

Character Descriptions:

Girls:

JANA HELLEROVA: (pronounced “Yah-na”) the youngest member of the group, she always carries her doll and does not remember life before the war. She is happy and playful, imaginative and brave. 9 years old.

ALENA LEDEROVA: Smart, quick-witted, no-nonsense and often bitter. Alena’s past has not been easy and she often lets her dark side show through sarcasm. 12 years old.

GABRIELA WINTEROVA: Soft-spoken, gentle and brave. A violinist who uses her love for music to connect to others around her. 13 years old.

EVA HELLEROVA: Jana’s older sister and caregiver, she is responsible and mature. She often wishes that she could give up her “adult” life to simply be a teenager. 14 years old.

Boys:

ERIK KOSEK: Idolizes Miroslav, wants to be a leader but is often unsure of how to lead because he is younger than the others. Brave and head-strong, Erik is very much caught between needing to be a child and wanting to be an adult. 11 years old.

MARTIN LOWY: The “new kid,” he does not fit in with the others in the group and often withdraws by himself to write letters home. He is an artist and a kind, gentle soul who loves to draw. 12 years old.

PAVEL HOFFMAN: A musician and loner who wants to fly under the radar. Pavel loves music and is seldom without his recorder, which he plays throughout the show. He has trouble talking with others and is often nervous. 14 years old.

MIROSLAV WEISS: Charismatic and full of life, Miroslav is the leader of the group. He inspires and teaches the others through his energy and drive to educate not only his peers, but the adults around them and the world at large. 15 years old.

Other Residents:

Various roles for all genders and ages, used to create tableaux for the audience that will guide them through the day-to-day life of Terezin. Some of these are small speaking roles, some are not.

Total Cast Size: Up to 25

Setting:

Terezin Internment Camp, Czechoslovakia, 1942-1945.

And A Child Shall Lead...
by Michael Slade

AUDITION INFORMATION

September 8th, 4:30-6:30 and September 9th 2:30-4:30 in the drama room, 338



This is the heroic and true story of children coming of age in Terezin, the "Jewish city" established by the Nazis near Prague, Czechoslovakia. In the face of unspeakable fear, these children and teens use their determination and creativity to build lives filled with hope and beauty -- playing, studying, making art, writing an underground newspaper and running a collaborative school. Their actual poems and stories written in the camp are used here, woven into a fast-paced drama to evoke the light that can be found even in the darkest situations. *And A Child Shall Lead...* shows the true power that education and creativity can yield when placed in the hands of youth.

General Information & FAQ

When are the show dates?

November 18th and 19th at 7 pm

When are auditions?

September 8th from 4:30-6:30 and September 9th from 2:30 pm until 4:30 pm in the Drama Room, 338

When are rehearsals?

Rehearsals, for the most part, will be at Oak on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 4-6 pm with some exceptions. There will be additional time necessary, including extra days and longer rehearsal blocks, as we get closer to the production dates. An exact rehearsal schedule will be available soon.

What can I do to better prepare for a historical drama?

Researching the time period is one of the first places you should start. In this case, we are looking at Europe during World War II. This was a dark and frightening time in history, but it was also a time of great bravery and courage. This script tells the story of how a group of children and teenagers fought for what they believed in by using art, music and education. Think of Anne Frank...we will be doing a lot of research as a cast once rehearsals get going.

What is the audition process like?

You will sign up for a 5 minute audition slot, during which you will “slate in” (introduce yourself by giving your name, as well as the name of the character whose monologue you are performing) and then perform your piece. I will be taking notes and may or may not ask you to read an additional monologue.

Help! I'm nervous!

First things first: don't forget to breathe! Many of us are nervous when it comes to auditions, which is perfectly normal. BE PREPARED. This means you should read your monologue over and over again until you have a solid feel for who this person is, what emotions they are currently feeling and what they want to convey in this moment. Use the character descriptions to help you and make sure you have an understanding of the time period. Once you get into the audition, take your time and have fun! Remember that we are rooting for you to do well and are looking forward to seeing your work ☺

If I am cast, what should I expect out of the rehearsal process?

We will be working within a quick time frame, so the expectation for all cast members in terms of script and blocking memorization is high. It is essential that you are completely prepared for each rehearsal – you should have the pages listed on the schedule memorized before you arrive that day and should also do a daily review of lines and blocking at home. Because this is a historical drama that, at times, deals with sensitive material, we will also be doing a lot of research as a cast to learn about the time period, the people who lived through it and the various circumstances that affected them. This will include working as a whole group, as well as individually to research and make connections to social studies. This may also include a field trip or presenter, such as a Holocaust survivor coming to speak with the cast about her or his experiences.

I know this show is a good fit for me, but I'm worried about schedule conflicts...what should I do?

Make sure you list all conflicts on your audition sheet as accurately as possible. We try to work around them when we can, even though it isn't always possible. It is better for us to know up front than to have surprises pop up during the rehearsal process!!

