

Fort Wayne  
**youtheatre**  
 **AUDITION PACKET**



**OPEN AUDITIONS: Jan. 6 & 7, 2025 (4:30-6:30PM)**

**CALL-BACK: Jan. 8, 2025 (4:30- 6:30PM)**

**CONTENTS:**

Audition Notice & Info

Audition Tips

Audition Sides (Scenes)

**Open Audition Spots by Reservation Only.  
Sign up at [FortWayneYoutheatre.org/auditions](https://FortWayneYoutheatre.org/auditions)**



## AUDITION NOTICE: DATES & TIMES



### OPEN AUDITIONS: Monday, Jan. 6 & Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2025

- EVERYONE must SIGN UP online for a one hour (4:30-5:30PM / 5:30-6:30PM) audition spot one of these days.
- Fill out & bring an audition form and ACCURATELY COMPLETED conflict sheet. Paper copies will be available at auditions if you need to fill it out there.
- Arrive at least 5-10 minutes prior to your audition time (more if you need to fill out the audition form there).
- Location: First Presbyterian Theater/Church, 300 W. Wayne St. (Enter the Theater/Gallery entrance at corner of Ewing & Wayne.)

### Everyone should be prepared to...

- Read from the Audition Sides provided here as assigned by the Directors at the audition.

---

### CALL-BACK: Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2025

- 4:30- 6:30PM
- Location: First Presbyterian Theater/Church, 300 W. Wayne St. (Enter the Theater/Gallery entrance at corner of Ewing & Wayne.)
- Actors needed at Call-Backs will be notified via call or text Monday or Tuesday following Open Auditions.
- Call-Backs will primarily use the same Audition Sides found in this packet.

---

**CAST LIST AVAILABLE:** Friday, Jan. 10 or Monday, Jan. 13 on Youtheatre's FB & Instagram.

**REHEARSALS:** Mondays- Fridays, Jan. 21- Feb. 14 (4:30- 6:30/7:00PM) *Note: No rehearsal Jan. 20- MLK Jr. Day.*

**TECH SUNDAY:** Sunday, Feb. 16 (Noon- 5:00PM)

**TECH WEEK:** Monday, Feb. 17- Thursday, Jan. 20 (4:30- 8:00PM)

### IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT REHEARSALS:

Not all actors will rehearse every day. A specific schedule based on actor conflicts will be made after casting.

---

### MAINSTAGE PERFORMANCES:

**Public Performances @ FPT: Feb. 21 (7PM), 22 (2PM), 23 (2PM)**

**Sensory Friendly Performance @ FPT: Feb. 22 (4:30PM / 4PM- Touch Tour)**

### EMBASSY THEATRE "LEARN IT LIVE" STUDENT PERFORMANCE:

**Brush-Up Rehearsal ON-STAGE @ Embassy: Feb. 26 or 27 (4:30-6:30PM)**

**Student Performance @ Embassy: March 3 (10AM)**

---

### ABOUT THE SHOW:

Friendships challenged, a world changed, and two young people trying to make sense of it together.

Neighbors Josh and Emma are best friends. But something has happened in their town. When a Black man is killed by a police officer, Emma and Josh have questions—real questions that deserve real answers. With so much going on, the two don't know how to keep their friendship from being pulled apart. Layered with compassion and humor, this play invites you into the living rooms of these two families (one Black and one White) as they wrestle with how to help their children make sense of what happened. Playwright Cheryl D. West invites you to walk alongside Josh and Emma as they confront uncertainty within their own town and seek to plant the seeds of change in their community.

Youtheatre's award-winning *Young Heroes of Conscience Series* has long been dedicated to highlighting courageous youth and stories of social justice. We are proud to contribute to another important national conversation with this all-too-relevant story.



## AUDITION NOTICE: SCENES & CHARACTERS



Fort Wayne Youth Theatre seeks 12- 16 actors ages 8- Adult for this Fort Wayne premiere.  
We encourage performers of all races and ethnicities, genders and abilities to audition.  
Reading skills required.

### CHARACTERS...

#### HARTLEY HOUSEHOLD:

- **Emma Hartley:** Youth Female (Approx. 8-11). White. She has a childlike naiveness towards the problems her community is met with. She is upbeat, a token “only child”.
- **Sue Hartley:** Adult Female. White. Emma’s mom. She wants the best for her daughter and those she cares about. She is slightly naive to the resounding effects on her community.
- **Uncle Manny:** Older Teen or Adult Male. White. Emma’s police officer uncle. An upbeat, jovial police officer that takes pride in protecting his community. He has moral conflicts surrounding past events.

