

AUDITION PACKET

THE JAMES PLAYS

James I: The Key Will Keep the Lock

James II: Day of the Innocents

James III: The True Mirror

SHOW OVERVIEWS:

James I: The Key Will Keep the Lock

Teenage James I returns to Scotland, marries a British girl, and the two of them deal with a military uprising led by the former royal family and their aggressive sons.

WHAT WE NEED: Sword-fighting, combat, intimidating guards and officers, epic battles.

PERFORMANCES: Feb. 23, 24 & Mar. 2 in the Auditorium

James II: Day of the Innocents

The young James II lives in his nightmares as he tries to move past his trauma. His best friend is caught between his abusive father and his loyalty to James.

WHAT WE NEED: Physical theatre actors, a full football/rugby/soccer match played live on stage, political advisors, creative and fearless physical actors.

PERFORMANCES: Feb. 28, Mar. 1 & Mar. 2 in the Auditorium

James III: The True Mirror

The cocky James III enters into conflict with his wife Margaret after neglecting his royal duties. Their children are forced to choose between them, and Margaret takes over Scotland.

THIS PLAY WILL BE PERFORMED EXCLUSIVELY BY THE PRODUCTIONS COMPANY, therefore we are not holding public auditions for this one.

PERFORMANCES: Mar. 14, 15, 16, 21, 22 & 23 in the Black Box

****Please specify on your audition form whether you are interested in being cast in *James I*, *James II* or both. Everyone who tries out will be given a spot, although we do not guarantee that everyone can be in both shows. A final cast list will be posted at HillcrestTheatre.com next week. Check there to find out your final casting assignment.**

****There will be a required cast meeting for all cast members on Tuesday, December 19 after school in the auditorium before we break for the holidays. Rehearsals begin January 2 after the break.**

****A rehearsal schedule is included in this packet. Please look over it carefully. Write down any conflicts you have on your commitment form/permission slip.**

HOW TO TRY-OUT

TUESDAY, December 12 – Physicality Try-outs

****Anyone interested in being in the show must be here for this: whether you are wanting to be considered for a speaking role, or for a limited-rehearsal role. ****

1. **WOMEN:** Meet in the Auditorium at 2:30. Be dressed in athletic clothes you can move and sweat in. Avoid skirts, dresses, jackets, or extra layers. Wear athletic shoes that don't inhibit your ability to move.
MEN: Meet in the Black Box at 2:30. Be dressed in athletic clothes you can move and sweat in. Avoid jackets, baggy shirts, or extra layers. Tanks or sleeveless shirts are ideal. Shirtless is also acceptable when appropriate to the task. Wear athletic shoes that don't inhibit your ability to move.
NON-BINARY: Just choose whichever location you feel more comfortable in. No big deal either way.
2. Before we get going, fill out an online form on your phone or computer. The form will be posted at www.HillcrestTheatre.com Tuesday morning. Be as thorough as possible and double-check all your answers. If you already filled this out on Tuesday, please don't do it again.
3. Start stretching out and warming up, and then once the instructor starts, do whatever they say. We're testing for strength, stamina, and agility as well as physical presence, so just be as confident and comfortable in your body as possible while pushing yourself to your maximum effort.
4. You will be asked to do a variety of different types of working out, training, and fighting. We do not expect you to be able to do everything that we ask of you. We do expect you to try. If you cannot complete every task, it does not mean you have failed. We are not just looking for strength and ability, but we are also watching for effort and potential. Don't get discouraged if you are unable to complete things.
5. Focus on helping everyone else succeed. Do not comment on anyone else's body or ability.
6. Water bottles are welcome in the audition space, but if you need to step out to get a drink or use the restroom, just step out by yourself (not in groups). No need to ask permission.
7. There is a parent permission slip/commitment form at the end of this packet. Take it home and look it over with your parents. Get it signed, and bring it to Mr. Long's room (B116) by the end of the day on Thursday. There will be a basket just inside his door. Just leave your slip in that basket. If we do not receive this permission slip, we will not be able to put you in the show.
8. Check back throughout the weekend at www.HillcrestTheatre.com for updates and the final cast list.

WEDNESDAY, December 13 – Monologue Auditions

Only for those interested in being considered for lead and speaking roles

1. Sign up for a time at www.HillcrestTheatre.com (signups will be posted December 6)
2. Prepare a 45-60 second monologue from any contemporary play (written after 1900).
3. Arrive at least 15 minutes before your audition time outside the Black Box. Wearing nice clothes is a plus. Think of it as a job interview.
4. Fill out an online form on your phone or computer. The form will be posted at www.HillcrestTheatre.com on the morning of the audition. Be as thorough as possible and double-check all your answers.
5. A member of the Theatre Presidency will take you into the Black Box when it is your turn. Stand on the X, introduce yourself, and then deliver your monologue as you practiced.

