
Bringing Broadway to the Elementary School

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The intention of this session is to answer your questions and squash your fears about bringing a larger scale musical to your school.



Choosing a Script:

- Order the sample first and listen to the music
- Think about your casting – do you have a really strong singer who is appropriate for the lead?
- Leave lots of time when ordering – often pieces of the package can be backordered
- Will it be easy to find the costumes and set pieces that the story will require?
- Will the audience be familiar with the storyline or will you need to provide a summary in your program?

Bringing the Idea to Your Staff

- Get your administrator on side first, then staff, then PAC
- Have a clear picture of what you want and what you will require from the staff – stay firm!
- Find a partner so that you have back up if you are away on rehearsal day, need help backstage, etc
- Find out what talents you have on staff – can anyone sew? Paint? Do make-up? Generally organize?

Talking to PAC

- Again, know what you want and stay firm
- Have a general budget to present but know that you will likely need more money than you think
- Steer clear of too many donations unless you have firm commitments

Budget Considerations

- Script and license
- Costumes / material for characters
- Costumes for classes
- Set construction
- Lighting and sound (and possibly someone to run them)
- Makeup / hair supplies
- Charge cast members a small fee that will cover the cost of their scripts and some of the costume

Microphones/Lighting

- All of your hard work will be wasted if the kids can not be seen and heard – rent/borrow high quality gear
- Find someone who knows how to use a sound board to run it (not you, you will be busy!)

Set Design and Construction

- Wait until you have had a few rehearsals to make any real plans
- Measure back stage to be sure you can fit all of your pieces during set changes
- Plan pieces that can serve several purposes
- If possible plan a building weekend so you can work uninterrupted
- Adults build, kids paint

Tickets

- Identify the number of seats you can make available and the number of performances that you are planning and consider the idea of a number of tickets per family
- Consider your costs and school demographic when determining a price (perhaps bring the idea to PAC)
- Bring your secretary a nice treat and sweet-talk her/him into dealing with the tickets. Print numbered tickets and ask them to track the tickets and who they issued to in case of any accidental losses
- After a week or so release the rest of the unsold tickets to the school community for those who needed more than the limit allowed
- Consider providing some reserved seating for parents of the lead roles

Involving the rest of the school

- Assign the larger songs to the classes – consider the speed and language when making these choices – also is good to double classes up so that the sound is not weak
- use your choir if you have one – if there are not enough songs to go 'round then they could sing something related to the show before it gets started
- can be good to use a class or two for a larger dance number
- older students can be part of stage/lighting crew (not sound...)
- find some reliable students to help with painting sets



Helpful Hints:

- start small and build up
- know what you don't know
- keep in mind the dollar value of your time – is it worth going to five different dollars stores looking for sparkly pink ribbon? Can someone else do that for you?
- Stand strong, don't be talked into things
- Reach out to your staff – you never know who has an antique typewriter or fifteen matching aprons just sitting around at home!
- Leave room in your budget for extras, overages
- Make notes as you go about things you would do differently next time