STAGES: The Performing Arts Academy for Kids is THRILLED to announce upcoming Auditions for our production of “A FATE WORSE THAN DEATH or ADRIFT ON LIFE’S SEA!”

*BE SURE TO READ THE AUDITION REQUIREMENTS IN THE MIDDLE SECTION OF THIS DOCUMENT.*

This information has been put together to help answer some questions that students and parents may have about the audition and production process.

Please contact Hollye Seddon in the STAGES Studio at (207) 510.6050 or hollye@stagesacademy.com with any questions.

We are greatly looking forward to working with the wonderfully talented performers who choose to be a part of this production.

ABOUT THE SHOW (taken from Samuel French, Inc.):

Written by: Dunstan Weed

“A Fate Worse Than Death or Adrift on Life’s Sea!” is a classic melodrama with villains, heroes, heroines and a cast that just adds to the humor. The saga of a noble heroine who is more “sinned against than sinning!”

“Wealthy Rodney Ramsgate is the owner of a palatial estate known as The Crossroads. He lives with his wife, Felicia, and their daughter, Dorthea. Felicia has a collection of famous jewels that attracts the attention of that knave of knaves, Cassius Carstairs. He arrives at The Crossroads with a confederate, one Cokie Joe, Cassius means to purloin the Ramsgate jewels. He is diverted from his main plan when he hears Rodney discussing a letter he has just received from a firm of solicitors in London, England. Rodney’s dead sister has left a fortune of one hundred thousand dollars to her only daughter. The girl has left England for America, Cassius overhears Rodney telling Felicia that he must find this niece whom he has never seen. Rodney has received a description of the missing girl along with information that she wears a heavy gold chain around her neck with a locket that contains a picture of her dead mother. Cassius immediately sets to work on a scheme whereby he will come into possession of the hundred thousand dollars that Rodney’s sister willed to her daughter. With this end in view he befriends a penniless orphan named Carlotta Flower, invents a plausible tale to enlist her sympathy, and establishes her in the Ramsgate home as Rodney’s missing niece. All might have gone well if not for the presence of Burgess Lendahand, our noble hero, who works for Rodney Ramsgate. He and Carlotta fall in love. With his tongue in his cheek, Mr. Weed has incorporated all of the sure-fire situations used in the old-time melodrama and the result is a wonderfully happy-natured piece of nonsense with laughs tumbling over each other in rapid succession.”
ABOUT THE CHARACTERS:
The following represents a list of the characters in “A FATE WORSE THAN DEATH or ADRIFT ON LIFE’S SEA!” with brief descriptions following each:

ROLES:

* **Carlotta Flower** - our beautiful heroine
* **Rodney Ramsgate** - owner of the palatial home known as “The Crossroads”
* **Felicia Ramsgate** - Rodney’s aristocratic wife
* **Dorthea Ramsgate** - their daughter, cold and snobbish
* **Marie** - the Ramsgate’s maid (traditionally has a French accent)
* **Clarice Kingdon** - a member of Dorthea’s social set (equally snobbish)
* **Cassius Carstairs** - skilled in the way of villainy, a dyed-in-the-wolf rogue
* **Cokie Joe** - Cassius’ sidekick
* **Slick Carter** - a noted detective
* **Burgess Lendahand** - the brave and clean-living hero
* **Jennie Lynd** - Rodney Ramsgate’s secretary
* **Ada Cornell** - who arrives unexpectedly

THE STAGES PRODUCTION TEAM

Director: HOLLYE R. SEDDON
Co-Director: ALEXANDRA RICKOFF
Producer/Production Director: STACEY M. KOLOSKI

ABOUT THE AUDITIONS:

Thank you for your interest in auditioning for “A FATE WORSE THAN DEATH or ADRIFT ON LIFE’S SEA!” at STAGES: The Performing Arts Academy for Kids.

