



metropolitan  
SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

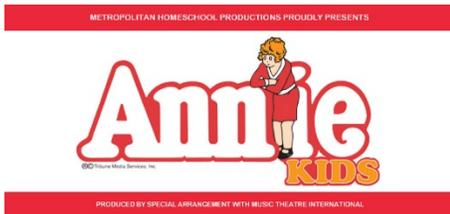
**Metropolitan Homeschool Productions: *Annie Kids* and Thornton Wilder's *The Matchmaker*  
June 2020  
Blackbox Theatre, Metropolitan School of the Arts**

*Please read all information pertaining to the show you are auditioning for and make sure students can make most of the rehearsal commitments and all production week rehearsals and performances.*

*NOTE: *Annie Kids* and *The Matchmaker* have some differences in the rehearsal schedules and will not necessarily rehearse on the same days. Please refer to the rehearsal/performance schedules on page 5 of this document.*

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### About the productions:

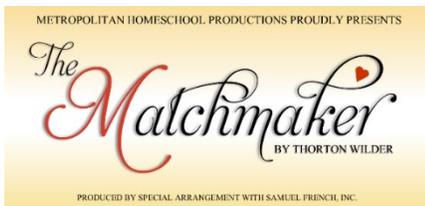


Based on the popular comic strip and adapted from the Tony Award-winning Best Musical, with a beloved book and score by Tony Award-winners Thomas Meehan, Charles Strouse and Martin Charmin, *Annie KIDS* features everyone's favorite little redhead in her very first adventure.

This is a 30-minute version with enough music, dance to keep our younger students challenged. 20-30 roles, two performances.

---

Thornton Wilder's uproarious farce about love and grand adventures! This play inspired the Broadway musical, *Hello, Dolly!* Horace Vandergelder, a wealthy merchant in nineteenth-century Yonkers, decides to take a wife and employs Dolly Levi as a matchmaker. Dolly subsequently becomes involved with two of Vandergelder's clerks, several lovely ladies and the headwaiter at an expensive restaurant, where this swift farce runs headlong into hilarious complications. After everyone gets straightened out romantically, Vandergelder finds himself affianced to the astute Dolly Levi herself.



We are also presenting a 15-20 minute 'cabaret' of songs from the 1880's for cast members itching to sing. The songs will be performed before *The Matchmaker* by any capable student that wishes to participate in a short performance of musical selections. The songs from the era are very fun and will most likely be accompanied on piano. For this reason, any student wishing to participate in the cabaret should prepare to sing at the audition. 17-25 endearing roles for males and females, six performances. We are looking for an actor/actress who is proficient on the violin and/or piano. *Because MHP gives all students opportunities to shine, ANY AND ALL ethnicities are encouraged to audition.*

## Who is working on the productions?

Barbara Schwartz, Director

Diane Spinelli, Choreographer/Assistant to the Director

Maia Rodriguez, Musical Director

Steve Schwartz, Production Design

Student Assistants interested in dance, music and tech: TBD

Parent assistants: TBD

Costumes for both shows will be rented from a professional costuming company.

## Who do I contact if I have questions?

This document should answer 99% of your questions. But if you still need to contact us see below.

### Prior to auditions:

- Barbara Schwartz, [bschwartz@metropolitanarts.org](mailto:bschwartz@metropolitanarts.org) for questions regarding the audition process.
- Diane Spinelli, [dspinelli@metropolitanarts.org](mailto:dspinelli@metropolitanarts.org) for questions about audition registration.

**During auditions:** the person at the audition registration desk.

**Call the studio:** 703-339-0444 for driving directions if you do not have access to an online map or if you have questions about our Tuesday and Friday homeschool performing arts classes and program.

## Where will the shows be rehearsed and performed?

All auditions, rehearsals and performances will take place at Metropolitan School of the Arts, 5775 Barclay Dr., Suite 4, Alexandria, VA 22315. The performances will be in the Black Box Theatre, a 100-115-seat theatre that allows for a unique, intimate experience between actor and audience.

## What is the cost of participating and how is the money used?

- The cost per child for participating in the production is \$250 due on the first rehearsal day, October 8<sup>th</sup> (*Annie Kids*), October 15<sup>th</sup> (*The Matchmaker*). This covers all production costs (rented costumes, set, lights, sound, props, publicity, resources, copies, photographer, improvements to the Black Box as needed). The director and musical director get a small stipend for their work.
- There is a \$15 audition fee for administrative costs which will be paid online when you reserve your spot. This will not be refunded if you can't make the audition. You may reschedule an audition if something comes up after you sign up for a spot. Email [bschwartz@metropolitanarts.org](mailto:bschwartz@metropolitanarts.org) but please only request a change if it is absolutely necessary, not because you feel like you are not ready to audition. If too many people request changes, we may not have slots available on another day.

## Do I have to be homeschooled in order to audition? How old must I be?

- Students should be homeschooled in some way in order to participate.
- Students taking a gap year after graduating from homeschooling may audition for non-speaking, ensemble roles.

- *Annie Kids* is an opportunity for students age 9 (by Sept. 30) through 13.
- *The Matchmaker* is an opportunity for students age 13 (by Sept. 30) through 18.