#### PERKINS HOUSEHOLD:

- **Josh Perkins:** Youth Male (Approx. 8-11). Black. Emma’s slightly more realistic neighbor and best friend. He is surrounded by conflicted feelings and opinions following the event and is confused about how to feel.
- **Malcolm Perkins:** Teenage Male (Approx 16). Black. Josh’s older brother. He is confident and passionate about what he believes in.
- **Calvin Perkins:** Adult Male. Black. Josh & Malcolm’s dad. He is wise and fatherly, a warm figure who wants to protect his family.
- **Bella Perkins:** Adult Female. Black. Josh & Malcolm’s mom. She is passionate about the well-being of her children and community.
  
- **Ms. Garcia:** Adult Female. Josh & Emma’s teacher. Cares deeply about her students .

#### THE KIDS:

- **Daniel:** White, 8. Confident and charming.
- **Sophia:** Black, 8. Kind and passionate.
- **Ling:** Asian, 8. Quiet and sweet.
- **Omar:** Latinx, 8. The new kid. Nervous and kind.

*Note: Listed ages are that of the characters. Actors need not be the exact age, but be able to play it. We are currently open to parents and teachers being played by adults OR high school age actors.*



## Remember...

Don't think of an audition as a competition. Think of it as a chance to do something you love to do- perform! For however long you're up there, that role is yours. Make the most of it. Be creative. **HAVE FUN!**

The Directors are all rooting for you to succeed!

### General Audition Tips...

- **BE PREPARED.**

Directors are impressed by actors who care.  
Know the show. Read the script. Listen to the music.

- **BE ON TIME.**

- **ALWAYS PAY ATTENTION.**

Listen quietly to others. It is polite...PLUS you learn from what they do.

- **REMEMBER, YOU ARE AUDITIONING ON-STAGE & OFF.**

The directors are always watching.

- **DON'T APOLOGIZE OR MAKE EXCUSES.**

Director's can tell when you're sick. Just do the best you can.

- **GIVE IT 150%.**

Do your absolute best, then...

- **LET IT GO.**

Whatever happens happens. IT'S ONLY A PLAY!!!

### Reading Audition Tips...

- **BE SEEN!**

Don't hide behind your script.  
Hold it about chest level so we can see your face.

- **BE HEARD!!**

Project your voice so directors can hear & understand you.

- **BE CONFIDENT (even if it's fake)**

Plant your feet. Use your face, your hands, your whole body to communicate.

- **LISTEN TO YOUR FELLOW ACTORS!!!**

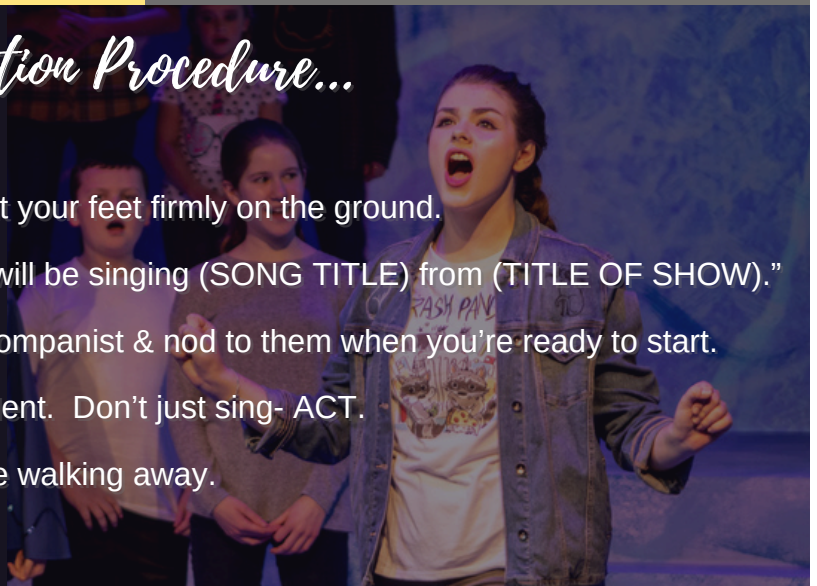
Pay attention & react to what they do.

