

**CENTURY HIGH SCHOOL
PRODUCTION PACKET FOR
STUDENT ACTORS**

(Working Title)



“Share your story”

Directors:
Mr. & Mrs. Hewitt

PERFORMANCES:
November 6, 7, 13, 14
Tentative

Century's Opening Knights

What is the "Quarantine Cabaret"?

PURPOSE:

This Virtual Production has been designed to include as many students who wish to participate as possible. Our goal is to create, rehearse, and perform student written and/or developed material that share our individual and collective experiences during the COVID-19 Quarantine. Students cast in the production will get the opportunity to share their story (or the story of a peer) through performance.

THEME & MATERIAL:

All "acts" will be about student experiences during the Coronavirus pandemic. All material will be 100% original and ***MUST*** be created/written by CHS students. Acts should vary in performance style, performance method, and genre. There should be a mixture of both dramatic and comedic material and all material will be school and age appropriate. In order to prevent the show from being overwhelming dark, we are strongly encouraging many lighthearted/entertaining perspectives. We are also encouraging students to reach out to their family or peers of a different culture, socioeconomic background, or other diversity factors and perhaps tell *their* story in order to bring a more diverse perspective to our production.

Possible Acts:

- Student written and performed Monologue
- Student written and performed Scene between 1-4 people
- Student written and performed song or parody of a song
- Student created and performed dance solo/duet/small group
- Student written and performed Spoken Word Poetry
- Student created artwork (filmed in Time-Lapse)
- Anything else creative that connects to our theme!

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE:

Student will be cast to perform ONE piece. Students can participate by....

- Writing material for others to perform
- Writing their own material and performing it
- Applying for a leadership position or Tech Position
 - Production Stage Manager
 - Student Director
 - Video Editor

LIVE OR RECORDED:

Based on student feedback, we are leaning toward recording the live performance, editing it together, and live streaming the recording on certain dates and times. The goal behind not performing live is to allow students to watch and receive virtual feedback through a third party application during the performance. Also, it should reduce technical difficulties. This may change based on cast feedback.

REHEARSAL PROCESS:

- Mr. Hewitt will guide everyone through the creative process during the creation period of the material.
- Once material has been created, students will rehearse one on one with Mr. and/or Mrs. Hewitt for each act to provide guidance, coaching, and direction. Writers will be able to revise work throughout the process. (Student production leaders will also be present for rehearsals)
- Students will then rehearse on their own for a short while.

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- Additional one on one rehearsals will continue throughout the rehearsal period
- Students will then record their presentation and submit it to Mr. Hewitt for approval

AUDITION PROCESS:

Students will prepare something *similar* to what they would like to do. Students can...

- Write a monologue/scene for submission for performance by a peer (if you want to be a writer ONLY)
- Perform a monologue (if you wish to perform a monologue or scene, you must present a monologue)
- Sing any song of their choice: original, musical, pop, or any style similar to what they plan to perform
- Write a poem for submission for performance by your peer
- Perform a spoken word poem
- Perform a 30 second dance
- Submit a picture of a piece of art you created
- Students will choose ONE OR TWO options from above
- Students will be cast based on the quality of their audition and the originality of their piece.
- Students will be cast in only ONE performance piece.
- Auditions will be through Video Submissions or Google Drive File Submissions
- DUE DATE FOR AUDITION SUBMISSION: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th before midnight

MONOLOGUES:

Students should prepare and present a memorized age-appropriate monologue no less than 30 seconds in length. It does NOT have to be a self-written monologue. You can write your own OR find one online. The monologue must not be from a movie (unless it is from a recording of a staged performance). Your goal is to show levels of emotion/intensity and to honestly and dynamically “tell the story” of your piece.

You should begin your recording with a SLATE:

- Introduction—Hello, Good Evening, etc.
- State your Full Name
- Say “I will be performing a (monologue/song/poem etc.) titled (title of piece), written by (author), playing the role of (character name).
- Then bow your head, pause to get into character, bring your head up in character and perform your piece.
- After you finish, hold the last beat of your piece for a second, then bow your head to indicate the end. Bring your head back up and say “Thank You.”
- End Recording
- EXAMPLE: “Hello, my name is Lucas Hewitt and I will be performing a monologue from “The Odd Couple” written by Neil Simon, and I will portraying the role of Oscar.”
- Feel free to alter syntax and diction (word choice) as desired.

The Audition Form will be created through Google Forms and will have an option to submit a file when you submit your Audition Form.

ALL STUDENTS WHO AUDITION WILL BE CAST IN THE SHOW. NO ONE WILL BE CUT.