### Do I have to have sign up to audition? How do I arrange one?

**Sign-up is mandatory.** Please do not show up at the audition without doing so. Please do not sign up for the final day of auditions unless it is the only day you can come or if all other dates are filled. This year we are limiting auditionees to 30 per day. *Consider the advantage of the earlier auditions* when the directors might be able to take more time with you. There is a link at the bottom of this document which will take you to the registration form. *Please read all pertinent information before signing up for a slot.*

### Audition dates and time slots for *Annie Kids* are as follows:

September 10, 2:30-3:30 (18 slots)  
 September 17, 2:30-3:30 (18 slots)  
 September 24, 2:30-3:30 (18 slots)

Callbacks will be October 1 from 2:30-4:30

### Audition dates and time slots for *The Matchmaker* are as follows:

September 10, 3:30-4:30 (15 slots)  
 September 17, 3:30-4:30 (15 slots)  
 September 24, 3:30-4:30 (15 slots)

Callbacks will be October 1 from 2:30-4:30

*Auditionees must attend the entire one-hour block of time in their chosen slot and should arrive at least 10 minutes early for check in.*

### What should I do for my audition?

You can do anything you would like for an audition if your **monologue is no longer than one minute**, and your **song is no longer than 16 bars** (please bring an mp3 player with a headphone jack that has your accompaniment on it.) Both shows are comedies so choose something that would reflect that genre. Presenting a monologue from Macbeth might not help the directors see that you can play modern comedy. *Please note that singers will need to bring in their own mp3 track of music – NO A CAPELLA auditions will be accepted.*

For *The Matchmaker*, [FOLLOW THIS LINK](#) for some suggested monologues. There is a movie version of the play for rent on [AMAZON](#). Although the movie is mostly true to the script and is a great introduction to the play (most of the lines are the same, some of the characters have been cut), keep in mind that our production will be very different. This play is much better seen live than on a screen. You can find the script in several different publication forms on [AMAZON](#), and it may be available at the public library.

For *The Matchmaker* vocal auditionees and all auditionees for *Annie Kids*, [FOLLOW THIS LINK](#) for suggestions to songs with backing tracks if you need ideas. NOTE: we prefer that songs from *Annie* be avoided for the *Annie Kids* audition.

Auditionees may choose to audition with our suggestions if they wish, but it is not mandatory. We encourage you to do the piece which you love and makes you shine!

### How should I prepare for my audition?

**Annie Kids actors/singers/dancers:** You are welcome to watch [THIS AMATUER VIDEO](#) of the 30-minute version in preparation for your audition. Viewing any video or movie version of the show is optional but familiarity with the basic plot helps in the audition.

When you rehearse and perform your pieces, pick a point on the wall as the person to whom you are speaking – it is best to not look at the directors while performing.

There will be a movement audition for *Annie Kids* as there are four numbers with simple dance moves. Please come prepared by wearing the suggested clothing below.

### ***The Matchmaker* actors:**

**For *The Matchmaker's* preshow cabaret:** Singing is optional for the audition and not required for the show. The cabaret is offered to give those with great voices a chance to perform and 'show their stuff.' If you need ideas for audition pieces, please see the section for *Annie Kids* directly above.

### **INSTRUMENTALISTS NEEDED:**

**For those 13-18 that are ADVANCED (no beginners, please!) in violin and/or piano:** please come prepared with a one-minute piece of music of your own choosing, and your violin. A piano or keyboard will be provided. It is possible to play an instrument and be in *The Matchmaker*.

The most important preparation you can do is to come prepared to have fun! We want to get to know you and your personality. The best way to do that is to relax and enjoy the audition process, even though we know you might feel nervous.

### **What do I wear to auditions?**

Wear comfortable clothing that allows you to move without risk of embarrassment and does not mask the size and shape of your body. If you are called back it is a good idea to wear the same clothing, you wore on the day of your audition. Please do not wear boots, sandals, flip flops, or open toed shoes. Light sneakers or jazz shoes (if you already own them) will help facilitate movement and are the best types of shoes to wear for an audition.

### **What can I expect when I arrive at the audition?**

When you arrive, go to the audition check-in table. You will receive a number and we will take your picture for audition and callback identification purposes ONLY. During the actual audition you will present your monologue, song and, for *Annie Kids*, participate in a movement audition for about 30 minutes of the hour-long slot. You may bring a resume and headshot (not required) if you have them and present them to the director once in the audition room. Bring a device with a headphone jack for playing your mp3 track (required if you are singing).

It's best to think that you are always auditioning from the moment you walk in the door until you leave the building. We watch how you behave while waiting, while standing in line, while others are performing, and if you show up on time... all these things tell us how you will behave during the rehearsal and performance process.

### **When are callbacks?**

Tuesday, October 1, 2019 from 2:30-4:30.

### **What is a callback?**

It's a director's second look at you and your skills. With the number of people that we will see at these auditions, it is often important to bring *some* (not everyone) people back for a "second look".

