

Actors and Parents,

July 6, 2009

Welcome to the Shade Tree Players production of *Romeo and Juliet!* My name is Amanda Perry, and I will be your director for the next five weeks. For those of you who don't already know me, I have worked with Shade Tree Players and Dakota Stage for the past five years, but have been working with professional and community theatre my whole life. I am so excited to start this amazing production and work with all of you!

There are a few things everyone needs to know about the rehearsal process. First of all, attendance is mandatory. All actors will be receiving a rehearsal schedule that states what sections will be worked on when. Even if your child is not in a scheduled section, they still need to be present to work on characterization and stage presence. We will be playing lots of theatre games and working on different projects every day as well! If something comes up where your child has to miss rehearsal, it needs to be on a day when their section is not scheduled if at all possible, and all conflicts have to be cleared through me first. Conflicts with dress rehearsals and performances are not allowed. Also, actors need to bring pencils and scripts to every rehearsal, NO EXCEPTIONS☺ Actors will be taking blocking and line notes in their scripts, so it is very important they always have them.

Secondly, since we have a short rehearsal process, lines and characterization need to be worked on outside of rehearsal. This is a great opportunity for parents and actors to spend some time together working on the show! As usual, I will be adding in some dialog from the original script, so actors may have a bit more to work on than what is in their script. They will be getting any additions the first day of rehearsal. Actors will have a short time before their lines need to be memorized, and I will also give actors "take home" projects that will help to develop their characters. Shakespeare was an amazing playwright, and we are going to have a lot of fun learning about his time period and this classic play. Any help from parents is greatly appreciated!

Though we will not have much for a set since we are traveling between performance spaces, we will still need help transporting our set pieces and organizing costumes. There will be scheduled work calls that we ask everyone (parents especially) to attend if possible, that you will be receiving notes about. They will be on Saturdays or Sundays and will include mostly props and costumes, and maybe a bit of painting. Many costumes are required for this show, so we will need the most help in this area. We will also need help transporting sound equipment, set pieces and props from one place to the next, so anyone with a truck that can help on performance days would be greatly appreciated! That information will be posted on the website as well. There are many volunteer spots still open, so *please* let me know if there is anything at all you can help out with.

Please feel free to direct any questions you may have to Jerry or myself. You may also call me at #220-8838, or email me at roxyfox55@hotmail.com. Also, keep a look out for more notes and reminders. Thanks for all your help, we will make this a terrific show!

Amanda Irvine-Perry
~ Director