

THE LIGHTNING THIEF: THE PERCY JACKSON MUSICAL

"The gods are real ... Like the Greek gods!" We are delighted that you're interested in registering for the All Schools Musical production of *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical*. Based on the beloved novel by Rick Riordan, the *Lightning Thief* tells the story of Percy Jackson, son of Greek god Poseidon, as he sets out on a hero's journey of self-discovery, grappling with monsters, and mysterious mayhem along the way.

The Lightning Thief is a story about identity, family, and community. Percy's experience is one that resonates across cultures and our casting will reflect that truth. We are committed to casting a group of performers ranging in age from 10-18 that will reflect the youth of our local community. We will be casting all roles to include different shapes, abilities, ethnicities, and identities. As the playwright, Joe Tracz, says, "The characters in *The Lightning Thief* are gods and heroes – and gods and heroes can look like any of us."

We are excited that for the first time Chico Performances, Chico Area Recreation District (CARD), and Inspire School of Arts & Sciences are partnering to give an opportunity for local youth to work and perform on the Laxson Auditorium stage. We are thrilled for this new adventure to add new people, new talent, and new voices to our community as well as welcome returning performers to the stage! Whether you're a seasoned performer or you've never been on stage before, we encourage you to sign up to be a part of the magic!

If you're looking for an epic adventure with dazzling effects, look no further! Action-packed and fast-paced, this adventure of a musical offers youth performers a chance to learn stage combat and safe fighting techniques. With roles for ages 10+, *The Lightning Thief* is a story of one generation's magic confounding the next! Whether you're interested in playing a god, a human, or something in between, you won't want to miss this mythical adventure!

KEY DATES

○ **Registration through CARD:**

- All interested student performers (age 10-18) need to register through Chico Area Recreation District (CARD). Please find the link below.
- The deadline to register is Sunday, August 4th.
- Performance slots are limited and will be filled on a first come first serve bases, then we will start a waitlist.

Students 14+ interested in crewing the event should contact Jarrah Myles directly via e-mail, jmyles@inspirechico.org.

Students who are recent grads may apply to be production interns by contacting Jarrah Myles directly via e-mail, jmyles@inspirechico.org.

○ **Placement Auditions:**

Placement Auditions will be held August 12th-19th during rehearsal times. We may hold some individual auditions Saturday, August 17th in the late afternoon, if needed.

○ **Rehearsals:**

Rehearsals Beginning August 10th, 2024

- 4 Saturdays: 8/10, 8/24, 9/7, 9/21 – all performers (groups will be called at various times based on casting) Noon-5PM
We can work around some Saturday conflicts if needed.
9/21 will be a mandatory production run-through including all crew.
- Younger Performers (approximately ages 10-13)
Mondays & Wednesdays between 4-6PM
- Older Performers (approximate ages 14-18)
Tuesdays & Thursdays between 5-8PM
Performers in lead roles will likely need to attend multiple rehearsals Monday-Thursday depending on the numbers being rehearsed.

Specific Times will be determined by age, ability, and casting.

Not everyone is called for every rehearsal.

A final rehearsal schedule will be distributed the week of Aug. 19th after placement auditions and conflicts have been collected.

- **Mandatory Tech/Dress Rehearsals:**
Monday – Thursday, Sept 23rd-26th 4:00-10:00PM at Laxson Auditorium
NOTE: These are the times we have the theatre available. We will not call all performers for these times.
- **Performances:**
Friday, September 27th at 9:30 & 11:30AM (school fieldtrip performances)
Saturday, September 28th at 1:00 & 6:00PM (public performances)

WHAT THE SHOW SOUNDS & LOOKS LIKE:

LINK TO CAST RECORDING

Grover – “The Tree on the Hill”

Mr. Dodds – “Another Terrible Day”

Chiron – “Their Sign”

Clarisse – “Put You in Your Place”

Luke – “The Campfire Song”

Percy – “Good Kid”

Sally – “Strong”

Annabeth – “My Grand Plan”

Movement

The Lightning Thief will come to life with both playful, energetic musical staging and stage combat with **and** without weaponry! At your placement audition, you will learn and perform collaborative movements based on an exploration of Greek mythological creatures that appear in our show: Centaur, Cyclops, Minotaur, Furies, Gorgons, Chimera, Sphinx, and Cerberus. Please dress for movement and wear closed-toed shoes or at least socks.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director: Jarrah Myles

Music Director: Olivia Cerullo

Choreographer: Sarah Shoemaker

Additional Professional & Student Designers TBD

Scenic, Costumes, Lighting, Sound, Props, Front of House, & Stage Management.

