



Insider Guide to Summer Show Casting and Audition Information

Helpful info for anyone with summer show aspirations

Many students have interest in one day being selected for the summer show production. Participation in the summer production depends on a variety of factors, including content and needs of the production, acts that move the story-line forward, and individual role casting. We have come to understand that many of our families have misconceptions around the summer show: how students are selected, as well as expectations of those who participate. This insider guide has been created to share some useful tidbits regarding the differences between the spring and summer shows.



Summer Show Performer Expectations

Summer show casting is quite different from the process of participation in our spring show. We proudly offer the high production quality of the spring show for the bulk of our students - 797 students showcased their talents in this year's show! Those who are in the spring show put in time over the years to progress through the levels, and outside of excessive absences during a year, those enrolled in a spring show class perform in the show. The expectation of those in the summer show are significantly different in the following ways:



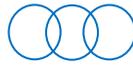
Training is at the highest level so students work hard and are pushed to achieve what even they may not realize they can do.



Students' time commitment is to CJ first - outside activities take a back seat to the hours assigned for training in the 1000-level courses.



Attitude and interaction with fellow students and coaches is at the peak of professionalism — behavior supporting teamwork and positive feedback, having a good demeanor when representing CJ both within our building and in outside events, and acting as role models for others is key.



Casting at Circus Juventas

Advancing through the levels of any class - be it circus, theater, or dance - requires that you demonstrate progress. Coaches continuously evaluate their students in order to best identify how to help them along the way, and students can aid in the process by communicating with their coaches about their training goals. Factors like natural ability, flexibility, attention to detail, and body awareness also affect individuals' ability to advance and the rate at which they do so. Circus Juventas strives to make the pathways to leveling up as transparent as possible, but the fact is that it will always be a very individual process based on each student's strengths and weaknesses. For all of these reasons and more, the timing of your progress and the levels you are able to reach cannot be compared to another's. Additionally, students don't always discover CJ at a young age. Many of you began your training as toddlers or in Circus Experience, but others found circus after years of training in gymnastics, dance, theater, sports - or in something else entirely. They developed their skills elsewhere, resulting in a talented person who was able to get placed in a higher level in an act that matched their skill set. Previous training from outside of CJ doesn't make them less qualified or less deserving of a spot in circus classes. We welcome new members into our community with open arms - because circus is nothing if not inclusive!



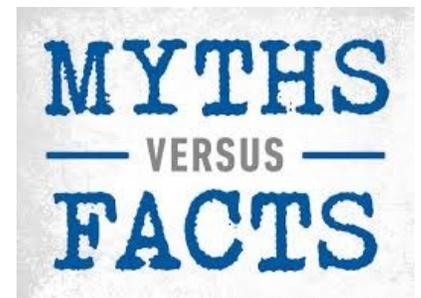
Myth: Competition is a bad thing in circus.

Fact: Circus arts, by its very nature, is non-competitive, and we strive to maintain a non-competitive environment for our students. To us that means that all students have equal access to training and performance opportunities. However, competition amongst one another within classes is healthy and keeps you striving to do your best! Mentorship and teamwork, which prioritize supporting one another, are just as important to our culture, so don't confuse bullying or belittling with competition. Neither bullying or belittling will be tolerated, but helping each other by positively pushing your limits will!



Myth: Seniority equals a theatrical role

Fact: Because the artistic staff creates each show from the ground up every year, the casting requirements change. Sometimes we build a role around a student whose progress has been noted by instructors or staff. Sometimes theatrical auditions highlight the skills of someone unexpected. Sometimes a student happens to have the right look for a role. The bottom line is that there are no hard and fast rules when it comes to casting, but seniority alone does not make someone a good actor.



Myth: Acrobatic/aerial skill equals a theatrical role

Fact: If you auditioned for an acrobatic role in a performing troupe, you wouldn't expect to be cast as an emcee or a clown, right? Theatrical skill, just like any circus skill, is something that must be developed. There are those with natural talent and those who must work hard to achieve progress. The number of years spent training in circus acts does not necessarily correlate to the theatrical role in which a student will be cast, just as being awarded a lead role in one production doesn't mean a lead role in all subsequent productions - so continue developing all your performance skills if you hope to achieve a great role someday!



Questions? Email adminstaff@circusjuventas.org