



'23-'24 Season Offerings

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# About Dynamite Productions:

## Mission:

Dynamite Drama Productions was created with one primary goal: give students a space to create, explore, and express themselves. I aim to curate an environment in which kids feel free to learn and collaborate with each other in order to develop a theatrical production from the ground up. Whether they dream of seeing their name in lights, using creative problem solving skills to build and design sets, costumes, and props, or just taking a break from a mundane day to play and invoke their imaginations, Dynamite Drama aims to provide a space of pure expression and play. While the method is certainly play, there are many core pillars that are delivered through this:

- **Empathy** - To portray a character aside from yourself, a student must be able to develop and empathize with that character.
- **Collaboration** - Even a one-man-show doesn't consist of one man. Theatre, at its core, relies on collaboration, building each other up, and growing as a team.
- **Bravery** - Some students are bound to be timid at first, but developing a supportive community allows students to break out of those fears and share their ideas boldly and bravely.
- **Respect** - In order to create a community that students can feel comfortable sharing in, they must know that their work, ideas, and opinions are respected both by their peers and their instructor.



## About the Founder:

Hi! I am Samantha Jo Hodges, the founder of Dynamite Drama Productions. I have had a love for the stage since I was 4 years old when I was thrown into my first show, *Fiddler on the Roof*, because the director felt bad for me having to sit through rehearsals with nothing to do while my mom rehearsed. I spent my childhood in Morris, Alabama, just north of Birmingham, but began my professional theatre career in high school with a small summer stock program in Sheffield, Alabama. I am a graduate from Samford University with a BFA in Theatre for Young Audiences, with a singular goal that has proceeded through my years as a student: to bring this wonderful, expressive, and freeing artform to as many students and hearts as I can. I have taught and worked with theaters around Birmingham for 5 years and began the prequel, if you will, to Dynamite Drama Productions through a volunteer based Drama Club at Liberty Park Elementary. Within the last year and a half the program has grown exponentially, and so the time has come to provide the program with a solid foundation to continue its growth. I would love for you to be a part of it with me!





# Dynamite Players

Formerly VHELP Drama Club

## What are the Dynamite Players?

Dynamite Players serves as a low stress introduction for 3rd-5th grade students who are curious about theatre/acting. There are two troupes: the Firecrackers (beginner troupe), and the Dynamos (intermediate-advanced troupe). Each troupe, made up of 15-20 students, will meet for an hour once a week from 3:30 pm-4:30 pm. Students will explore character development, acting methods, script analysis, and technical theatre leading up to a showcase for family and friends on December 6th.



## Who can join?

Any student at VHELP from 3rd-5th grade is invited to audition for the Dynamite Players!

## How do I join?

### Auditions:

In order to be in Dynamite Players, students must attend auditions on Wednesday, September 27, 2023.

- **When are auditions?:** 3:30-4:30 pm on Wednesday, September 13, 2023
- **Where are auditions?:** Auditions will be held at Liberty Park Elementary in the Stem Lab.
- **What needs to be prepared?:** Students will not need to prepare anything for these auditions. Auditions will consist of some games that utilize their imaginations and ability to collaborate, and a cold read. The only thing that I will need the students to prepare is a positive attitude and some clothes that they can move around in!
- **Why are students auditioning?:** Auditions are an important skill for any young actor to have experience with, and because there are limited slots within the program, this method allows me to unbiasedly choose who will join our troupes for the 2023 year.
- **When will the Troupe lists be shared?:** Troupe Lists will be sent out on Friday, September 29, 2023.

For more information on the decision making process, refer to the audition rubric following the Dynamite Players section of this packet.

*If you are unable to attend auditions on September 27, please email me at [dynamitedramaproductions@gmail.com](mailto:dynamitedramaproductions@gmail.com)*

## Registration Form:

Prior to auditions, please fill out the Registration form on Google Forms (QR code below). This will help me keep in touch throughout the process and will allow me to make decisions on troupe placement due to availability.



## Fall Tuition:

### **\$200 per student for the semester.**

This fee includes all supplies and a Troupe T-Shirt. Nothing else will need to be purchased during the semester.

**Tuition is due on October 5, 2023.**

## When do the Dynamite Players meet?

Each Dynamite Players Troupe will meet once a week, on either Tuesday or Wednesday. Meetings will begin on October 11th and 17th and will meet every week until the Final Showcase on Wednesday, December 6 (7 meetings).

**\*\*Note:** Dynamite Players will not meet on days when school is not in session.

## Where do the Dynamite Players meet?

Dynamite Players will meet at VHELP in the STEM Lab. If there is ever a need to change our location, you will be notified prior to our meeting.

# Spring Production

## What is the Spring Production?

Our Spring Production will be a full length production that is developed and run by our students. Students involved in the production will be 4th and 5th grade students comprising a 16-24 person cast of performers that will rehearse twice a week (Mondays and Wednesdays) from 3:30-4:30, and a 30-40 person production crew that will meet once a week (Fridays) 3:30-4:30. Students are welcome to participate in both cast and production crew, or they can choose to do one or the other.