Auditions will be held on Tuesday, November 27, 2007, in the STAGES Studio – located at 183 U.S. Route in Scarborough.
The phone number of the Studio is (207) 510-6050.
There is plenty of on-site parking for auditionees and their parents/families.
Auditions will be by appointment from 5:30PM to 8:30PM. This means you must call the studio before November 27th to schedule your audition time.
EVERY STUDENT WILL BE REQUIRED TO PREPARE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING MONOLOGUES FOR THEIR AUDITION (MEMORIZATION IS VALUED, BUT NOT REQUIRED).
EVERY STUDENT WHO PRE-REGISTERS AND AUDITIONS FOR “A FATE WORSE THAN DEATH or ADRIFT ON LIFE’S SEA!” WILL BE CAST.
The Audition Process will allow us to meet the students individually and see their skills so we can properly cast each role.

MONOLOGUE FOR GIRLS:
This is taken from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl. It is given by Violet Beauregarde, while chewing ferociously on gum and waving her arms excitedly. She is talking in a loud and rapid manner.

VIOLET: I’m a gum chews normally, but when I heard about these ticket things of Mr. Wonka’s, I laid off the gum and switched to candy bars in the hope of striking it lucky. Now, of course, I’m right back on gum. I just adore gum. I can’t do without it. I munch it all day long except for a few minutes at mealtimes when I take it out and stick it behind my ear for safekeeping. To tell you the honest truth, I would not feel comfortable if I didn’t have that little wedge of gum to chew on every moment of the day, I really wouldn’t. My mother says it’s not ladylike and it looks ugly to see a girl’s jaw going up and down like mine do all the time, but I don’t agree. And who is she to criticize, anyway, because if you ask me, I’d say her jaws are going up and down almost as much as mine are from yelling at me every minute of the day. And now, it may interest you to know that this piece of gum I’m chewing right at this moment is one I’ve been working on for over three months solid. That’s a record, that is. It’s beaten the record held by my best friend, Miss Cornelia Prinzmetel. And was she ever mad! It’s my most treasured possession now, this piece of gum is. At nights, I just stick it on the end of the bedpost, and it’s as good as ever in the mornings…a…bit…hard…at…first…maybe...

MONOLOGUE FOR BOYS:
This is taken from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl. This is given by Charlie Bucket as he and Grandpa Joe are in front of the Wonka Chocolate Factory. He is re-reading the “Golden Ticket” one last time.

CHARLIE: Let’s see now...it says, “Greetings to you, the lucky finder of this Golden Ticket, from Mr. Willy Wonka! I shake you warmly by the hand! Tremendous things are in store for you! Many wonderful surprised await you! For now, I do invite you to come to my factory and be my guest for one whole day-you and all the others who are lucky enough to find my Golden Tickets. I, Willy Wonka, will conduct you around the factory myself, showing you everything that there is to see, and afterwards, when it is time to leave, you will be escorted home by a procession of large trucks. These trucks, I can promise you, will be loaded with enough delicious eatables to last you and your entire household for many years. If, at any time thereafter, you should run out of supplies, you have only to come back to the factory and show this Golden Ticket, and I shall be happy to refill your cupboard with whatever you want. In this way, you will be able to keep yourself supplied with tasty morsels for the rest of your life. But this by no means is the most exciting thing that will happen on the day of your visit. I am preparing other surprises that are even more marvelous and more fantastic for you and for all my beloved Golden Ticket holders-mystic and marvelous surprises that will entrance, delight, intrigue, astonish, and perplex you beyond measure. In your wildest dreams you could not imagine that such things could happen to you! Just wait and see!

Students will also be asked to do some cold readings; the scripts for these will be provided at the audition.

Callbacks will be held on Thursday evening, November 29, 2007, at 5:00PM.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT CALLBACKS:
If you are not Called Back, it does NOT mean you aren’t being considered for the role you are interested in. It just means we do not need to see you again in order to make our decision.

FINAL CASTING:
The casting will be finalized by Friday November 30, 2007.
You will be offered you part in a phone call or by e-mail from one of our senior production team members (either a director or a producer).
We will also email a copy of the cast list to all participants with email addresses and post all final cast lists on the STAGESACADEMY.COM website for review.

