



SWEENEY TODD

THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET
SCHOOL EDITION



Auditions begin December 5
Rehearsals begin December 12
Performances February 16-18

ABOUT "SWEENEY TODD"

SWEENEY TODD, a musical thriller by Stephen Sondheim, won the Tony Award for Best Musical and the Olivier Award for Best New Musical when it originally opened on Broadway and London during the 1979-1980 season. Set in 19th century London, the musical details the return of barber Sweeney Todd to the city after fifteen years of exile, determined to take revenge on the corrupt judge who banished him. Along the way, he strikes up an unusual partnership with a local baker, Mrs. Lovett, who is in desperate need of fresh meat for her pies. This tale of obsession, murder, love, and revenge has captivated audiences for over thirty years, and BWTC's original production in 2011 has long been considered to be one of our earliest major artistic successes. We are absolutely thrilled to be returning to it once again!

AUDITIONS & CASTING

Auditions for Blue Water Theatre Company's production of SWEENEY TODD are open to all actors who are currently students in high school or middle school (however, note the content warning later in this packet). Actors who wish to audition should show up to their choice of one of the following three audition times:

Monday, December 5 from 7:00-9:30pm
Tuesday, December 6 from 7:00-9:30pm
Thursday, December 8 from 7:00-9:30pm

Please be on time and be prepared to stay for the entire audition session. Note that parents and other guests are not allowed in the studio while the auditions are taking place.

Auditions will be held at Blue Water Theatre Company's studio in the lower level of the Wayzata Home Center (1250 East Wayzata Boulevard).

Actors do not need to prepare any audition material in advance. Please, however, come to the audition with a completed and signed "Actor Information Sheet" and "Rehearsal Conflict Sheet" to turn in. You will find both of these forms at the end of this packet. Please note that a parent signature is required in order to be considered for the cast.

Callbacks for SWEENEY TODD will be held on Saturday, December 10 from 9:00-noon. A list of actors required at callbacks will be posted on the audition page of the Blue Water web site at around noon on Friday, December 9, following Thursday night's final first round of auditions.

The final cast list will be posted on the Blue Water web site at around noon on Sunday, December 11.

We intend to cast approximately 30-35 actors in SWEENEY TODD.

CONTENT WARNING

While auditions for SWEENEY TODD are open to all students in grades six through twelve, parents and actors should be very aware of two things:

(1) It is very important that parents familiarize themselves with the content of the show before allowing their kids to audition. This is a very dark production that contains significant violence and other material that is not appropriate for all young people. While the production will ultimately be rated PG-13, and a suggestion will go out once tickets are on sale that it is most appropriately viewed by kids 13 and older. Do not hesitate to email

Charlie Leonard if you have any questions about the content prior to auditions.

(2) Actors familiar with BWTC's season should also remember that our winter show is traditionally a smaller cast than the other mainstage shows during the year, and it is usually mostly made up of high school students. We will, very shortly, also be announcing our winter 3rd-8th grade musical (stay tuned!), which will have auditions in mid-December with performances in mid-March. So if you are a middle school actor, you audition for SWEENEY TODD, but do not make the show – there is another opportunity right around the corner for you!

REHEARSALS & ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS

Rehearsals for SWEENEY TODD will begin on Monday, December 12 with a full-cast meeting and read-through. Regular rehearsals will generally be held on the following schedule. Note on the conflict sheet that a slightly different rehearsal schedule will take place over Winter Break.

Mondays from 7:00-9:30
Tuesdays from 7:00-9:30
Thursdays from 7:00-9:30
Saturdays from 9:00-4:00

In an effort to be respectful of our actors' time, we do not call every actor to every rehearsal. A schedule will be emailed to the cast each Sunday afternoon detailing the upcoming week's rehearsal schedule.

We do expect our actors to be at every rehearsal for which they have been called, unless proper notification has been given to the director prior to the weekly schedule being completed and posted. While we recognize that emergency conflicts do arise, the directing team reserves the right to deal with situations appropriately if attendance becomes a major issue.

All regular rehearsals will be held at Blue Water's studio in the lower level of the Wayzata Home Center (1250 East Wayzata Boulevard).

Parents should note that we generally take an hour lunch break on Saturdays (usually from 12:00-1:00). There are a number of eating establishments within walking distance of Blue Water's studio. Unless parents specifically email Charlie Leonard (the director) to tell him otherwise, it is assumed that students have permission to leave Blue Water (unsupervised) for lunch. Note that, if they do leave campus, Blue Water is not responsible for your kids during this time. Please discuss this with your son or daughter, and bring any concerns to Charlie's attention.

DRESS/TECH REHEARSALS & PERFORMANCES

We will have three dress/tech rehearsals and three performances, at which attendance is mandatory. It is expected that all cast members will clear their schedules for these dates and times. The only acceptable conflicts on these nights are those that the directors are told about on your audition forms.

Monday, February 13 from 4:00-9:30 (dress/tech rehearsal)
Tuesday, February 14 from 4:00-9:30 (dress/tech rehearsal)
Wednesday, February 15 from 4:00-9:30 (dress/tech rehearsal)
Thursday, February 16 from 5:00-10:30 (performance @ 7:00pm)
Friday, February 17 from 5:00-10:30 (performance @ 7:00pm)
Saturday, February 18 from 5:00-midnight (performance @ 7:00pm; Strike)

All dress/tech rehearsals and performances will take place at Eisenhower Community Center in Hopkins (1001 Highway 7).

PRODUCTION FEE

The production fee for a student actor to take part in **SWEENEY TODD** is \$355. This fee helps cover our show licensing, theatre rental, rehearsal studio rental, set/prop/costume needs, insurance, and staffing.

