Young Tala FAQ

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

Yes, we do. The actors and the crew (not to mention an audience of 700) are all counting on your child to be present when needed. It is our firm expectation that your child 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 is rehearsal every day of the week except Monday but not all actors are called to every rehearsal. We ask everyone to be available for the entire rehearsal period, so it is very important to clear your schedule for the entire time that rehearsal is possible.

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

Typically we do 8 performances a week. There is usually nothing scheduled on Monday.

**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 when a role is offered, 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.

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

The Citadel Theatre is bound by the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement (the CTA) which is an agreement between PACT (the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres – of which the Citadel is a member) and CAEA (Canadian Actors’ Equity Association). The CTA allows a Children’s Chorus of youth who are all under the age of 16. In the CTA those young actors are referred to as “child actors”. We find it more consistent to use the terminology of the CTA, even though we know teens hate to be referred to as children.

**Will our travel expenses by paid?**

No. there is no provision in the budget to pay for travel. The expenses incurred to bring your child 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 pays for costumes. Our professional wardrobe people will measure your child and will provide the costumes. All we ask is that you bring a designated pair of indoor shoes for your child to wear until the show shoes are ready.

**Is there any compensation at all?**

Young Tala will be paid $809 per week for 7 weeks. Deductions will be taken from the fee and remitted to the actors’ union.

**Do I get to attend rehearsals?**

Rehearsal is a time for the actors and the director to focus on the work they are doing, so on the whole, we ask that parents stay out of 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 offered.

**Who is looking after my child while she is at the theatre?**

We hire a Children’s Supervisor, whose sole duty is to be responsible for the care of young actors while they are working at the theatre. Parents and young actor will have an opportunity to meet the supervisor before rehearsal starts.

**Will my child miss school?**

Yes, that is a certainty. There are school matinees that your child will be performing in. There will also be rehearsals during school hours. We ask parents to speak to your child’s school and make sure the school is aware (and supportive) and will give us with a letter indicating that the school supports participation. There may be school concerts, field trips, birthday parties, and other events that your child will have to forego 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 child in a Citadel production?**

This is a question that I asked when I started doing this job 20 years ago. In the intervening years, hundreds of children have auditioned and many have been cast in our productions. Children who appear in our productions love the experience and want to be asked back. Some parents have noticed their child’s school marks actually go up over the course of a show. I think this is because the child is so motivated and wants to succeed. Additionally a child 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 child auditions and doesn’t get a role, will I be notified?**

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

**What are the COVID-19 Protocols in place for the show?**

We commit to ensuring the health, safety, and wellbeing of everyone we work with. Everyone working on the show must be fully vaccinated. COVID-19 protocols are prepared in advance for each new production, in collaboration with staff and artists. While protocols will be unique to each project, elements such as mandatory N95 mask use (when not on stage), rapid screening, and daily symptom checks will be included in each production’s protocols.

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

Peni Christopher, Citadel’s Company Manager. Peni contributes to this **FAQ sheet** and will be happy to answer more questions. Peni will respond to emails sent to [auditions@citadeltheatre.com](file:///C:\Users\jvanrijn\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\FOOHKXDU\auditions@citadeltheatre.com).