THURSDAY, December 14 – Call-Backs for Lead Roles

***Only students who did BOTH the Tuesday and Wednesday auditions will be eligible to be called back on Thursday. ***

1. Call-back lists for various speaking roles will be posted Wednesday evening at www.HillcrestTheatre.com.
2. If you find your name on the call-back list, be in Room B116 at 2:30 on Thursday ready to read scenes from the script. We will take roll promptly at 2:30. There is no specific ending time for these, but they could go into the evening.
3. If you are not on a call-back list, that does not mean that you have not been cast in the show. We are only reading for some speaking roles at the call-backs. Others will be cast from your monologue and physicality auditions.
4. Check back throughout the weekend at www.HillcrestTheatre.com for updates and the final cast list to see if you made the show!

The JAMES Plays

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Rehearsals will occur on the days outlined below.

For those not trying out for Lead or Specialty Roles, please write on your permission slip any conflicts you have with the bolded rehearsals marked below as *Ensemble*.

For those auditioning for LEAD ROLES: Not all Lead Roles will need to be at all of the Lead Role Blocking Rehearsals. A more detailed schedule will be released in January after looking through everyone's conflict forms. At that point, you will know exactly which days you will be called for. For now, on your permission slip, write down any conflicts with any of the rehearsals below, so that we can schedule your blocking rehearsals around your conflicts as best we can.

Some students who we want playing particularly physical roles will also be encouraged to attend morning workouts/trainings on some weekdays in January & February from 7:00-7:35am, so also let us know on your permission slip if you have conflicts with that.

Dec. 19	Tuesday	2:30-4:30	Cast Meeting
Jan. 2-27	Tuesdays & Thursdays Wednesdays Mon, Wed & Fridays Saturdays	2:30-5:30 2:30-5:30 2:30-5:30 8:00-2:00	<i>James II Ensemble</i> Physical Theatre Development <i>James I Ensemble</i> Fight Choreography Leads Blocking Rehearsals Possible Training for Select <i>Ensemble/Leads</i>
Jan. 12	Friday (No School)	8:00-5:00	Leads Blocking Rehearsal
Jan. 15	Monday (No School)	8:00-5:00	Possible Training for Select <i>Ensemble/Leads</i>
Jan. 29-Feb. 3	Tuesday Thursday Mon, Wed, Thu & Fri Saturday	2:30-5:00 2:30-6:00 2:30-6:00 8:00-3:00	<i>James I Ensemble</i> Fight Choreography <i>James II Ensemble</i> Physical Theatre Development Leads Polishing Rehearsals <i>James I Ensemble & Leads</i> Full Run
Feb. 5-17	Mon, Wed & Fridays Tuesdays & Thursdays Saturdays	2:30-7:00 2:30-7:00 8:00-5:00	<i>James I Ensemble & Leads</i> Tech/Dress <i>James II Ensemble & Leads</i> Tech/Dress <i>James II Ensemble & Leads</i> Tech/Dress
Feb. 19	Monday (No School)	8:00-???	<i>James I Ensemble & Leads</i> Full Dress
Feb. 20	Tuesday	2:30-???	<i>James II Ensemble & Leads</i> Full Dress
Feb. 21-22	Wednesday & Thursday	2:30-???	<i>James I Ensemble & Leads</i> Full Dress
Feb. 23-24	Friday & Saturday	5:30 call time	<i>James I PERFORMANCES</i>
Feb. 26-28	Mon, Tue & Wednesday	2:30-???	<i>James II Ensemble & Leads</i> Full Dress
Feb. 29-Mar. 2	Thu, Fri & Saturday	5:30 call time	<i>James II PERFORMANCES</i>
Mar. 2	Saturday	11:30 call time	<i>James I PERFORMANCE</i>

The JAMES PLAYS

Parent Permission/Student Commitment form

You/your child has auditioned for Hillcrest's production of *The James Plays*. Hillcrest will be the first theatre company in the country to produce this trilogy, and the only high school in the world to attempt it. This is an event that requires the talents and dedication of dozens of students and we are excited that you are interested in joining the team. We are committed to providing a valuable experience for your child. We believe that the process of putting on a show of this caliber will greatly enrich the lives of all of the students involved.

Students interested in being cast in the production must be able to commit to the rehearsal schedule attached. Any conflicts must be written in the space below. Otherwise, anyone cast in the production will be expected to be at all rehearsals they are called for.

No fees will be charged to participate, although students may be asked to provide some costume pieces or props.

More details will be provided at a Parent Meeting held on Wednesday, January 3 at 7:00pm in the Auditorium. All parents should attend if your child is chosen to be in the show.

I UNDERSTAND THE COMMITMENT INVOLVED AND AM WILLING TO BE CONSIDERED TO BE CAST IN *THE JAMES PLAYS*. I ALSO AGREE TO FOLLOW ALL SAFETY PROTOCOLS INVOLVED WITH FIGHTING SEQUENCES.

Name of student _____

Student Signature _____

I UNDERSTAND THAT MY CHILD WILL BE INVOLVED IN THIS PRODUCTION AND WILL DO MY BEST TO ATTEND THE PARENT MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3 AT 7:00PM

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Rehearsal Conflicts (be specific): _____

