

Pre-Audition Meeting THE CRUCIBLE

I. Production Policies

- A. Students must be enrolled in the Fall Session 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 November 9th, 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: Nov 4th 12-6p, Nov 5th-7th 4-9p, Nov 8th 6:00-9:30p
 - Performances:
 - Friday Nov 9 at 7p Saturday Nov 10 at 2p Sunday Nov 11 at 2p*
 - Friday Nov 16 at 7p Saturday Nov 17 at 2p Sunday Nov 18 at 2p*
 - School Day shows:
 - Tuesday Nov 13 at 9:30a Wednesday Nov 14 at 9:30a*
- E. There is a \$95 Production Fee for cast members and a \$50 fee for Crew Members. This goes towards production and lobby photos, memory books, parties and receptions, director's gifts, etc.
- F. Parent volunteer requirements.
 - This will include backstage monitoring, concessions selling, pick-up supervision, as well as opportunities to serve on or chair production committees.

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 prepared 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, and finish the necessary paperwork.
 - Monday August 27th 4-6p Tuesday August 28th 4-6p*
- C. What to prepare for auditions
 - Come to auditions with the audition form filled out completely. Attach a headshot to the rear of the form. Be honest about any conflicts! Conflicts that come up after casting may disqualify students from participation.
 - Students should prepare a 1 minute dramatic monologue for their auditions. Students auditioning for both Crucible and Sleepy Hollow should prepare both a Monologue and song cut.
- D. Call Backs Date
 - Wednesday August 29th 6-9p*

III. Rehearsals

- A. First rehearsal will be held Monday September 17th from 6-9p. Everyone is called to the first rehearsal.
- B. Rehearsals will be Monday-Friday from 6-9p. From August 30th till November 2th 5-9p.
- 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:
Matt Hauptert

I could not be more excited to get started on Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*, one of my favorite plays, and, in my opinion, one of the most powerful and important American dramas ever written.

Though *The Crucible* takes on the story of the dark and tragic Salem Witch Trials in late-17th century Massachusetts, it was never intended to really be a story about Salem at all - rather, Miller wrote it in the 1950s as an allegory for McCarthyism and the Second Red Scare, when paranoia and fear led Americans on a "witch hunt" for secret communists within our borders. What makes this play so fascinating still is that the parallels extend far beyond McCarthyism and into the present day. Scapegoating, intolerance, corruption, selfish ambition, ignorance, hysteria - Salem, Massachusetts in 1692 may seem like a community from a different planet or a dystopian novel, but at its core, is it really that different from our own?

The Crucible is complex. It is intense. It is gut-wrenching. Above all, it is human. This is a challenging piece of theater, and I'm looking for actors who are excited for that challenge. More than anything else, I want to work with people who care about telling this story as much as I do - committed actors who are fearless on stage and hungry to learn and work. I strongly recommend coming to auditions with a familiarity of the script and characters. I am very collaborative as a director, and want my actors to be constantly making choices, sharing thoughts and ideas, and contributing to the creative process in whatever way possible.

SHOW SYNOPSIS

In the Puritan New England town of Salem, Massachusetts, a group of girls goes dancing in the forest with a black slave named Tituba. While dancing, they are caught by the local minister, Reverend Parris. One of the girls, Parris's daughter Betty, falls into a coma-like state. A crowd gathers in the Parris home while rumors of witchcraft fill the town. Having sent for Reverend Hale, an expert on witchcraft, Parris questions Abigail Williams, the girls' ringleader, about the events that took place in the forest. Abigail, who is Parris's niece and ward, admits to doing nothing beyond "dancing."

While Parris tries to calm the crowd that has gathered in his home, Abigail talks to some of the other girls, telling them not to admit to anything. John Proctor, a local farmer, then enters and talks to Abigail alone. Unbeknownst to anyone else in the town, while working in Proctor's home the previous year she engaged in an affair with him, which led to her being fired by his wife, Elizabeth. Abigail still desires Proctor, but he fends her off and tells her to end her foolishness with the girls.

Betty wakes up and begins screaming. Much of the crowd rushes upstairs and gathers in her bedroom, arguing over whether she is bewitched. A separate argument between Proctor, Parris, the argumentative Giles Corey, and the wealthy Thomas Putnam soon ensues. This dispute centers on money and land deeds, and it suggests that deep fault lines run through the Salem community. As the men argue, Reverend Hale arrives and examines Betty, while Proctor departs. Hale quizzes Abigail about the girls' activities in the forest, grows suspicious of her behavior, and demands to speak to Tituba. After Parris and Hale interrogate her for a brief time, Tituba confesses to communing with the devil, and she hysterically accuses various townsfolk of consorting with the devil. Suddenly, Abigail joins her, confessing to having seen the devil conspiring and cavorting with other townspeople. Betty joins them in naming witches, and the crowd is thrown into an uproar.

