# Youth Actor FAQs

**What is Double Casting ?**

When a role is double cast, there are two actors performing the same role. The rehearsal week is shortened to a maximum of 28 hours per week and four performances per week. Please read on for more information about a rehearsal and performance weeks.

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

Generally, we would expect that for all actors, but when a role is double cast, as these ones are, the maximum number of hours of rehearsal and performances are different. So for a show that has youth actors double cast, we amend this FAQ to still say yes that is what we expect, but with modifications. For the best interest of the show, we request that your youth will be available when called to rehearse and will be on time and ready to perform for every show.

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

There will be rehearsal every day of the week except Monday but double cast actors are not called to every rehearsal. We ask the youth actors to be available for the entire rehearsal period, so that the director has the flexibility to call them when they are needed. so It is very important to clear their schedules for the entire rehearsal period. Since Young Anna and Young Elsa are major roles, it is possible they could rehearse all six days each week.

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

There will be up to 8 performances each week. There is usually nothing scheduled on Monday. As a double cast role, each actor will appear in no more than 4 performances each week.

**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 but you will only get a potential rehearsal schedule. The daily rehearsal schedule is drawn up at the end of each day, based on input from the director, the stage manager, choreographer, music director and designers. The stage manager emails the daily schedule to the actors as soon as it is prepared.

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

The Citadel Theatre operates under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement (CTA) which is an agreement between PACT (Professional Association of Canadian Theatres – of which the Citadel is a member) and CAEA (Canadian Actors’ Equity Association). This is the terminology we use for youth actors in our productions. These rules for “child actors” can be found in the CTA and will be sent to parents when a role is offered. The Citadel has its own policy for all minor actors, which includes everyone who is under the age of 18.

**Will our travel expenses be paid?**

No. there is no provision in the budget to pay for travel. The expenses incurred to bring your youth 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 provides costumes. Our professional wardrobe people will measure your youth and will custom build costumes and provide all footwear and show underwear. All we ask is that you bring a designated pair of indoor shoes for your youth to wear during rehearsal until the show shoes are ready.

**Is there any compensation at all?**

Yes, there is a weekly fee, which will be discussed at the time of offering the role.

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

Rehearsal is a time for the actors and the directors to focus on the work they are doing, so on the whole, we don't invite parents into the rehearsal hall while the actors are working. We do realize that it is very meaningful for parents to be able to watch some of the rehearsal process, and to that end, we will open specific rehearsals up for parents to attend. We will give more information about these opportunities to parents when a role is accepted.

**Will my youth miss school?**

Yes, that is a certainty. There are school matinees that your youth will be performing in. There will also be rehearsals during school hours. We ask parents to speak to your youth'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 youth will have to pass up 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 youth in a Citadel production?**

This is an excellent question. All of us who work as a team to assist the director in finding youth actors, often wonder the same thing. Depending on how many years each of us has done this, we have seen hundreds of young people audition. We receive cards, emails, and verbal thank-yous from parents whose youth have been case in a production, and consistently the message is: my youth has grown and flourished in many ways while being in a Citadel show. Youth who appear in our productions love the experience and want to be asked back. Parents have noticed their youth's school marks actually go up over the course of a show. I think this is because the youth is so motivated and wants to succeed. Additionally a youth 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.

**If my youth auditions and doesn't get a role, will I be notified?**

Yes, everyone who auditions will be notified one way or the other.

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

Peni Christopher, Citadel's Company Manager. She will be happy to answer more questions and responds to emails sent to auditions@citadeltheatre.com.