- **DON'T JUST READ, ACT!!!!**

Directors know you can read.  
Show them you can ACT!

### Youth Theatre Musical Vocal Audition Procedure...

- Enter
- Go to your spot in front of the Directors & plant your feet firmly on the ground.
- Say "Hello, my name is (YOUR NAME) and I will be singing (SONG TITLE) from (TITLE OF SHOW)."
- Make eye contact with the Music Director/Accompanist & nod to them when you're ready to start.
- Sing your song. Be loud. Be clear. Be confident. Don't just sing- ACT.
- When finished singing, say "Thank you" before walking away.
- Exit.





## AUDITION NOTICE: AUDITION SIDES

### SIDE #1

JOSH, BELLA, EMMA

**JOSH :** Mom, what happened?

**BELLA:** I've had a little stomach ache all day. Sorry I wasn't on the porch. How was school?

**JOSH:** It was fine except...

**EMMA:** It was like all the teachers had a secret..

**JOSH:** Yeah.

**EMMA:** A secret that they didn't want us to know about.

**JOSH:** Even our teacher was crying. Made me nervous.

**BELLA:** Honey, I'm sure she didn't mean to make you nervous.

**EMMA:** Is what's on TV a part of it? Did Sue say...

**BELLA:** Sue?! Do you always call your mother Sue?

**EMMA:** Well, that's her name. Did she say my Uncle Manny was ok?

**BELLA:** Oh, honey I'm sure he is. Your mother never said otherwise. There has been an incident in the community but I'm sure your mother would prefer to discuss it with you herself.



## AUDITION NOTICE: AUDITION SIDES

### SIDE #2

MALCOLM, BELLA, JOSH, CALVIN

**MALCOLM**

What if it there had been a white man in the car? Would the police still have shot him? No!

**CALVIN**

They probably wouldn't even have stopped the car. Pass the potatoes.

**JOSH**

I don't understand. Why wouldn't they have stopped the car?

**BELLA**

Sometimes, Josh, white people are treated better than Black people.

**JOSH**

Do I have to eat these string beans?

**BELLA**

And that's not right. Everyone should be treated fairly.

**JOSH**

So, I don't have to eat these string beans?

**CALVIN**

Eat a few, boy.

**MALCOLM**

I'll tell you what, if a cop stops me...

**CALVIN**

You are going to follow his direction.

**BELLA**

Malcolm don't talk with your mouth full.



**SIDE #2 (Continued...)**

**CALVIN**

If a cop stops you, you will fall in line and do exactly...

**MALCOLM**

We're not in school, Dad. No need for principal speak. Plus, you don't tell the white students to fall in line.

**CALVIN**

I don't have to.

**JOSH**

So you have different rules for the white kids, dad?

**CALVIN**

No I don't have different rules for them, the world does.

**BELLA**

Calvin, he's a little young to...

**CALVIN**

We can't continue to coddle him Bella. This thing is at our doorstep. He's got to be prepared. Being the color you two boys are means you're facing a different system, a system of inherent bias.



## AUDITION NOTICE: AUDITION SIDES

### SIDE #3

JOSH, EMMA

JOSH

Don't you think we should get to the bus stop?

EMMA

Josh, we'll hear the bus when it makes the turn.

JOSH

But if we miss it...I...I never like to be late.

EMMA

Josh, you worry too much...

JOSH

I really don't like to be late.

JOSH (CONT'D)

I think I hear the bus.

EMMA

Josh, will you stop with the bus already??? Now, since we're best friends you'll always stick by my side at school, right? Especially with recess.

JOSH

I guess.

EMMA

I'm just so glad you moved in so now I have a best friend right next door to play with everyday.

JOSH

I guess. Since my brother became a teenager, he really doesn't have much to do with me anymore.





## AUDITION NOTICE: AUDITION SIDES

### SIDE #4

EMMA, SUE

**SUE**

You're awfully quiet tonight. What's wrong?

**SUE (CONT'D)**

Oh honey, what's wrong?

**EMMA**

I don't know what to do. People are so angry. Even Josh. I don't know how to talk about it. How can Uncle Manny be so good but people think he's not, and they don't even know him?

**SUE**

Because they think mistreatment by certain cops is a pattern...

**EMMA**

Pattern? Like my blanket and the clothes I wear?

