## **High School Musical JR Audition Pack**



## **The Production Team**

Director - Shannon Nuttall

Musical Director - Shannon-Aimeé Bradley

Choreographer - Ella Curtis-Smith

Production Manager - Leanne Chapman



Thank you for your interest in auditioning for CentreStage Rolleston's production of *High School Musical JR*.

We are seeking talented, animated and enthusiastic performers to light up our stage. This audition pack will provide you with all of the information you will need to give you the best chance at your audition so please take time to read all the information carefully.

The age range for this show is 12-18 years old at the time of audition.

## **Performance Dates**

High School Musical JR will be performed in October 2022 for 4 performances on the following dates:

Friday 7 October at 7.00pm Saturday 8 October at 2:00pm Saturday 8 October at 7.00pm Sunday 9 October at 2.00pm

## **Synopsis**

Disney Channel's smash hit movie musical comes to life on your stage in Disney's High School Musical JR. Troy, Gabriella and the students of East High must deal with issues of love, friends and family while balancing their classes and extracurricular activities. The show's infectious, danceable songs are sure to engage performers and audiences alike.

It's the first day after winter break at East High. The Jocks, Brainiacs, Thespians and Skater Dudes all find their cliques. Basketball team captain and resident jock, Troy, discovers that the brainy Gabriella, a girl he met singing karaoke on his ski trip, has just enrolled at East High. The couple causes an upheaval when they decide to audition for the high school musical. Although many students resent the threat posed to the "status quo," Troy and Gabriella's alliance might just open the door for others to shine as well.



## **Character Breakdown**

Character	Gender	Description
Gabriella Montez	Female	Gabriella Montez is the new student who's struggling to find her place at East High. She's a Renaissance woman who doesn't fully identify with any of the cliques, and so she's taking her time – and realizing her confidence – along the way. Smart and independent, Gabriella can be shy and vulnerable at times. She comes into her own when she discovers her talent and love for singing with Troy, so look for a strong actor with a fantastic voice.
		Vocal range top: D5 Vocal range bottom: A3
Troy Bolton	Male	Troy Bolton, the most popular student at East High, is the star of the basketball team who yearns to be more than what others – especially his dad, Coach Bolton – want him to be. A natural athlete and leader with charm to spare, Troy discovers he loves to sing, but is afraid to admit it to his basketball buddies. Look for a solid actor who can convey the full range of Troy's emotions from sensitive to self-assured, and who can dance and sing very well. Consider auditioning your potential Troys and Gabriellas together to get a sense of the pair's dynamic.
		Vocal range top: Bb3 Vocal range bottom: Eb2
Sharpay Evans	Female	Sharpay Evans is the dramatic and self- centered star of the school musicals. Between her and Ryan, she's the alpha twin – over-the-top, demanding, and always "on," with a flair for the theatrical. This diva knows how to work a crowd, so cast a performer with solid acting chops and strong singing and dancing skills.
		Vocal range top: A4 Vocal range bottom: A3
Ryan Evans	Male	Ryan Evans is Sharpay's fraternal twin and, like her, he lives to sing, dance, and get loads of attention. Subordinate to his sister, Ryan generally follows Sharpay's orders and lets her have the spotlight, but he longs to break free from her shadow and assert himself. Choose a "triple threat" for this actor – strong singer, dancer, and actor – because everything Ryan does is calculated and executed impeccably. Consider auditioning Ryan and Sharpay in pairs as the success of "Bop to the Top" depends on this dynamic duo performing perfectly – and with a ton of energy.
		Vocal range top: A3 Vocal range bottom: G2
Kelsi Nielsen	Female	Kelsi Nielsen, the neo-feminist writer- composer of the winter musical, Juliet and Romeo, possesses a shy demeanor but no tolerance for the egocentric likes of Sharpay. With only one lyric to sing, focus on finding a strong actor who can play the compassionate underdog with intelligence and an uncanny ability to shoot zingers at Sharpay with timing and accuracy.
		Vocal range top: A4 Vocal range bottom: D4

