

BYT CASTING POLICY

Program

Bellevue Youth Theatre (BYT) is a community and youth building program. You or your child should be more interested in stage time, not lines. It is important to us that youth develop into caring, confident adults. Lines do not create that, performance does.

First Time

BYT casts by age and tenure. If you are in your first show:

- Youth under 10: Group lines or singing with group
- Youth 11 and up: Appropriate role, usually based on age. Expect few lines but opportunity to be on stage.

Best Role

- If you give us more flexibility in casting by choosing more than one show, we will try to give you the best role.
- Middle School roles tend to be small. Unless it is a small cast, do not expect large roles.
- People being assigned larger roles have “paid their dues” at BYT. Teens are given first casting priority.

Volunteers and Adults

Adults who have been active as volunteers both on and off stage are considered for better roles. Their involvement is a key part to the success of BYT. Actors who come in and only “act” and don’t mentor are not essential to the role of BYT. Adults give our shows credibility and make them more enjoyable for a general audience. Youth who are involved in volunteering and supporting other shows may get priority casting. **A volunteer with BYT is someone who has turned in all their necessary paperwork.**

Stars

Bellevue Youth Theatre is a youth development program. If your child is a “star”, they can pursue Studio East, Village Kidstage, or Youth Theatre Northwest. We are more interested in making successful kids than stars.

TAB Members

Unless they have been actively involved at BYT, their roles will be age dependent based on experience and what they have done. TAB members are not given better roles “just because they are on TAB”. But if they are on TAB, they are involved in volunteering and other aspects of BYT.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- ✧ Do I rehearse every day?
 - Most youth will not rehearse every day. Young people with larger roles can expect to be at rehearsals most days. This is dependent on rehearsal length.
- ✧ Do I have to be at every rehearsal/performance with my child?
 - Yes, if they are 7 and younger.
- ✧ What is an excused vs. unexcused absence?
 - Excused: Anything we know about by the first week of rehearsal. Exceptions are made for illness.
 - Unexcused: Family milestones (anniversaries, birthdays, etc.), vacations not disclosed by the first week, other events not disclosed at auditions including concerts, other plays, sport involvements, sporting events. BYT must be your priority.
- ✧ Why didn't I get the lead/why don't I have many lines?
 - We encourage you to read "BYT Casting Policy" (other side of this page).
- ✧ If I don't live in Bellevue, why do I pay \$150?
 - We do not charge a fee for Bellevue residents to be in our plays as the program is paid for by City of Bellevue tax dollars. Participants not living in Bellevue are required to compensate the City for services rendered.
- ✧ Do I have to buy anything?
 - It is expected that you will provide jazz shoes for your child.
- ✧ Do I get comp tickets?
 - We do not provide comp tickets to families. The program's revenue, as required by the City of Bellevue, comes from tickets sales.
- ✧ How do I volunteer?
 - Get volunteer paperwork from the Box Office
 - Take paperwork home to complete
 - Submit paperwork to the Box Office
 - A BYT staff member will contact you