



WESTON  
COMMUNITY  
THEATRE

# Weston Community Theatre

## Production Guidelines

Dear Cast,

Hello! If this is your first production with Weston Community Theatre (WCT), then welcome! If not, well, then welcome back! Our goal, as always, is to put on a great show and have a lot of fun doing it. To do that and also make sure everyone is on the same page, we need to lay out some ground rules.

**The Schedule:** Cast members are expected to be present and on time at all rehearsals for which they are scheduled. Please plan to arrive fifteen minutes before the planned start of rehearsal. If someone doesn't show up, that makes it difficult or impossible to rehearse a specific scene and forces other cast mates to sit around with nothing to do. Check your calendar for conflicting school or work obligations (concerts, travel, etc.) and let us know now if you see, or even suspect, a conflict. If you must miss or be late to a rehearsal, please ensure that you contact the production team well in advance so that alternate arrangements can be made. We understand that emergencies occur, but more than one missed or significantly late rehearsal is grounds for removal from the cast due to the impact on other actors and the production as a whole.

**Learning Lines:** There will be a date in the schedule by which you will be expected to be *off book*. This means that you have memorized all of your lines and blocking. It is crucial for everyone to be off book when scheduled or it significantly impairs the effectiveness of rehearsal. If you have an especially difficult part or other challenges you think may prevent you from getting off book on schedule, it is your responsibility to bring them up early in the process with the production team.

**The Shows:** *All cast members must attend every show and every rehearsal during tech week (the week leading up to the first show) without exception.* On show dates you will be expected to arrive between one and two hours before show time, depending on the show and your part.

**Medical Issues:** We have no interest in invading your privacy, but if you have any medical issues that may affect or limit your ability to participate in production activities we ask that you do share that information with the production team so that we may be prepared. No one is excluded from participation for such issues, but we do want to be able to manage things in the manner that is best for both you and the show.

**Age:** Cast members under 18 must have a parent or guardian sign the accompanying form on behalf of their child. Parents of cast members under 8 must remain with their child throughout each rehearsal.

**Drop Off/Pick Up:** We take our responsibility for the safety and security of cast members very seriously. A sign-in sheet (and staff member) will be at the door to verify that cast members have been signed in and signed out at the end of rehearsal. Cast members under 16 must be signed in and out by a responsible adult approved by the parent or guardian. Absent emergencies, if someone other than parent or guardian is going to bring a child cast member home from rehearsal, parents must notify the production team in advance. Cast members 16 and older may sign themselves in and out. We also ask that parents arrive fifteen minutes before the end of rehearsal, as they sometimes end early.

**Harassment:** WCT is committed to promoting a safe environment that encourages mutual respect, promotes positive relationships, and is free of all forms of unlawful discrimination and harassment. Harassment of any kind, including sexual harassment, is prohibited, and WCT will take appropriate and immediate action in response to complaints. Allegations will be investigated thoroughly and, if substantiated, corrective and/or disciplinary action will be taken commensurate with the seriousness of the offense(s), and in accordance with state and federal law. Severe or recurring misconduct may result in individuals being dismissed and/or permanently banned from WCT events.

**Production Help:** Volunteers are always needed and welcome! There are many roles that need filling over the lifecycle of the show from helping obtain donations and ads from local businesses to assisting with sign-in/out of cast members. Help is also needed during the production itself including backstage crew, costumes, props, sound, lighting, and more. If you or any of your friends or family might be interested in participating in any of these ways, please let us know. There will be a production meeting early in the rehearsal schedule and any interested persons are strongly encouraged to come and see what jobs are open and where you can lend your talents!

**Facilities & Equipment:** Actors may be required to handle valuable and/or fragile equipment (microphones, props, etc.). Those items should be treated with care and respect. Do not touch any prop (especially weapons) unless they are assigned to you by a director, stage manager, or fight choreographer. Proper handling procedures will be explained when needed. We also must respect the facilities and ask that everyone follow all rules and treat any places we use with care.

**Costumes:** The Costume Designer of the production will let you know if you need to provide any parts of your costume. All costumes must be approved by the director and/or the costume designer and, once assembled, should not leave the facility. One exception is if the costume designer asks you to launder the costume between performances.

**Stage Romance:** If your part includes any romantic interaction with another actor, it is expected that you will manage such interactions with professionalism and respect. Failure to do so will result in immediate termination from the show. Expect to meet with the director to discuss the planning for such scenes to ensure that they are approached in a way that everyone involved is comfortable with. If you have any discomfort or concerns, please communicate them to the director or stage manager immediately.

**Resolving Issues:** We really want participation in this production to be a fun, exciting growth experience for all involved. If at any time you find that you have an issue or concern of any nature, we ask that you please speak to the producer, director or stage manager. We would like to help find a resolution to your concern immediately. If you feel for any reason that you cannot speak with the above leaders, please feel free to contact any of the WCT Board of Directors.

**Feedback & Participation:** WCT is very strongly committed to the idea that the best show is put on by the best, most involved team. Your input and ideas are a crucial resource for making this production the best it can be. If you have any thoughts or observations about either your own part or any other aspect of the show, please feel not just welcome but encouraged to share them in a respectful and positive manner. The director will make final decisions, of course, but many heads are richer and wiser than one. This should be an opportunity for all of us to learn and grow.

**Advertisements:** Even with all volunteer labor, putting on a show has considerable costs for sets, costumes, props, makeup, royalties, scripts, tech equipment, venue rental, etc. Unlike many community theaters, WCT does not charge anyone to participate in our productions. Instead, money is raised through playbill ads sold to local businesses, supportive friends and family or other interested folks. Spread the word!

**Concessions:** Another way WCT funds productions is by selling food and drinks during each performance. A volunteer staff will man the concession stand during the shows.

**Strike:** Strike is an “all hands” event that we have to get through in order to get to the cast party! Barring any unforeseen issues, all cast and production members are expected to participate in the strike after the final show. We’ll see you there!