Character	Gender	Description
Chad Danforth	Male	Chad Danforth, one of Troy's best friends, is a sports fanatic. Focused on winning the basketball championship, Chad slowly begins to understand that there might be more to life than ball – including his crush on Taylor. Look for an actor that partners naturally with Troy, is a leader of his own accord, and can handle a couple of short solos and acting scenes.
		Vocal range top: G3 Vocal range bottom: B2
Zeke Baylor	Male	Zeke Baylor, Troy's other best buddy, is a basketball player with a sweet side. He has two secrets: a crush on Sharpay and a love for baking! Look for an actor with some singing chops who can portray this Wildcat with no shame in his (basketball or baking) game. Zeke has some higher parts to sing, so if necessary, the actor you cast can speak-sing parts that may be out of his natural range.
		Vocal range top: G#3 Vocal range bottom: G2
Taylor Mckessie	Female	Taylor McKessie, the very put-together president of the Science Club, is super-assertive and very intent on Gabriella joining the Science Decathlon team so they can (finally!) win the competition. Taylor has a hidden soft spot for Chad, but would never let it be known that she's into a jock, so cast a performer who can portray confidence — and just a slight air of pretentiousness.
		Vocal range top: A3 Vocal range bottom: A2
Ms. Darbus	Female	Ms. Darbus is East High's eccentric drama teacher. Passionate and disciplined, she never stops trying to enrich the lives of her students through the wonders of live theater. Look for a performer who knows how to milk every line and gesture for this role, as the key to Darbus is in her killer comic timing. Be careful of making her too wacky, though; this educator genuinely loves her art and her students, so make sure her heart shines through.
Coach Bolton	Male	Coach Bolton, the stern basketball coach and Troy's sometimes overbearing dad, lost the big game years ago and wants a second chance through his basketball-star son. Cast an actor who can handle the demands of this mature role – and who can convincingly and comically spar with Ms. Darbus.
Martha Cox	Female	Martha Cox, a proud member of the Science Club, possesses a private passion for break dancing. Look for a truly terrific dancer who can sing, or one who can comically approach the role as a super-enthusiastic, but talentless, dancer.
		Vocal range top: B4 Vocal range bottom: G3

Character	Gender	Description
Ensemble and Featured Ensemble	Any	The BRAINIACS, headed by Taylor McKessie, are the smartest girls and boys in school, including Martha Cox and the change-adverse KRATNOFF.
		The JOCKS and CHEERLEADERS are the East High athletes, including Troy, Chad, and Zeke. Both of these groups can be a mix of boys and girls.
		The THESPIANS are the drama lovers, including Kelsi, Sharpay, and Ryan, as well as the following auditionees: CATHY, who belts like Ethel Merman, CYNDRA, the opera-lover, JAMES, who can't sing on pitch and SUSAN, the wannabe pop star.
		The PARTY KIDS are students in Troy and Gabriella's karaoke flashback.
		The REBELS, including Troy and Gabriella, don't stick to the status quo, unlike the various school cliques.
		DRUM MAJOR, who cheers on the Wildcats.
		MS. TENNY, East High's chemistry teacher.
		MODERATOR, for the Science Decathlon (can be double cast as Ms. Tenny)
		JACK SCOTT, the school announcer with a larger-than-life personality, longs to be a D.J. Look for an actor who will have no problem making this role his own, creating a quirky radio personality with a unique sense of style. While this actor will primarily stay as Jack throughout, there are opportunities to join ensemble numbers such as "Stick to the Status Quo" and "Get'cha Head in the Game."

Auditions will be held at Rolleston College, 631 Springston Rolleston Road, Rolleston.

Please park in the car park with entrance on Broadlands drive, to the south side of the school, next to the Selwyn Aquatic Centre, as per the red arrow below.

Follow the CentreStage flags to the correct entrance.



