

# CAST

Communication Arts, Speech  
and Theatre Education  
708.524.7848 PO BOX 2163  
Oak Park, IL 60303-2163

*a part of the Julian  
educational experience since 1985*

February 2009

Dear Parent(s),

Your child has demonstrated an interest in auditioning to be a part of a CAST performance activity this year. These activities promise to be authentic arts experiences that motivate students to accomplish more than they ever thought possible.

The commitment required to prepare for performance is tremendous and we know that during this time of year families are struggling with getting back to school, preparing for the spring and summer athletic season, and juggling many other activities. Please consider all of this before your family allows your child to audition. **Performers must be able to attend all the rehearsals for which they are called.** Please help us by only participating in these activities if you can happily keep the commitment. Since commitment plays a large part in the casting process, please be fair and don't allow your child to audition if the commitment will be broken.

We have attached the participation agreement which is packed full of very important information. Please read this information closely before signing and returning. If you have any questions or would like additional information about these activities please telephone the CAST Lab at 524-7848.

Thank you kindly for your cooperation in this matter.

Regards,

Bill McGlynn

Kathy Simon

Malachy Boyle

**A District #97 Program in residence  
at Percy Julian Middle School**

COMMUNICATION ARTS, SPEECH AND THEATRE EDUCATION  
PERMISSION SLIP, AGREEMENT AND INSTRUCTIONS

## PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

These presentations accommodate large ensemble casts full of terrific parts. Please consider carefully what type of role you would like. Remember it takes a large amount of time and effort to prepare to speak or dance alone on stage. All members of the cast will be expected to furnish parts of their own costumes.

### **AMBASSADORS: Welcome to Julian!**

*Orientation Performances: February 28, 29*

*Film Work: During May 2009*

One of the first sets of bright shining Julian faces any future jayhawks sees is always the CAST ambassadors who perform a classic welcome skit at the spring orientation. The skit in recent years has added a musical score by the great Julian Jazz Band and is a fun look at all the options Julian students have during their time here. After the orientation, students will work on a CASTFilm about Julian's STAND program that will be shown during next year's orientation process for Julian students.

### **ACTORS STUDIO: The Matchmaker**

*Performances: March 20 and 21 at 7:30 PM*

A certain old merchant of Yonkers is so rich in 1800 that he decides to take a wife. He employs a matchmaker a woman who subsequently becomes involved with two of his menial clerks, assorted young and lovely ladies, and the headwaiter at an expensive restaurant where this swift farce runs headlong into hilarious complications. After everyone gets straightened out romantically and has his heart's desire, the merchant finds himself affianced to the astute matchmaker herself. He who was so shrewd in business is putty in the hands of Dolly Levi. He is fooled by apprentices in a series of hilarious hide and seek scenes, and finally has all his bluster explode in his face.

### **MAINSTAGE: Antigone**

*Performances: April 24 and 25 TBA*

Originally staged in occupied France during 1944, this thinly veiled anti-Nazi adaptation of the famous Greek Tragedy of Oedipus' daughter Antigone survives today as a scathing portrayal of the dangers of blind allegiance to the state. Antigone and Ismene are caught in a terrible civil war waged against their father by their brothers. Uncle Creon decides to settle everything by vilifying one of the brothers and glorifying the other. Antigone, when forced to choose cannot shun her family and secures a death sentence by refusing to collaborate with the new government. Alone as a woman of conscience in a sea of corrupt male leaders, Antigone's powerful death convinces Ismene and the audience that the moral ambiguity between right and wrong is the refuge only of the truly weak.

### **MAINSTAGE: Aviatrix**

*Performances: April 24 and 25 TBA*

The world has always wondered what happened to Amelia Earhart. She is our favorite missing person. It seems now that we will never know what really happened, so this production does what only good theatre can - it makes up an answer. Starting with Ms. Earhart's parachuting to safety, this original work will explore the attempts of Amelia Earhart to explain who she is and everything she had done to a strange group of islanders who have no idea to whom they are talking. An homage to the work of noted Chicago director Mary Zimmerman, this production will be highly imaginative, and visually realized in the exotic environment of the pacific islands. She may be a hero and mentor to millions of girls all over the world, but in Aviatrix Amelia Earhart confronts her greatest transportation challenge to date - just trying to get home.