### **How do I know if I am called back?**

Everyone that auditions will receive an email with a list of those who should attend callbacks. If you do not receive an email from us by 5:00 p.m. Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup> you may email the director at [bschwartz@metropolitanarts.org](mailto:bschwartz@metropolitanarts.org).

### **I didn't get called back; does that mean I'm not cast?**

*Just because you are not called back does not mean you were not cast!* You may be perfect for the role in which the director is using you, and consequently do not need a second look. The director may know your skills and may have chosen to see people with whom she is less familiar.

### **When and how will you announce the cast?**

The target announcement date and time is 5 p.m. on Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will send an email to all those who auditioned to announce the cast. You may email [bschwartz@metropolitanarts.org](mailto:bschwartz@metropolitanarts.org) after 8 p.m. if you do not receive the email.

### **What are the rehearsal schedules for each show?**

#### ***ANNIE KIDS REHEARSALS TAKE PLACE MAINLY ON TUESDAY, 2:30-4:30:***

- October 8 (performance agreements/payments due), 22, 29
- November 5, 12, 19
- January 7, 14, 21, 28
- February 4, 11, 18, 25
- May 19, 26
- June 9: 11:30-1:30
- June 12 (Friday): 9:00-11:30 (costume fittings in the afternoon)

#### **PRODUCTION WEEK REHEARSALS:**

- June 15, 16 (M, T): 9:00-12:00, Dress Rehearsals
- June 17 (W): 3:00-4:30, Final Dress Rehearsal (Opening performance at 5:00 p.m.)

#### **PERFORMANCES (2):**

- June 17 (W): 5:00 & 7:00 p.m.

*We are asking Annie Kids cast members and their families to help promote both Annie Kids and The Matchmaker. Cast members are highly encouraged to attend a performance of The Matchmaker.*

---

#### ***THE MATCHMAKER REHEARSALS TAKE PLACE MAINLY ON TUESDAY, 2:30-4:40:***

- October 15 (performance agreements/payments due)
- December 3
- January 7, 14, 21, 28

- February 4, 11, 18, 25
- March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
- April 14, 21, 28
- May 5, 12, 19, 26
- June 9: 1:30-4:30
- June 12 (Friday): 12:00-6:00

### **PRODUCTION WEEK REHEARSALS**

- June 15 (M): 12:00-6:00
- June 16 (T): 9:00-12:00, Costume Fittings
- June 17 (W): 9:00-2:00, Dress Rehearsal
- June 18 (TH): 11:00-5:00, Final Dress Rehearsal (Opening performance at 7:00 p.m.)

### **PERFORMANCES (6):**

- June 18, 7:00 p.m.
- June 19, 7:00 p.m.
- June 20, 2 & 7 p.m.
- June 21, 2 & 6 p.m.

*Because limited seating is available for Annie Kids and we want to make sure family and friends of the cast have a chance to see the show, we will ask The Matchmaker cast to come view the final dress rehearsal of Annie Kids at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 17.*

### **Are there any other costs involved or things the parent needs to provide?**

Actors are required to have appropriate shoes, socks, undergarments, and all make-up supplies as determined by the director. Dress or dance shoes may run between \$20 and \$60 dollars. Undergarments such as leotards, camisoles, and under shirts may also be required. The production staff will do their best to help you find cost-effective options. Costumes and rehearsal pieces will be provided by the production.

### **How are parents involved?**

It is the parents' responsibility to:

- Upon agreeing to the commitment, keep and update a calendar of all scheduled rehearsals and performances.
- Be the main contact person for your child/teen, receiving and tracking all updates concerning the production. This is usually done via email and/or text messaging (texting is optional) through a system called Virtual Callboard.
- Ensure student(s) arrives and departs on time from all scheduled activities.
- Help promote the shows.
- Volunteer to help in some capacity. Volunteers may help with cast crowd control, front door duty, ushering for performances, box office, costume fittings, publicity - just to name just a few jobs.
- No parent will be asked to volunteer beyond their capacity or experience.
- Families may also volunteer INTERESTED teens (15 by Sept. 30) and gap year teens to take their place, if it is difficult for a parent to fill in.
- Attend one of two 30-minute parent orientation meetings on either October 8 at 4:00 p.m. or October 15 at 4:00 p.m.

We are especially looking for:

- Able-bodied parents who are skilled with hand tools to help move the sets and lights in during the move in on June 13-14.
- A parent skilled in basic marketing to assist in promoting *The Matchmaker*. We have a list and are always looking for new ways of 'getting the word out', including through social media. Training provided.
- A parent interested in coordinating all parent jobs. Training provided.

### **Student Assistants in Dance, Music and Tech**

We offer these positions as a way of training the next generation of performing arts leaders and technicians. INTERESTED students must have turned 15 by Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 to apply. Gap year students are welcome to apply as well.

#### **Available Positions**

Assistant to the Choreographer  
Assistant to the Musical Director  
Light or Sound Board Operator  
Properties Assistant

Contact [bschwartz@metropolitanarts.org](mailto:bschwartz@metropolitanarts.org) for more information or to apply.

### **AUDITION REGISTRATION**

If you have read all the information pertaining to the show you are interested in and would like to schedule an audition, please click the link below.



**Audition  
Registration**