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IMPORTANT DATES

All dates in chronological order

Parent Meeting (VIRTUAL)

Wednesday, September 30 @ 6pm on Google Meet (Will be recorded and posted online at CenturyDrama.com)

Rehearsals (ALL VIRTUAL)

September 21st to November 5th

Each student will select his or her rehearsal time through a google calendar. Students should expect 1-4 hours of rehearsal per week. One hour of synchronous rehearsal and 1-3 hours of asynchronous rehearsal. All rehearsals will take place between 3pm to 5pm.

MANDATORY SET BUILDS

NONE!

Tech Week

NONE!

Dress Rehearsals

NONE!

Performances

Friday, November 6th @ 7pm

Saturday, November 7th @ 7pm

Friday, November 13th @ 7pm

Saturday, November 14th @ 2pm & 7pm

CONCERNS

If for any reason you have a concern, or question, please come to talk the Directors directly. I often hear things through the grapevine and I wish you would just come to me first. If you know me at all, you would know that no matter what your concern is or what complaint you have, I would never hold it against you. Remember, I do everything that I do for you and for this program as a whole. I am very approachable and while I may be busy, I will ALWAYS make time to listen. Just pull me aside. While we may not always agree, I will hear you out. I highly value each and every one of you. Without you, I would not have such a dynamic program. My school email is lahewit@carrollk12.org. My office phone is 410-386-4400 x.2326. I want to be as transparent as possible and sometimes the only way for you to find out is to ask me.

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PEOPLE TO KNOW

DIRECTOR: MR. LUCAS HEWITT lahewit@carrollk12.org

DIRECTOR: MRS. CAIT HEWITT.....cmhewit@carrollk12.org

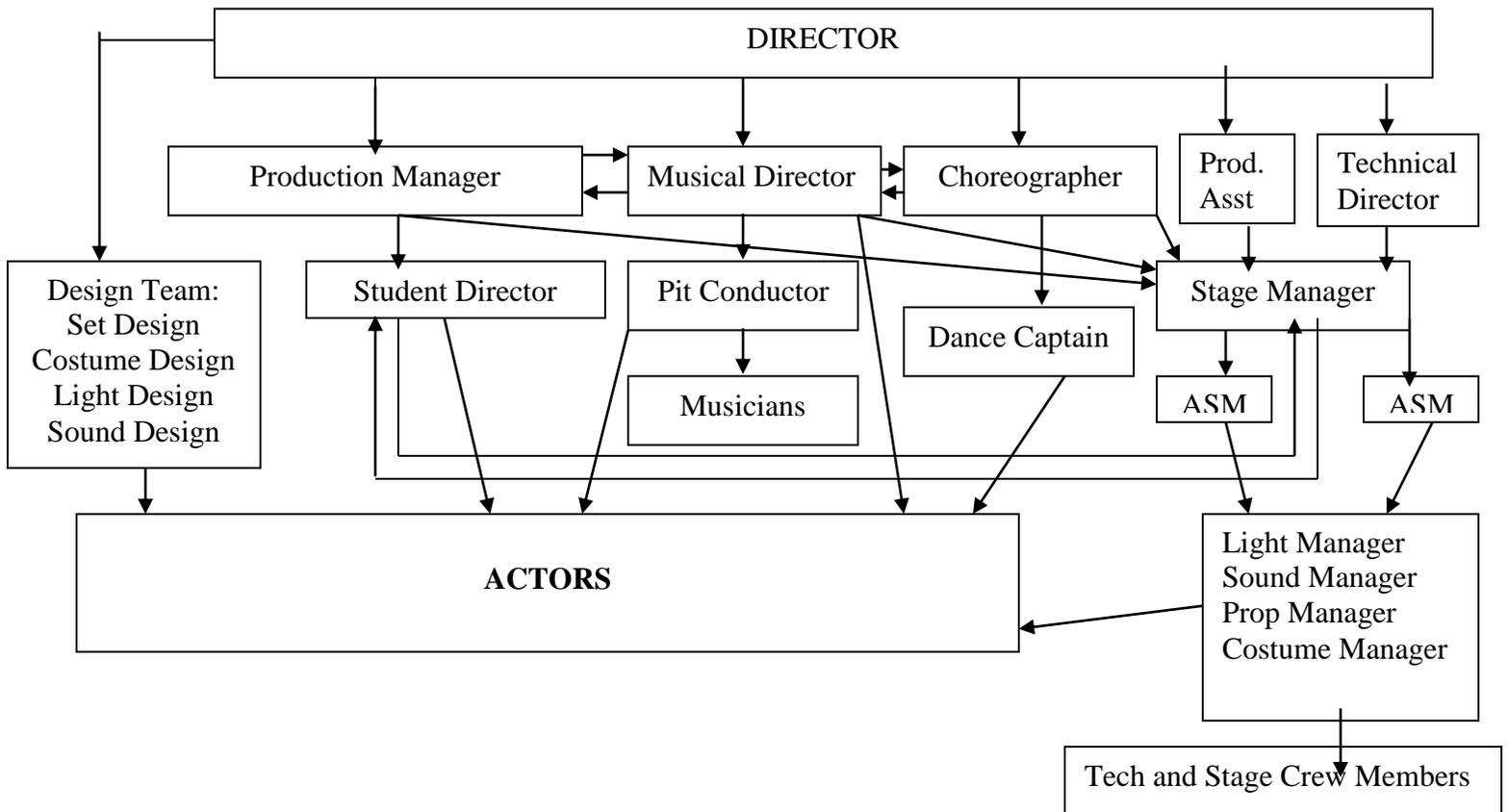
DRAMA BOOSTER CO-PRESIDENTS: MRS. KIM FLEMING AND MRS. NATALIE PETERS kimberlykfleming@gmail.com & nataliep6310@gmail.com

