



## I. Production Policies

- A. Students must be enrolled in a Summer Session class or camp before you can be scheduled for an audition time
  - Once you have auditioned, you will not be eligible for a refund or credit for your class tuition.
- B. You must be age 8-18 on June 29th, 2018 to be eligible to audition or crew the show.
- C. You must have an appropriate crew credit.
  - After two shows as a cast member, you must crew a show before you can audition again.
- D. You may not miss any performances or tech week rehearsals.
  - Tech Week: June 24th 12-6p, June 25th-27th 3-7p, June 28th 5:30-9p
  - Performances:

*Friday June 29 at 7p      Saturday June 30 at 2p      Sunday July 1 at 2p*  
*Friday July 6 at 7p      Saturday July 7 at 2p      Sunday July 8 at 2p*  
*Friday July 13 at 7p      Saturday July 14 at 2p      Sunday July 15 at 2p*

- School Day shows:

*Tuesday July 10th 8a-2p      Wednesday July 11th 8a-2p*

- E. There is a \$95 Production Fee for cast members and \$50 for Crew Members. This pays for memory books, production and lobby photos, parties and receptions, director's gifts, etc.
- F. There are parent volunteer requirements that are great ways to get involved.

## II. Audition Process

- A. Audition workshops are available prior to the week of auditions. Each workshop is a 20 minute, one on one session with a Junior Theatre teaching artist who will listen to your audition piece and offer suggestions for improvement. The cost for this workshop is \$25. Please call the office to schedule a workshop.
- B. Audition Dates
  - Auditions are by appointment only, and are held in one-half hour increments. Please arrive at least 15 minutes early to check in at Room 208.

*Monday April 23<sup>rd</sup> 4-6p      Tuesday April 24<sup>th</sup> 4-6p      Wednesday April 25<sup>th</sup> 4-6p*

- C. What to prepare for auditions
  - Come to auditions with the audition form filled out completely. Be honest about any conflicts! Include a recent headshot.
  - Students should prepare a 1 minute song cut for their auditions. Please bring sheet music in the correct key, a pianist will be provided. No acapella singing or singing to tracks will be allowed.
- D. Call Backs Date

*Thursday May 3<sup>rd</sup> 4-7p*

## III. Rehearsals

- A. First rehearsal will be held Monday May 14th from 4-6p. Everyone is called to the first rehearsal.
- B. Rehearsals will be Monday-Friday from 4-6p. From Jun 18th till 22nd rehearsals 3-6p
- C. All actors will not be called to every rehearsal. A detailed rehearsal schedule will be handed out at first rehearsal

## IV. Questions

## V. Director's Notes

**FROM THE DIRECTOR:**  
**Ricardo Valenzuela**



I am so excited to return to Junior Theater this summer to direct Mr. Poppers Penguins! I have been waiting a whole year to get started on this project and I'm glad it's finally here!

Mr. Poppers Penguins the Musical is based on the book by Richard and Florence Atwater. I advise you to read the book before the audition. Be aware that the 2011 movie starring Jim Carey is not at all like the musical so watching it will not be very helpful. The show only has one major dance number that involves tap dancing, the rest of the numbers will be more "movement" based.

I am looking for strong actors who can play multiple roles and sing well to fill the older characters of the show. Anyone interested in playing one of the penguins will be tap dancing. Do not be discouraged if you do not have previous tap dance experience, I am willing to teach eager hard working kids who will go home, practice, and return to rehearsal with an understanding of the dance steps.

## SHOW SYNOPSIS

Mr. Popper is a house painter of modest means, living with his wife and two children (Bill and Janie) in the small town of Stillwater, Minnesota. He has a happy life, but he is also a restless dreamer, spending his time reading of famous explorers in faraway places.

One day, the Popper family tunes in to a radio broadcast by an Admiral exploring polar regions. Mr. Popper had previously sent the Admiral fan mail, and the Admiral promises Mr. Popper a surprise. The surprise turns out to be a penguin, which comes in a large box. Mr. Popper names the penguin "Captain Cook" after the famous James Cook. Mr. Popper cleans out the icebox so that the penguin can sleep inside. As time goes by, the Poppers find that Captain Cook is growing large, but his health is failing. Mr. Popper writes to the curator of a large aquarium, asking for help. The curator replies that the aquarium has a female penguin, Greta, who unfortunately is also experiencing the same symptoms, and he suggests that perhaps the penguins are simply lonely. Soon after, the Poppers receive their second penguin in the mail.

The pair of penguins are revitalized by each other's presence. As both birds cannot fit into the icebox together, Mr. Popper opens the window to let in the cold winter air, creating a snow-covered habitat. As this solution will not work in springtime, Mr. Popper has the main things moved upstairs and a freezing plant installed in the basement for the birds. This makes for happy penguins, but strains the family budget.

As time passes, Greta lays eggs. She continues laying a new egg every three days until the total reaches ten. As penguins do not normally lay so many eggs, Mr. Popper attributes this to the change in climate the birds have experienced. When the eggs hatch, the Popper family now has twelve penguins to feed, and the contractor is looking for payment on the household changes.

Mr. Popper decides to raise money by training the twelve penguins and turning them into a circus act. The act debuts at the local theater, and soon the "Popper's Performing Penguins" are featured throughout the country. But in the theater in New York City, the penguins cause trouble; what's worse, they've accidentally shown up at the wrong theater. The manager of the wrong theater is extremely angry and has Mr. Popper arrested, along with the penguins.

Admiral Drake, having arrived to see Popper's Performing Penguins for himself, posts bail for Mr. Popper. After speaking with the Admiral, Mr. Popper decides that show business is no life for a penguin. Drake lets all of the twelve penguins go with him on his expedition to the North Pole, where they will be released experimentally into the Arctic. The Poppers are sad to see the penguins go, especially Mr. Popper himself — that is, until Admiral Drake invites Mr. Popper to accompany him on the trip. The Poppers wave goodbye as Mr. Popper and his penguins sail away towards the North Pole and Mr. Popper promises to be back in a year or two.

## CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

**MR. POPPER** is a house painter who lives in the fictional town of Stillwater. He dreams of being an explorer!

**MRS. POPPER** loves looking after her husband, Mr. Popper. At first, she does not like adventure, but then the penguins change her mind!

**JANIE POPPER** is Mr. and Mrs. Poppers daughter.

**BILLY POPPER** is Mr. and Mrs. Poppers son.

**CAPTAIN COOK** is a penguin! He makes himself very comfortable at the Poppers' home. Cook falls in love with another penguin named Greta, and they have a large family together.

**GRETA** is a penguin who arrives from London Zoo when Captain Cook becomes sick. Greta has also been ill, but both penguins feel better after meeting! Greta and Cook have a very large family of 10 baby penguins.

**THE BABY PENGUINS** are the excitable babies of Captain Cook and Greta. The baby penguins will also play one of the following roles:

CHILDREN OF STILLWATER  
PAPER BOY  
CHILDREN IN VARIOUS CITIES

**CITIZENS OF STILLWATER** Citizens of Stillwater, will also be assigned one or more of the roles listed below:

SALES LADY  
MAILMAN  
DELIVERYMAN  
CITY HALL CLERKS  
POLICEMAN  
DOC HARPER  
STAGE MANAGER  
MR. GREENBAUM  
ADMIRAL DRAKE  
FOLKS IN VARIOUS CITIES  
MALE INGENU  
FEMALE INGENU  
WOMAN THEATRE OWER  
POLICE OFFICER  
CREW OF ADMIRAL DRAKE'S SHIP