# COMMUNICATION ARTS, SPEECH AND THEATRE EDUCATION PERMISSION SLIP, AGREEMENT AND INSTRUCTIONS

## ABOUT AUDITIONS

Afterschool on February 12

Auditions will be held in the Julian Auditorium Theatre immediately after school. You must have this signed permission slip to audition. A note from your parent or guardian will not serve in lieu of the permission slip. It is advisable to have a 30-60 second audition piece prepared for your audition. Memorization is suggested but not required. The better you are prepared, the better you will audition. Poetry or a cutting from a play is certainly acceptable. The key to success is preparation. You will need a sharpened pencil. Enter the audition in an orderly fashion and wait to be called. The time allowed for the audition process is dependent on the number of students participating in the audition process. We will keep you as short a time as possible; however, we want you to have a fair and objective audition. For this reason **we cannot forecast the time you will have completed your audition. Please plan your travel home accordingly. If you cannot stay for the entire audition please contact us in the CAST office immediately, DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE AUDITION DAY TO INFORM US OF YOUR CONFLICTS – CALL NOW. AN INCOMPLETE AUDITION WILL BE TREATED AS A WITHDRAWAL AND YOU WILL NOT BE CAST!**

## ABOUT REHEARSALS

Performance activities demand hard work and devotion. Like any athlete, actors must “shape-up” their body and mind for optimum performance before an audience. Please do not agree to participate if you cannot keep this commitment. **Participation in these activities is based on the students being able to attend the rehearsals for which they are called.** Please do not accept membership if you cannot attend all rehearsals for which you are called. Rehearsals will generally be held afterschool until 5:30 or 6:00 PM in the Julian Auditorium during the rehearsal period for each activity listed below. **(See special note about AMBASSADORS performance)** No one will be called five days a week and no one will be called less than two days a week, however the amount of rehearsal time you will need is determined by the size of your role and the proximity to performance. A detailed schedule will be sent with your casting information. It is assumed that any conflicts will be addressed before the first rehearsal. A medical or family emergency is the only excused absence. Detentions or any other engagement are not an excuse to miss or arrive late at rehearsals. Excessive absence (3 or more) from rehearsal makes it impossible for an actor to receive the instruction needed to participate in performance. Your absence will affect every CAST participant. Please consider your responsibility to family and school before agreeing to participate. **Technical rehearsals** will take place during the week preceding the performance. **These rehearsals are mandatory for all activity members.** They are the only time during which all elements of production are coordinated and rehearsed. Often these rehearsals are at night from 6 - 9:30 PM. Missing even one technical rehearsal constitutes a serious lack of preparation for performance.

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## REHEARSAL PERIODS

Before selecting which shows you would like to perform in please check that you are available during the following rehearsal periods. It is assumed that if you indicate interest in a production on your audition form that you will cancel all other commitments to participate in preparations for that performance. Only conflicts that are listed on your audition form will be excused. If you have questions about this process please contact the CAST office at 524-7848 or ksimon@op97.org.

**AMBASSADORS\***: February 17 –25 & May      *Performance* February 26 & 27 (INSCHOOL)  
**MATCHMAKER**: February 17 –March 19      *Performance* March 20 & 21  
**ANTIGONE/AVIATRIX**: March 9- April 23      *Performance* April 24 & 25

*\* see note below*

**\*Special Note re: AMBASSADORS** Filming for our second project will take place during the month of May, we will try to work around conflicts but if you are very busy during that time please indicate that on the form.

### ABOUT PERFORMANCES

All performances will take place at the Julian Auditorium Theatre or the CAST Studio Space (unless otherwise indicated) at 7:30 PM, the house will open at 7:00 PM. Tickets may be purchased from the CAST Lab or at the door.

### ABOUT SCHOOL

We believe it is essential to your success that you keep current or ahead on your school work. The school office has progress reports you may use to help with communication between school and home. If you need assistance with homework or find you are having difficulty, stop by the CAST lab. We will be there to help. Come in at lunch and catch up on your homework. Lets keep ahead of things. Your teachers want you to be as successful in school as you are in CAST. We know you can do it. CAST has a long history at Julian because it enhances the overall academic experience. Participation in CAST is not to be used as an excuse for missing or late work. By agreeing to participate in CAST you are agreeing to uphold the high academic standards that CAST participants have enjoyed for over a decade. Anyone who has ever seen a CAST show, and thousands do every year, has high expectations of CAST participants...and why shouldn't they? Your participation in CAST as made tangible by this agreement is your way of saying yes to your best self.