DRAMA CLUB PRESIDENT: MACKENZIE HOULDSON....mouldson1129@gmail.com

ITS PRESIDENT: BRIAN RUSK..... bgrusk9@gmail.com

THEATRE ECHELON

This is a diagram of the hierarchy of the theatrical world. You must follow the rules and take direction from anyone in a position above your own.



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Century's Opening Knights
STANDARDS OF CONDUCT
VIRTUAL REHEARSALS

Welcome to the CHS Opening Knights. We are looking forward to another opportunity to work together and have fun! Even if it can't be done in person!

In order to be safe while having fun producing a full length production, we must have standards of conduct for all members of the production during rehearsals. We will not tolerate violations of these; anyone who chooses to disregard them may be removed from the production. Acceptance of a role in the production constitutes agreement to these standards.

1. During rehearsals all members of the cast/crew must conduct themselves with respect and positivity.
2. Attend all required rehearsals. Cast and crew members must follow the rehearsal schedule. It will be posted on the Google Calendar and emailed to everyone. You are required to be available when you are needed. More than two unexcused absences will result from your removal from the show. If you must miss a rehearsal notify either Mr. Hewitt or the Production Manager. You are allowed 2 *excused* absences. Exceptions may be granted for extended illnesses.
3. Be ready to begin rehearsal at the scheduled time. If you must be late for a rehearsal, inform Mr. Hewitt the Director.
4. Personal behavior must exemplify respect to those in authority and to one another.
5. Rehearsals are closed. This means they are for cast/crew members only. Please do not invite your friends and significant others to rehearsals. Exceptions may be granted in advance only at the discretion of the directors.
6. Dress Code: Please follow the student handbook for appropriate dress code rules and regulations. You must be appropriately dressed for rehearsals.
7. Your virtual rehearsal space must be safe for you to move around in with the ability for you to project your voice.
8. Do your best to eliminate distractions during rehearsal times.
9. No phones during rehearsal time except when it is being used as the camera.
10. Always arrive prepared for rehearsal.

With your assistance, we will make this production a memorable event for all of us, as well as for our audience. Your cooperation in adhering to these standards is most gratefully appreciated.

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Century's Opening Knights

Student Grade Policy

The Drama Club is an extension of the classroom. School work and academics is a priority for all drama club activities. Producing and participating in a play is a lot of work.

Under no circumstances is any student to use a Drama Club production as an excuse for not having work completed or a poor grade. Should any student need time to complete homework or an assigned activity, they should speak with Mr. Hewitt directly to ensure rehearsal time is not interfering with study time.

Additionally, grades will be checked mid-October. Any student whose grade falls below a C will be placed on probation for a two week period and will receive tutoring from fellow drama club members. It is the expectation of the Drama Club that all students receive C's or better in their academics in order to participate in the after school program.

You must have a minimum of a 2.0 GPA and NO "F's" in order to participate.

DO NOT LET YOUR GRADES SUFFER! SCHOOL COMES FIRST!

PHOTO/VIDEO CONSENT FORM

During the course of the production, there may be several circumstances where the members of the cast and crew are photographed or videotaped. We would like your permission to use these photographs or video for publicity and/or historical purposes. By signing the last page of the Production Packet, you give CHS Drama Program permission to use your photos throughout the production. Thank you!