A week later, alone in their farmhouse outside of town, John and Elizabeth Proctor discuss the ongoing trials and the escalating number of townsfolk who have been accused of being witches. Elizabeth urges her husband to denounce Abigail as a fraud; he refuses, and she becomes jealous, accusing him of still harboring feelings for her. Mary Warren, their servant and one of Abigail's circle, returns from Salem with news that Elizabeth has been accused of witchcraft but the court did not pursue the accusation. Mary is sent up to bed, and John and Elizabeth continue their argument, only to be interrupted by a visit from Reverend Hale. While they discuss matters, Giles Corey and Francis Nurse come to the Proctor home with news that their wives have been arrested. Officers of the court suddenly arrive and arrest Elizabeth. After they have taken her, Proctor browbeats Mary, insisting that she must go to Salem and expose Abigail and the other girls as frauds.

The next day, Proctor brings Mary to court and tells Judge Danforth that she will testify that the girls are lying. Danforth is suspicious of Proctor's motives and tells Proctor, truthfully, that Elizabeth is pregnant and will be spared for a time. Proctor persists in his charge, convincing Danforth to allow Mary to testify. Mary tells the court that the girls are lying. When the girls are brought in, they turn the tables by accusing Mary of bewitching them. Furious, Proctor confesses his affair with Abigail and accuses her of being motivated by jealousy of his wife. To test Proctor's claim, Danforth summons Elizabeth and asks her if Proctor has been unfaithful to her. Despite her natural honesty, she lies to protect Proctor's honor, and Danforth denounces Proctor as a liar. Meanwhile, Abigail and the girls again pretend that Mary is bewitching them, and Mary breaks down and accuses Proctor of being a witch. Proctor rages against her and against the court. He is arrested, and Hale quits the proceedings.

The summer passes and autumn arrives. The witch trials have caused unrest in neighboring towns, and Danforth grows nervous. Abigail has run away, taking all of Parris's money with her. Hale, who has lost faith in the court, begs the accused witches to confess falsely in order to save their lives, but they refuse. Danforth, however, has an idea: he asks Elizabeth to talk John into confessing, and she agrees. Conflicted, but desiring to live, John agrees to confess, and the officers of the court rejoice. But he refuses to incriminate anyone else, and when the court insists that the confession must be made public, Proctor grows angry, tears it up, and retracts his admission of guilt. Despite Hale's desperate pleas, Proctor goes to the gallows with the others, and the witch trials reach their awful conclusion.

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

Reverend Parris Minister in Salem. He believes a faction plans to force him to leave Salem, so he attempts to strengthen his authority through the witch trial proceedings.

Betty Parris Parris' daughter. Her father discovers her dancing in the woods, and she later accuses individuals of practicing witchcraft.

Abigail Williams Parris' niece. She instigates the witch trials by falsely accusing others of witchcraft. She pretends to see spirits and instructs the other girls to pretend as well.

Tituba Parris' black slave. Parris discovers her casting spells and making potions with the girls in the woods.

Mrs. Ann Putnam Wife of Thomas Putnam. She believes that a witch is responsible for the deaths of her seven infant children. Her jealousy of Rebecca Nurse leads her to accuse Goody Nurse of being a witch.

Thomas Putnam A greedy landowner in Salem. He systematically accuses his neighbors of witchcraft so that he might purchase their lands after they hang.

Ruth Putnam The Putnams' daughter. She accuses individuals of practicing witchcraft. A witness claims to have heard Putnam say Ruth's accusations helped him obtain land.

Mary Warren Servant to the Proctors. She goes along with Abigail and the girls by falsely accusing others of witchcraft; however, she later admits that she was lying.

Mercy Lewis Servant to the Putnams and friend to Abigail. She participates in the witch trials by pretending to see spirits and falsely accusing individuals of witchcraft.

John Proctor Salem farmer and former lover of Abigail's. He openly denounces Parris and does not attend church.

Elizabeth Proctor Wife of John Proctor. She is a decent and honest woman, who dismissed Abigail because of her affair with John Proctor.

Reverend Hale Minister in Beverly. The people of Salem summon him to investigate Betty's condition and determine if witchcraft is responsible. He supports the witch trials, but later denounces them when he learns that Abigail is lying.

Rebecca Nurse Wife of Francis Nurse. She is one of the most respected individuals in Salem because of her kindness and charity. She argues against the witch trial investigations. Mrs. Putnam accuses her of witchcraft.

Francis Nurse Farmer and landowner in Salem. He is a respected member of the community often called upon to settle disagreements between individuals.

Susanna Walcott Friend to Abigail. She also takes part in the trials by falsely accusing others of witchcraft.

Giles Corey Elderly inhabitant of Salem. He challenges the court in an attempt to defend his wife who has been convicted of witchcraft. He is pressed to death as a result.

Sarah Good Beggar in Salem. She is the first individual accused of witchcraft.

Judge Hathorne A judge in the Salem court.

Deputy Governor Danforth A special judge serving in the Salem court during the witch trials. He signs the death sentences for those individuals who refuse to confess their crimes. He refuses to delay any execution for fear that he will appear weak and irresolute.

Ezekiel Cheever Appointed by the court to assist in arresting accused individuals.

Marshal Herrick Appointed by the court to arrest the accused individuals.

Hopkins Jailer.