The registration fee is due at the first rehearsal (Monday, December 12), unless special arrangements have been made with us in advance. Refunds are not available. If a student drops out of the production, the registration fee will be considered a donation to Blue Water Theatre Company.

Financial assistance is available for those who can demonstrate reasonable need. If you would like more information, please contact Charlie Leonard (charlie.leonard@bluewatertheatre.com) prior to your student's initial audition. All requests will be kept confidential.

BWTC COMMUNICATION POLICY

BWTC parents are encouraged to read the BWTC Communication Policy, which can be found on a tab on the “Auditions” page of our web site. As an organization that deals almost exclusively with teenagers – and with recognition and respect to one of our organizational values of youth empowerment – it is important (especially) for potential new families to understand the way in which the BWTC community communicates with each other. Please contact Charlie if you have any questions or concerns.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions about Blue Water Theatre Company's production of **SWEENEY TODD**, or if you have any questions about Blue Water in general, please contact:

Charlie Leonard
Executive & Artistic Director
charlie.leonard@bluewatertheatre.com
(952) 855-9147 (but email is preferred)

ACTOR INFORMATION SHEET

Name _____ Date of Birth (MM/DD/YY) ____/____/____

School _____ Age _____

Cell Phone _____ Grade (2016-2017 school year) _____ T-Shirt Size (Adult) _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Student Email Address _____

Parent/Guardian #1 Name _____ Phone _____

Parent/Guardian #1 Email _____

Parent/Guardian #1 Employer* _____

Parent/Guardian #2 Name _____ Phone _____

Parent/Guardian #2 Email _____

Parent/Guardian #2 Employer* _____

*Employer information is optional. We ask because, as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, we become aware from time-to-time of corporate grant/funding opportunities that we can apply for if we have an organizational connection to somebody who works for that company. It's likely that you will recognize immediately whether or not your company does such a thing. If so, we'd love to know about it!

On the back of this page, please describe your past performing experience (theatre, music, dance, etc):

Are there any roles/characters in the show that you are most interested in being considered for? If so, what are they?

Are you willing to accept any role in the show? If "no," please explain further. _____ YES _____ NO

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE:

I have read through the entire SWEENEY TODD production packet, and am fully aware of all that the production entails (auditions, rehearsal schedule, performance dates, registration fee, deadlines, etc). I have also proofread my student's conflict sheet to make sure everything is included. My son/daughter has my permission to take part in this production. In addition, I grant permission to Blue Water to use photos that may include my son/daughter in any online and print marketing, including BWTC social media sites and mainstream press coverage of the production.

_____ (parent signature) _____ (date)

_____ (print parent/guardian name) _____ (phone)

REHEARSAL CONFLICT SHEET

Name _____

Please list all known rehearsal conflicts clearly on the lines below. Include any event (school, travel, personal, religious, or otherwise) that would keep you from attending the scheduled rehearsal on any given day. Please be extra careful to double-check with your choir/band/orchestra teacher to find out when your winter concerts take place, and carefully note them.

Monday, December 12 from 7:00-9:30 _____

Tuesday, December 13 from 7:00-9:30 _____

Thursday, December 15 from 7:00-9:30 _____

Saturday, December 17 from 9:00-4:00 _____

Monday, December 19 from 7:00-9:30 _____

Tuesday, December 20 from 7:00-9:30 _____

Thursday, December 22 from 7:00-9:30 _____

Saturday, December 24 from 9:00-4:00 _____ **NO REHEARSAL**

Monday, December 26 from 6:00-9:30 _____

Tuesday, December 27 from 6:00-9:30 _____

Wednesday, December 28 from 9:00-4:00 _____

Thursday, December 29 from 6:00-9:30 _____

Friday, December 30 from 10:00-2:00 _____

Saturday, December 31 from 9:00-3:00 _____

Monday, January 2 from 7:00-9:30 _____

Tuesday, January 3 from 7:00-9:30 _____

Thursday, January 5 from 7:00-9:30 _____

Saturday, January 7 from 9:00-4:00 _____

Monday, January 9 from 7:00-9:30 _____

Tuesday, January 10 from 7:00-9:30 _____

Thursday, January 12 from 7:00-9:30 _____

Saturday, January 14 from 9:00-4:00 _____

Monday, January 16 from 7:00-9:30 _____

Tuesday, January 17 from 7:00-9:30 _____

Thursday, January 19 from 7:00-9:30 _____

Saturday, January 21 from 9:00-4:00 _____

Monday, January 23 from 7:00-9:30 _____

Tuesday, January 24 from 7:00-9:30 _____

Thursday, January 26 from 7:00-9:30 _____

Saturday, January 28 from 9:00-4:00 _____

REHEARSAL CONFLICT SHEET (Page #2)

Name _____

Monday, January 30 from 7:00-9:30 _____
Tuesday, January 31 from 7:00-9:30 _____
Thursday, February 2 from 7:00-9:30 _____
Saturday, February 4 from 9:00-4:00 _____

Monday, January 30 from 7:00-9:30 _____
Tuesday, January 31 from 7:00-9:30 _____
Thursday, February 2 from 7:00-9:30 _____
Saturday, February 4 from 9:00-4:00 _____

Monday, February 6 from 7:00-9:30 _____
Tuesday, February 7 from 7:00-9:30 _____
Thursday, February 9 from 7:00-9:30 _____
Saturday, February 11 from 9:00-4:00 _____

TECH WEEK - NO ABSENCES

Monday, February 13 from 4:00-9:30
Tuesday, February 14 from 4:00-9:30
Wednesday, February 15 from 4:00-9:30
Thursday, February 16 from 5:00-10:30
Friday, February 17 from 5:00-10:30
Saturday, February 18 from 5:00-Midnight