### ABOUT STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

Performance activities are a large part of the CAST experience and you are vital to the success of CAST. We need your volunteer support. You should help by supporting your friends in all after school activities. Sell tickets to the performances, volunteer in the lab - without your help we cannot produce the next play, or film that last scene.

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# AGREEMENT

FOR STUDENT:

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*(Print name as you would like it to appear in the playbill)*

We agree to abide by this agreement and do all we can to honor our commitment. We understand we are agreeing to the following;

1. Participate in the CAST volunteer program.
2. Do my best at home, school and CAST.
3. Attend **all** rehearsals and performances for which I am called
4. Work hard to support CAST activities so CAST can continue.
5. Allow my photograph to be used by CAST in print and on the web.

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*(Student's signature and date)*

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*(Parent's signature and date\*)*

## **\*SPECIAL NOTE TO PARENTS**

We need your help with the CAST volunteer program. We have enclosed a volunteer form, please return this form along with the completed audition form. It takes all of us to keep CAST activities at Julian. We have opportunities that fit your schedule. We need your help. Students require and deserve all of our support and assistance. They will develop life long skills during CAST activities. However we can't do it without you.

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**AUDITION FORM**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ MALE \_\_\_\_\_ FEMALE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_ HEIGHT \_\_\_\_\_

MOM'S WORK NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ DAD'S WORK NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

*Please print in the blank.*

Lunch period \_\_\_\_\_ Team Number \_\_\_\_\_

Do you play an instrument(s) - which? \_\_\_\_\_ Are you in choir? \_\_\_\_\_

*Please rank the following from 1 on down, 1 being what you would like to do most. Remember to select only shows for which you are able to attend all the rehearsals!!!*

\_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in **Ambassadors**

\_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in the **Matchmaker**

\_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in **Antigone**

\_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in **Aviatrix**

**COMMENTS/KNOWN CONFLICTS:**

*(please write any other activity you participate in, and when it occurs)*

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**PERFORMING EXPERIENCE:**

I will not miss any rehearsals for which I am called

\_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date

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## Parent Volunteer Opportunities

Completing this form only indicates your interest in a certain area of volunteer work, it does not commit you to that activity. We will contact you with further information about your selected interests. We try to schedule volunteer activities around your availability. Tell us the times when you are available, however small, and we will make an effort to get you involved.

### Wednesday Lunch

This is our biggest fundraiser, it makes our shows possible. It takes MANY volunteers to be successful. One, two or as many Wednesday lunch hours as you can spare makes a big difference.

- Serve      Spend a Wednesday lunch hour serving lunch. Sign-up with a friend!

### Performance/Crew

There are many opportunities to help in front of house and behind the scenes!

- Concession Sales      Sell tickets or concessions at a performance.  
 Ushering      Hand out programs before a performance.  
 Clean-Up/Painting      Some shows need the help of adults willing to get their hands dirty!  
 General      I am willing to help the crew anyway I can!

### Costuming

Design, sew, hem, alter, mend... Our costumes often need adjusting!

- Sewing

### Fundraising Auction/Raffle

It takes a number of volunteers to make our Silent Auction and Raffle a success.

- Solicit Donations      Solicit items from merchants for Auction and Raffle.  
 Donate      Donate an item for Auction or Raffle.  
 Prep      Organize and package donated items, prepare bid sheets & raffle tickets and distribute winning items.  
 Dessert Reception      This Fall event needs help with setup, cleanup and the dessert buffet.

### Other

There are a number of activities throughout the year that need additional volunteers. Let us know if you are able to help out in these areas.

- Grant Writing  
 Office      There is a lot to do behind the scenes in the office! Newsletter assistance, mailings, data entry...  
 Publicity      Keep the community informed about CAST.  
 Web Site      Help us get a web site up and running.  
 Other      We will not turn you down! Let us know what you can do!

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Availability: \_\_\_\_\_