## **Audition dates and times**

Saturday 2nd July 10am and 2pm Sunday 3rd July 10am and 2pm

Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to your audition. The auditions will be around 2 hours long. These will be group auditions and will include singing, acting and dancing. If you are considering a lead role, please also have a song prepared as we may ask you to perform this on the day.

Please note that we will be taking a photo to accompany your application. You must be 12-18 years old on the date of the auditions.

## **Song Selection**

Choose a song to sing that you know well and that best suits your voice and be confident in your choice. Bring a backing track where appropriate or sing a capella, it's up to you. Be aware that the musical director may ask you to sing with the piano in order to find out your vocal range.

Please note that our auditions are workshop style where everyone learns the same song during the session. If the team has already seen enough during the workshop, you may not be asked to perform your prepared song. Being asked to stay behind to perform your prepared song is not an indication that you will or won't be cast in the show.



## **Booking an Audition**

To book your audition please go to our website: www.centrestagerolleston.org.nz

- Please fill in the online audition form ensuring that you fill in ALL of the required fields. Choose your preferred audition time then click 'BOOK MY AUDITION'
- We will contact you via email within a few days to confirm your audition day/time.
- Prepare your audition song if you are looking at a lead role.
- Make sure you pop it in your calendar.

### **Notification of Audition Outcome**

Applicants will be notified by phone after the selection process is complete. You should expect to hear back from someone within the week following your auditions.

### Rehearsals

Rehearsals will be at Rolleston College on:

Tuesday 6:30-8:30pm Thursday 6:30-8:30pm

Sunday 2-5pm, but these will extend to 1-6pm - this will be scheduled ahead of time.

The first meet up and intro, which will include the distribution of scripts and scores will be on **Thursday 7 July from 6:30-7:30pm** at Rolleston College. Parents should also attend this first meeting.

The first rehearsal will be held on **Sunday 24 July** from **2-5pm**.

In the week or so leading up to opening night, please be aware that we will be adding in daily rehearsals which will run during the first week of the holidays and will be in the afternoon/evening, including a Technical Rehearsal, to ensure that we are ready for an audience. Please ensure that your schedule is free to accommodate for this.

## **Performing Fees**

Every person who performs onstage in any CentreStage Rolleston production must pay a Show Levy which allows you to be fully involved with the show. The Show Levy for High School Musical is \$80 which includes a CentreStage Rolleston, show-specific T-shirt. If you would also like a hoodie, there will be an extra \$50 fee.



## **Cast Expectations**

Being involved in this production is a definite commitment. Each cast member must be present for all rehearsals when required.

If for any reason you are unable to attend a rehearsal, you are required to contact the Production Manager with at least 24 hours notice if possible. Participation in this production requires a huge commitment of both time and professionalism to ensure a production of the highest possible quality, therefore, please do not audition if you are not able to fully commit to the rehearsal schedule.

While talent is our primary consideration when casting, a high level of dedication is required for the show. Final choices for all roles will be made with this in mind.

It is the job of the Director and the rest of the Production Team to decide who fits best in each role. The Production Team will always try and cast a show in the best way possible for the overall quality of the show. Although disappointment in roles is inherent in the world of theatre, actors must learn that theatre is a TEAM activity, and that the art of working on a show, no matter the role, is the entire point of participation. Casting a production is like putting together a puzzle – all the pieces must fit to make a good cast, and the Production Team takes casting very seriously.

If cast in the show, you agree not to accept any other theatre commitments without prior permission of the Production Team.

The rehearsal schedule will be carefully managed to make the most effective use of each performer's time. You will only be called when you are required and while we make every attempt to minimise waiting times during rehearsals, performers are required to be mindful of, and show courtesy to performers who are rehearsing and taking direction while you wait for your scene/turn.

Scripts and scores for the show will be provided following the completion of a successful audition.

All on-stage roles are on an unpaid basis.

If you have any questions at all regarding the audition process, please contact:

Leanne Chapman – Production Manager

Ph: 021425694

Email: <u>auditions.csr@gmail.com</u>