Jane Eyre

Young Actor FAQ

**How many child actors are in JANE EYRE?**

Just one. There are 8 adult actors and 3 standby understudies. We hire a child supervisor whose only job is to be responsible for the safety of our child actor.

**If my child is in the show, do you expect them to be at every rehearsal and every performance?**

Yes, we really hope they will be here when they are called to rehearse and also for every performance, if they are healthy and ready to perform (more information on that will come later). With a fully-vaccinated and masked audience wanting to see the show, it is our expectation that your child will be fully available.

**Do you really rehearse every day (except Monday) from 10am to 6pm?**

There will be rehearsal every day of the week except Monday but not all actors are called to every rehearsal. We ask everyone to be available for the entire rehearsal period, so it is very important to clear your schedule for the entire time that rehearsal is possible.

**How many performances are there each week?**

Typically we do 8 performances a week. There is usually nothing scheduled on Monday.

**Do we get rehearsal and performance schedules at the time of being asked to be in the show?**

Yes and no. You will get the performance schedule when a role is offered and accepted, but you will only get a potential rehearsal schedule. The actual daily rehearsal schedule is drawn up at the end of each day, based on input from the creative team. The stage manager emails the daily schedule to the actors as soon as it is prepared.

**You often refer to youth actors as “children”. Why is that?**

The Citadel Theatre is bound by the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement (the CTA) which is an agreement between PACT (the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres – of which the Citadel is a member) and CAEA (Canadian Actors’ Equity Association). The CTA allows a Children’s Chorus of youth who are all under the age of 16, as per Clause 59:00\*.. In the CTA those young actors are referred to as “child actors”. We find it more consistent to use the terminology of the CTA, even though we know teens hate to be referred to as children.

\*For more information on Clause 59:00, please visit: <https://www.caea.com/Theatre/Agreements-Policies>

**Will our travel expenses by paid?**

No. there is no provision in the budget to pay for travel. The expenses incurred to bring your child to the Citadel are paid by you. We appreciate the parents who do this very much, but do not have the resources to pay the expenses ourselves.

**Do I have to pay for equipment and costumes?**

No. Unlike hockey and dance programs, the Citadel pays for costumes. Our professional wardrobe people will measure your child and will custom build the costumes and provide all footwear and show underwear (if required). All we ask is that you bring a designated pair of indoor shoes for your child to wear until the show shoes are ready.

**Is there any compensation at all?**

The Child actor the director casts as Young Jane will be paid a weekly fee. We will require direct deposit information in order to pay the fee.

**Do I get to sit in on rehearsals?**

Probably not this year since our COVID policy asks that only people who are necessary for the process be in the rehearsal hall.

**Will my child miss school?**

Yes, for sure. There are school matinees that your child will be performing in. There will also be rehearsals during school hours. We ask parents to speak to your child’s school and make sure the school is aware (and supportive) and will give us a letter indicating that the school supports participation. There may be school concerts, field trips, birthday parties, and other events that your child will have to forego while in a show, so it is a good idea to discuss this thoroughly.

**This all sounds very onerous. Why would anyone want to have a child in a Citadel production?**

This is a question that I asked myself when I started this job 20 years ago. In the intervening years, hundreds of children have auditioned and many have been cast in our productions. The feedback we receive typically is: my child has grown and flourished in many ways while being in a Citadel show. Children who appear in our productions love the experience and want to be asked back. Parents have noticed their child’s school marks actually go up over the course of a show. I think this is because the youngster is so motivated and wants to succeed. Additionally a youngster interested in theatre gets a rare insight into the workings of a large professional company and gets to work with some of Canada’s best directors, actors, choreographers and music directors.

**Who do I talk to if I have more questions?**

Peni Christopher, Citadel’s Company Manager. I have written responses to these FAQS and will be happy to answer more questions. You can email me at pchristopher@citadeltheatre.com or contact me at (780) 428-2116.