**Tech Week/Dress Rehearsals** - These Rehearsals are essential for cast and backstage crew. If you have any conflicts on the following days, please note them in your audition form:

- April 29, 30, May 1, 6, 7, and 8

The performance will be at VHELP from 5:30-7:00 pm on Friday, May 10, 2024. Select students will also perform a preview of the production at Fine Arts Night on Thursday, May 2 (exact times TBD).

**The show title will be revealed before Thanksgiving Break!**



## Who can participate?

All students in the 4th or 5th grade are invited to audition to be in the cast and/or apply to be in the Production Crew for the Spring Production.

## How can I Participate?

### Cast –

The cast will rehearse every Monday and Wednesday, beginning on Wednesday, January 17, from 3:30–4:30 pm.

**\*\*Note:** Cast will not rehearse on days when school is not in session.

**Auditions:** All 4th and 5th graders are invited to audition for the Spring Production on Wednesday, December 13 from 3:30–4:30 pm at VHELP in the Stem Lab.

### Crew –

The crew will meet every Friday afternoon, beginning on Friday, January 19, from 3:30–4:30 pm.

The crew will be broken down into 3 teams:

- **Scenery:** This team will design and create the scenic elements of the Spring Production. These students will also have the opportunity to be a part of the Backstage Crew for the performance of the show.
- **Costuming:** This team will design and create the costume elements of the Spring Production. These students will also have the opportunity to be a part of the Backstage Crew for the performance of the show.
- **Props:** This team will design, create, and maintain the prop elements of the Spring Production. These students will also have the opportunity to be a part of the Backstage Crew for the performance of the show.

**Application/Registration Form:** Production Crew applications will be available when students return from Thanksgiving Break. Applications are due by Wednesday, December 13, 2023.

## **Production Fees**

Cast Production Fee - \$380 per actor for the full production process.

This fee includes costumes, production supplies, and a show t-shirt. Nothing else will need to be purchased outside of the Production Fee.

Crew Production Fee - \$215 per crew member for the full production process.

This fee includes all costuming and production supplies, as well as a show t-shirt. Nothing else will need to be purchased outside of this Production Fee.

Jack-of-All-Trades (Cast+Crew) Production Fee - \$500 per actor/crew member for the full production process.

**Production Fees are due on Thursday, January 11, 2024**

# Cast

## Auditions:

**When?**– Wednesday, December 13, 2023 from 3:30-4:30 pm

**Where?**– Liberty Park Elementary in the STEM Lab.

**What do I need to prepare?** – For this audition, students will need to prepare a 30 second monologue and be prepared to take direction in changing the delivery of their monologue.

**When will I find out if I have been cast?** – Cast lists and Digital Scripts will be sent out on Friday, December 15, 2023





## Rehearsal Process:

When will rehearsals begin?: Our first rehearsal will be on Wednesday, January 17, 2024. A full rehearsal schedule will be sent out with the cast list on Friday, December 15, 2023.

## What do I need to prepare for rehearsals?:

- Actors should come to rehearsals familiar with the scenes that are being rehearsed that day.
- They should have a positive attitude.
- Wear clothes that they can move freely in.
- Actors should pay attention to their off-book date. They should have all of their lines memorized by this date.
  - If an actor is struggling to memorize their lines, then they should speak to the director prior to the off-book date about methods to help them at home.

Please note, 2 hours of rehearsal a week is ample time for students to work on characterization and staging, but we can only work on these things efficiently if they are rehearsing and running lines outside of rehearsal as well.

# Production Crew

## Application:

**When can I apply?** – Applications will be available in the front office when students return from Thanksgiving Break

**When is the application due?** – The Production Crew application should be turned in by Wednesday, December 13, 2023.

**When will I find out if I have been assigned to a crew?** – Crew assignments will be sent out on Friday, December 15, 2023.

**Can I be in both the cast and the crew?** – Yes! You can be in both the cast and the crew. If you are on the fence, I would recommend applying/auditioning for both to double your chances. There will be a space on both the Production Application and the Audition Form where you can specify if you would like to be considered for doubling up on Cast and Crew or if you would like to be considered for both, but only placed in one.



**Production Crew Teams:** Students will be able to note their preferences in their application, but please note, they may not end up with their first choice.

**Scenery:** This team will design and create the scenic elements of the Spring Production. These students will also have the opportunity to be a part of the Backstage Crew for the performance of the show.

**Costuming:** This team will design and create the costume elements of the Spring Production. These students will also have the opportunity to be a part of the Backstage Crew for the performance of the show.

**Props:** This team will design, create, and maintain the prop elements of the Spring Production. These students will also have the opportunity to be a part of the Backstage Crew for the performance of the show.

**What do I need to prepare for production meetings?:**

- Crew members should come to meetings with positive attitudes, and willingness to collaborate and get messy! Please make sure that you either wear clothes that you don't care about getting paint or glue on or some sort of apron to put on for crafty days.
- Crew members may be given projects or tasks to work on outside of our meetings. These items should be prepared by the agreed upon date in order to maintain the pacing of production.