**SUE**

Yes, but this is an unfair pattern that people feel keeps getting repeated. A pattern where some people may not treat others fairly.

**EMMA**

But why would they treat people bad on purpose?

**SUE**

Well, for some the job isn't a good fit. Some get angry because they fear for their own lives, but we can all work to set a new pattern



## AUDITION NOTICE: AUDITION SIDES

### SIDE #4 (Continued...)

**EMMA**

I really try but I...

**SUE**

What's the but? But what?

**EMMA**

I just don't want to lose my friend.

Do you think you could ask Uncle Manny not to come tomorrow?

**SUE**

But why...

**EMMA**

Because people are hating on cops now and if I bring one to school, they'll be hating on me even more. Even Josh. He was the one person that used to treat me nice... Until all these bad things started happening.

**SUE**

I'm really sorry some of the kids are still acting a little mean to you.

**EMMA**

(nods yes)

Yeah, I used to pretend that they liked me even if they didn't.

**EMMA**

But then I got Josh and I didn't have to pretend anymore. He really was my friend.

**SUE**

(pulling Emma into embrace)

I'm sorry honey that you're having a difficult time of it.



## AUDITION NOTICE: AUDITION SIDES

### SIDE #5

MANNY, JOSH

**JOSH**  
(Waving)  
Hi Officer Manny.

**MANNY**  
Hey partner. Thought I'd check in on Emma  
this morning but...  
They meet up between the yards.

**MANNY (CONT'D)**  
I don't think Emma's having a good morning.

**JOSH**  
Yeah, she usually doesn't. You know because  
of school. She gets sad a lot at school.

**MANNY**  
She does? Really? Josh can you keep a secret  
just between us?

**JOSH**  
I guess so but I'm not...not the best secret keeper.

**MANNY**  
Think Emma's been more upset than I realized.  
So keep a good watch out for her today, ok?  
And I'm going to do us all a favor and skip  
career day...

**JOSH**  
But that's all Emma's been talking  
about...You have to come...

**MANNY**  
I think Josh, me being there adds too much extra pressure.



## AUDITION NOTICE: AUDITION SIDES

### SIDE #5 (Continued)...

**JOSH**

But you can't give in to pressure, Officer Manny. No matter who it is. That's what my mom says. People need to see good cops like you. Even my Dad said so.

**JOSH**

You saved my brother. But can I ask you something? If there was a really bad cop, and you knew about it, would you tell on him so he couldn't hurt anybody else?

**MANNY**

Gotta go. We 'll continue this later.

**JOSH**

Please come today, Officer Manny. Emma's counting on it...I'm counting on it.



## AUDITION NOTICE: AUDITION SIDES

### SIDE #6

JOSH, DANIEL, EMMA, LING, SOPHIA

**DANIEL**

Now I always pick the teams and I say he doesn't belong. And if you keep it up, Josh, you won't get to play either. So, Sophia, you're on my team...

**JOSH**

(Takes a courage breath, then)  
Step off Daniel!

**DANIEL**

What did you say? I know I didn't hear what I thought I heard.

**JOSH**

You did. I said step off.

**DANIEL**

What the heck are you trying to prove, Josh?  
Yesterday you were on our side.

**JOSH**

But today I'm...I'm on everybody's side. And I don't care what you say, you're not going to pressure me to be on the wrong side.

**EMMA**

Yeah, and you're acting prejudice. You need to set a new pattern.

**DANIEL**

Shut up Emma.

**EMMA**

See that's your pattern Daniel. Being mean when somebody doesn't agree with you. You like to scare people but I'm not scared of you anymore.



## AUDITION NOTICE: AUDITION SIDES

### SIDE #6

**DANIEL**

You're crazy. Absolute psycho.

**JOSH**

No, she's not. Emma is very smart.

**SOPHIA**

Daniel, give it up. Emma called it right.  
It's hard being new. I remember when I was new  
and nobody liked me...

**LING**

We still don't.

**SOPHIA**

You made fun of me, saying my hair beads made  
too much noise and that my hair stunk 'cause I  
had grease in it.

**LING**

I don't even remember that.

**SOPHIA**

Well, I do. I used to cry every morning wishing  
I could go to a different school. I hated it here.

**EMMA**

Yeah, but that's our old pattern. If we just give  
each other a chance we could...

**JOSH**

(Pointedly to Emma)

We could become friends. Best friends.