

THE DETAILS OF PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

We could not do this show without the aid of our parents and our parents are the best ever. They are our lifeblood and don't even know it. The kids never actually *want* their parents to get involved, but we as directors just about will not take "no" for an answer from either the students or parents.

Parents drive almost every other part of the show except what actually happens on the stage. (And believe me, we have had some try to share our stage space with us and we quickly run them out. Room does not allow for casual observers.) We have parent volunteers that work backstage nightly. They are scheduled for Mon & Thurs and Tues & Fri combos, with Wed and Sat being volunteers from previous senior classes or faculty members who are game to have a hand in something this fun. Backstage the jobs are as listed:

Back Door Dad: This dad literally sits or stands outside by the dressing room door and keeps traffic from coming in and out that door. No one is allowed in or out (unless a cast member has to enter from the front of the auditorium) for the safety of our students. No one is EVER allowed to go back to their cars for any reason.

Dressing Room Moms: There is a "mom" assigned to each dressing room. This mom is to help keep the clothes hung and straightened up, garbage picked up, hair fixed, make up applied, wigs brushed, etc., etc. The only thing we definitely ask them is to **not** come on stage and to have their garbage bagged up by the end of the show nightly.

Make-Up Help: There are usually a couple of volunteers in the make-up room applying make-up and fixing hair, etc. as required throughout the show. Our cast is called at 6:00 p.m. for a 7:00 p.m. opening. The time between 6:00 and 6:45 should be used for hair, makeup and costuming issues.

Stage Door 'Police': There are usually two moms at the stage door helping organize our students as they come "on deck" for their entrance. The Coliseum stage is not large enough for extra people. We have the act on the stage and one waiting in the wings. By the time you add directors and stage crew, you do not have much room to lose. These moms are usually teachers or someone we think are "no-nonsense" enough to keep the kids in line and in whom the kids will not buck.

Fly Loft Help: These are usually "dads" who do not mind climbing 30 feet up a little ladder onto a deck that runs against the stage left wall. They are the ones who will manually raise and lower the flies as required. We usually put about 3 men on this fly loft. It is great if we had 2 volunteers to assist the expert and be his helpers and assist as needed.

Spotlights: This is probably the best seat in the house. These people will work a Mon/Thu, Tues/Fri and Wed/Sat shift. They will aid the primary light man who will stay on-book and give directions to the spots.

Lobby Director: This mom is on duty in the lobby before and during the show. She will make sure the box office workers have what they need and are on duty. She will know where the programs are kept and will keep the girls handing out the programs on-task. She will keep the money box from the box office workers and will take it to the directors backstage for safekeeping after the box office has closed (about 7:30 p.m.).

Other ways parents can assist us are through lobby decorations, cast party planning, rehearsal meals, costume sewing, prop building, moving to/from the Coliseum, etc. Parents are put into committees with a chairman that is someone we feel confident can be trusted to complete their tasks without too much input or work from the directors. These committees should be about 5-8 people. These committees get their instructions from the directors and/or questions answered.

Lobby Decorations: This committee will decide on what decorations will be appropriate based on the year's theme. It is important that each child will be represented through pictures on display that have been taken during the rehearsals on Monday-Wednesdays. The biggest concern will be to be frugal in the purchases made for this. There is a set budget of no more than \$200-300. Also, there are very strict rules in place for placing things in the historical lobby.

Cast Party Planning: The cast party is on Friday night following that show. Each cast member is allowed to bring a guest. This cast party is paid for primarily from donations of the parents who volunteer to pay \$20 each toward these costs. Usually, food is purchased (or donated by businesses) and a DJ is hired to play music. Often our videographer will have a rough video that we play for the kids to watch. The best place for us has been "Friends and Company" located two doors down from the Coliseum. It was not available last year because of Tropical Storm Olga. The Cast Party committee is responsible for deciding location (Senior Sounds will pay costs), chaperoning and staying until all the kids have left. (we usually quit at midnight)

Rehearsal Food Planning: The need for mid-rehearsal nourishment was one that we've had since the very first show but was not addressed so well until 2006. It has continued ever since. During our Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday night rehearsals, we work from 6:00 p.m. until about 12:00 p.m. Because it is so important we do not take a long break and because our cast and crew were starving about 8:00-9:00 p.m., our parents started providing supper for us about that time nightly. This is a time for the entire staff, students and crew to stop, eat and replenish for the last hours of rehearsal! It is usually provided by donations from the community and parents who want to do something to help out during this exhausting week.

Costume sewing: These are the godly people (mainly women) who can sew or even just cut out patterns or in some cases, glue! Sometimes this committee can help us by checking out Goodwill or Salvation Army for certain costume needs.

Prop building: These are usually dads (volunteered by their student or their wife) who will build something that is required. After 10+ years of Senior Sounds, our needs are small (yeah right!).

Moving to/from Coliseum: There are usually two groups of parents for these tasks. One group will move us to the Coliseum on the Saturday or Sunday before show week and one will move us out of the Coliseum on the Sunday after our show has closed on Saturday. What is required will be trucks, trailers, strong backs and many hands. ("Many hands make light work.") Things that must be taken and returned from the Coliseum are: four sets of risers, any set pieces or props required, all costumes and racks required, any lobby items needed that we have on hand.