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:
First rehearsal will be on Tuesday, December 4, 2007 at 6:30PM.
Rehearsals will begin on Tuesday December 4, 2007 and will run every Tuesday and Thursday from 6:30-8:00PM in the STAGES Studio.
Beginning on January 19th, 2008, we will add a third rehearsal on Saturday afternoons from 10:15-11:15. Please reserve the entire week of February 4th-9th for our final “tech” and “dress” rehearsals. The performances will be held on Friday February 8th at 8PM, and Saturday February 9th at 2PM.
Not all students will be required to attend all Tuesday and Thursday rehearsals. A full and detailed rehearsal schedule will be distributed as early in the rehearsal process as possible.
STAGES does not wish to waste the valuable time of any student or their parents/families. If you are not required to be at a rehearsal we will let you know ahead of time.
If you expect to miss more than 4 rehearsals during the production process, please let us know at the Audition.

ABOUT THE WINTER PLAY CLASS SERIES FEE:
The cost of the Winter Play is $285 per student.

As with all things at STAGES, the Winter Play is an educational opportunity. Each student involved with the show will receive a script/textbook and highly personalized and intense instruction in many areas including, but not limited to, character development, acting, ensemble work, production design and stagecraft, and many other aspects of theatre history and practice that are relevant to the themes in our production.

We estimate that there will be between 40 and 60 hours of rehearsal during our time together. Our production team professionals are committed to making sure that every student receives the same positive and enriching experience while involved with “A FATE WORSE THAN DEATH or ADRIFT ON LIFE’S SEA!”.

STAGES wishes to make the Winter Play Fee schedule as efficient and affordable as possible; ALL students will have the opportunity to split their series fee into three monthly credit card installments.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
Q: What should I wear or bring to my audition?
A: Please wear comfortable clothes. All you need to bring is your audition monologue, your enthusiasm and an open mind!
Q: (for parents) Do I need to stay with my child at the Audition or Rehearsals?
A: You do not need to stay with your child at the Audition. In fact, STAGES general policy is that kids are more creative and uninhibited when their parents are not with them. We would prefer that you drop off your kids at the Audition and at all Rehearsals and pick them up at the end. All of our staff members are
experienced teacher/educators and there will be ample supervision and instruction at all times when there are students in our Studio.

Q: $285 seems expensive for my child to participate in a community play. What's up?
A: STAGES is pleased to offer this theatre experience as part of our regular ongoing programming in our Studio. We differ from a community theatre production in that our production focuses solely on working with KIDS to create something wonderful and beautiful together. We are a professional studio, rather than a non-profit organization. We are not supported in any way by government or other grants or individual contributions. Every student has a wonderful and enriching experience.

Q: Tell me about the payment installment plan, please.
A: STAGES aims to make paying for the Winter Play series fee as efficient and affordable as possible. All students and their families will be offered the opportunity to split the $285 fee into three monthly installments. A $95 deposit will be required at or before the audition on November 27th. You can choose at the Audition to settle the balance of the series, or to opt for the installment plan. STAGES will charge $95 to your credit card automatically on the first of January and the first of February.

Q: How do I pay for the $95 deposit?
A: There are three ways to pay for your $95 deposit:
1. You can visit our website at www.stagesacademy.com, and click our class listings. Once there you should select the “A FATE WORSE THAN DEATH or ADRIFT ON LIFE’S SEA!”/Winter Play course listing, and when you add it to your cart you can choose whether or not you want to pay just the $95 deposit, or the whole $285 fee at that time.
2. You can bring a check or credit card/debit card to the Audition and make the deposit (or entire amount if you choose) at the Audition. Checks should be made payable to STAGES, Inc.
3. You can stop by the Studio with a check or credit card, or call the Studio to enroll with a credit card any time.

Q: Where will the musical be performed?
A: We are in the final process of selecting a venue now, and will announce it very soon.

If you have any questions, please call Stacey or Hollye at the STAGES Studio at (207) 510-6050, or email to hollye@stagesacademy.com

Thank you so much for your interest in “A FATE WORSE THAN DEATH or ADRIFT ON LIFE’S SEA!” and STAGES and we look forward to working with you soon!