow.

As a director, I know how hard it is to audition and how stressful it can be to wait for the cast list to be posted. There is the desire to get a certain role, the complicated feeling of getting a part your friend might have wanted, and trying to understand why someone else was cast as a certain character.

Here's where the 4 P's come in. Unfortunately, we know we cannot shield kids and teens from disappointment, but we can be there for support and to help see the big picture. Two hundred sets of parents all have ideas of which one role would be perfect for their own child. I hope that we can all be prepared to promote the idea that a certain role isn't everything. We're here because we love the rehearsal process, working together as a team, and creating something wonderful that gives us each a sense of purpose and pride. Playmakers is a program built on understanding the importance of the process and building one another up, supporting one another, and having a blast along the way.

What I promise you is that we will approach this casting process fairly, honestly, and to the best of our ability. What I hope you and I can promise is that we will help our kids accept both excitement and disappointment gracefully and respectfully. We will support them, encourage them, and help them to make this show the fantastic experience we all know it will be, here at Playmakers where each of your children, no matter their role, truly shines.

Emma Miller
Playmakers Youth Theatre Director