CHARACTER LIST & DESCRIPTIONS

PRINCIPALS:

Percy Jackson – Son of Poseidon, a good kid with a teenage temper (Tenor)

Annabeth – Daughter of Athena, smarter than you (Soprano)

Grover – A Happy-go-lucky satyr, like a hippie kid with hooves (Tenor)

Luke* – Son of Hermes, cool camp counselor (Tenor-baritone)

Sally Jackson – Percy’s hard-working mother (Mezzo-soprano)

Mr. Brunner aka Chiron – Wise centaur, part-time Latin teacher (Tenor-baritone)

Clarisse – Tough jock girl, daughter of Ares (Mezzo-soprano)

Silena Beauregard – Daughter of Aphrodite

Katie Gardner – Daughter of Demeter

MYTHOLOGICAL BEINGS:

Mrs. Dodds – A Fury posing as a substitute algebra teacher

Minotaur* – Half-man, half-bull

Mr. D aka Dionysus – God of wine, snarky camp director

The Oracle – A hippie mummy

Aunty Em aka Medusa – Avid sculptor

Echidna – Mother of monsters

Ares – God of war, rock star in leather pants

Kronos* – Father of the Twelve Olympian gods, he ate some of his kids in a jealous rage, but Zeus freed his siblings from their plight and they all banded together to overthrow Kronos.

Thalia – Daughter of Zeus

Cyclops* – Fights Thalia

Charon* – Ferry person to the Underworld

DJ Cerberus – Three-headed dog a la Daft Punk

Hades – God of the dead, moody and melodramatic

UNSUSPECTING HUMANS:

Gabe Ugliano* – Percy's foul, bean-dip loving stepfather

Greyhound Passenger 1

Greyhound Passenger 2

Squirrel*

Train Conductor*

Newscaster

Farmer

Bianca – a mysterious girl in 1930s clothes

IN THE AFTERLIFE ...

James Brown*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart*

Kurt Cobain*

Janis Joplin*

Vienna Boys Choir*

POSSIBLE CASTING FOR ALL PERFORMERS:

Museum Statues*

Museum Patrons*

Wings of the Fury*

Camp Half-Blood Campers* (General, Capture the Flag, & Campfire)

Oracle Echoes*

Chorus*

Medusa Statues*

Various People on the Journey*

The Dead*

Afterlife Musicians*

Voice Overs*

THE MERAKI* (MEP'AKI):

With a name that is the Greek equivalent to the concept of *Labor of Love*, we will also cast a team of magic moment movers and shakers that will create special effects, like Medusa's death and Thalia's transformation into a tree, will portray Echoes, Statues, Greek gods during the "Campfire Song," and enrich the world of our story with stylized movement and combat.

*=Still to be cast in August

Notes About Casting

Casting is competitive, but exciting and worthwhile! We cast students who audition best for the roles available, regardless of age, grade, school, or previous experience. Not every show has lead roles that fit every student. We are going to try to cast everyone who is interested. Oftentimes, our best performers aren't considered for lead roles because it's just not the right role for them this time around. This is because every play or musical is different. This is hard to explain and even harder to deal with when it happens to you or your student. On top of that, we are an educational environment, not a professional theatre, and while we aim to produce high-quality theatre, we are working on putting together a complex puzzle that will come together in a way that helps students learn, present an amazing product, and helps each student on and offstage shine. Sometimes you get the lead, sometimes you are in the ensemble, sometimes you are on crew! We will have a max for enrollment, so if you are really interested get REGISTERED!!! As always, we hope to continue to provide creative and exceptional learning experiences in the performing arts.

Casting Policy

These items are equal in weight and are in no particular order.

What we consider:

1. Quality of audition in regard to student's presentation of their knowledge, skills, & abilities in the areas of acting, singing, and dancing.
2. Professionalism and behavior during auditions in line with age, background, & previous training.
3. We ask: What casting choices will serve the production best as a whole?
4. We ask: What would the reality of casting be in the "real world"?
5. We ask: What are the best choices for casting in an educational institution and community setting?
6. Grade, age, and gender will not guarantee a part. Contract restrictions, vocal ranges, dance aptitude, character understanding, and direct comparison to others auditioning will all be taken into consideration.
7. Casting will not be completed by only one staff member.
8. We will implement race-conscious casting.
9. Budget constraints will affect casting and the total number of students that can be onstage at any given time.
10. Students from all grade levels will be cast in this production (ages 10-18).

Directors will not explain why one person earned the role over another. It is not a productive conversation as the process is a subjective one. It is objective as possible, but casting in and of itself is always a complicated puzzle. We are happy to offer constructive feedback on auditioning, but we will not answer "why didn't I get a part?"

Also remember THIS production is created for YOU, ONLY students (age 10-18 can be a part). So, go for it; here is your chance to be a part of the first ALL SCHOOLS MUSICAL!!!

TECHNICAL POSITIONS

Interested in crewing for the production? You must be at least 14 to apply. Production crew members need to be available August 10th through the production September 29th for strike. There will be an information form to fill out via e-mail. Crew must also register though CARD, but please do not register until directed to do so.

STUDENT CREW POSITIONS:

Stagehand/Runner
Props Crew
Costume Crew
Makeup Crew
Hair Crew
Front of House Crew
Set Building Crew
Set Painting Crew
Public Relations, Advertising, & Social Media Crew

Please e-mail Jarrah Myles if interested in crewing the production. There will be adult supervisors for all areas.