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Century's Opening Knights

AUDITIONS & PERFORMER GROWTH

FAVORITISM AND PRE-CASTING POLICY:

Under no circumstances does the Century High School drama program play favorites or pre-cast any productions. It is our philosophy that every child, whether they are new to the program or a seasoned veteran, has a place in the CHS drama program.

Students are cast or placed based on their audition and ability to work well with others. Casting and placement decisions are *not determined* by what a student has done for the CHS drama program in the past. Casting and placement decisions are also *not determined* by what a student has done for any other arts education/community theatre organization in the past. An audition is a clean slate for all students and we truly do our best to ensure that every child has a place in the CHS drama program.

This policy is strictly enforced. The decisions are made by a panel of directors from a detailed audition rubric. Students may request a conference with the director to discuss how they can improve their audition practices.

Here in Century Drama our goal is to provide a safe, supportive, and FUN environment where students have the opportunity to learn about all that theatre has to offer, as well as the many valuable life lessons learned along the way, while putting on outstanding professional quality shows.

One of the core values we teach in the Drama program is professionalism. We hold our students to very high standards and expect professionalism throughout. You will see this in our production and performance value and hopefully it will rub off on you as well.

“Fair” is a word that means something different to everyone. We have found that the only way to be truly “fair” while maintaining our values is to cast based on the “clean slate” concept. We hold true to our policy as we strive to create the best possible show with the best possible cast as any professional theatre would do.

As always, we do offer a variety of ways for student performance improvement. Every time a student is in a show, they grow. Just by being in a show, students learn various performance qualities and methods of acting/singing/dancing etc. For each show, we hold character development rehearsals for every actor, not just the leads. We cast understudies in order to get some one-on-one time with upcoming actors. Students in these roles are expected to be ready to go at a moment's notice. This requires a lot of work and preparation and these students grow very quickly because they are learning from the best. In many cases, their “over-study” acts as a student mentor. Students are encouraged to take Drama Classes. While it is not a pre-requisite to being a lead, it definitely helps. There are no small parts. Each part is unique and vital to the performance and someone is always watching you on-stage. The ensemble is perhaps the most important aspect to a successful show and we spend a lot of time building a fabulous ensemble with energy and character. It is also often more fun to be in the ensemble with everyone than be alone or in a small group as a lead. It is all in how you look at your role. As we said, everyone has a role to play at CHS drama, and while you may never be a lead, you are in no way any less vital to our production and our club.

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Century's Opening Knights
**ROLE OF DRAMA PRODUCTION PARENTS/
CENTURY DRAMA BOOSTERS**

Parents have the most important roles in a CHS production and we rely heavily on your support. A student's commitment to a CHS production is really a family's commitment.

All parents of drama production members are members of the Century Drama Boosters. You will receive information from Drama Boosters regarding rehearsals, fundraisers, and volunteering.

We respectfully and strongly encourage our parents to:

1. Attend the mandatory Parent Meeting.
2. Attend Drama Booster Meetings in order to understand what is happening in your child's afterschool drama program and to learn the ways to support our program.
3. Participate with your student in Drama Fundraisers organized by Drama Club or Drama Boosters. All money to support the productions must be raised by the students and boosters. No funding is provided by the school system. We must raise all the funds for our sets, costumes, make-up, sound and lighting systems.
4. Sign up for a Committee. These include:

Set Construction
Costumes
Advertising
Publicity

Scholarship
Fund Raising
Program
Supervision

For more information, contact the Drama Booster Co-Presidents:

Kim Fleming at kimberlykfleming@gmail.com

Natalie Peters at nataliep6310@gmail.com

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Century's Opening Knights
CENTURY HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA PARTICIPATION FORM

Student Information:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

E -mail: _____

Signature: _____

By my signature, I acknowledge that I have read and understood the CHS Opening Knights Production Packet. **I am aware of the MANDATORY rehearsals that I must attend and I will not be absent or leave early on those days.** In the event that I do not comply with Standards of Conduct outlined in the packet, or I have three unexcused absences from rehearsals, I may be removed from the production.

Parent Information:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

E -mail: _____

Signature: _____

By my signature, I acknowledge that I have read and understood the CHS Opening Knights Production Packet, including my role as a Production Member Parent.

Production “Donation” and other expenses: There is NO Participation Donation for this production. We ask that you please try to cover production costs such as costumes, sets, props, etc. that your student may need for their act. If you are unable to cover any costs associated with your student’s act please contact Mr. Hewitt who has club funds to be able to provide for such student needs.

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