

AKEELAH AND THE BEE: ADULT AUDITION PACKET



Welcome to Dream Arts Co. production of AKEELAH AND THE BEE! TEAM DACO would like to thank you for your interest in auditioning for AKEELAH AND THE BEE. Please read these pages very carefully so that you have all of the information regarding auditions, rehearsals and the show.

The journey of Akeelah and her quest to triumph at the National Spelling Bee is a heartwarming tale that inspires determination and courage. As you prepare for your audition, remember that every role, no matter how big or small, contributes to the magic of the story. Embrace the opportunity to be part of a community that celebrates the power of words and the spirit of perseverance. Break a leg, and may your audition performance be as unforgettable as the story itself!
-TEAM DACO

NOTE: For those unable to make the scheduled audition dates, we offer the flexibility to arrange an alternative time. Simply reach out to us via email at your earliest convenience, and we'll work together to find a suitable date. Your opportunity to showcase your talent is important to us, and we strive to accommodate everyone's schedule. Please contact DACODETROI@HOTMAIL.COM to set up your new audition time.

Quick Overview

Please take note of the following information:

There is no production fee for adult actors. However, we expect adult actors to contribute volunteer hours to the production outside rehearsals.

Each cast member will be responsible for purchasing their footwear, leotard, tights, makeup, hair products/accessories, and wigs as required. The specific shoe style needed will be assigned per character. Please wait until the director has assigned you a particular style/color before purchasing shoes for the show.

While optional, additional expenses may include merchandise such as cast t-shirts, sweatpants, bags, show tickets, and the cast party. However, costume accessories, shoes, wigs, leotards, and tights are not optional expenses.

Important Performance Note: For those interested in auditioning for "Akeelah," please be aware that the production includes a special daytime performance. This show is scheduled for **Thursday, February 6, 2025**, and will necessitate the absence from school for most, if not the entire day. All potential actors must consider this commitment and ensure their

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availability for this particular date before applying. This performance is an integral part of the production's schedule. It offers a unique opportunity for actors to showcase their talents to a different audience, including school groups and other organizations. Participation in all scheduled performances is essential for the continuity and success of the show.

Casting

DACO is dedicated to fostering a diverse and inclusive environment, which is showcased by our selection of plays and musicals celebrating various cultural identities. Our current project, 'Akeelah and the Bee,' is a testament to this commitment. We are calling for a vibrant, multicultural ensemble of performers, ranging from children to adults. While the script specifies roles for African American, Latinx, Asian, and Caucasian actors, we strongly encourage individuals of all ethnicities to participate in the auditions.

At DACO, every actor is a volunteer, discovered through open auditions that welcome both the fresh enthusiasm of newcomers and the refined talent of experienced performers. We are proud to offer a platform where individuals of all skill levels, backgrounds, and abilities can come together to experience the transformative power of the arts. Join us to explore the enchanting world of DACO, where every performance is an opportunity to celebrate diversity and unity through the universal language of art.

About Akeelah & the Bee

"Akeelah and the Bee" is a heartwarming narrative that follows Akeelah Anderson, a determined 11-year-old girl from Chicago's south side. Despite facing personal and academic challenges, Akeelah's passion for words and spelling bees ignites a journey that takes her beyond the confines of her school and into the competitive world of the National Spelling Bee. Along the way, she encounters a diverse cast of characters who shape her experience, including the stern but wise Dr. Joshua Larabee, the supportive Javier Mendez, and the formidable Dylan Chiu. The story explores themes of perseverance, community, and the power of mentorship as Akeelah navigates the complexities of adolescence and the high-stakes environment of spelling competitions. With each triumph and setback, Akeelah learns valuable lessons about resilience and the importance of staying true to oneself. This synopsis captures the essence of Akeelah's inspiring journey, reflecting the universal appeal of overcoming obstacles and achieving one's dreams.

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Attendance/Conflict Policy

- We require you to submit all conflicts during the auditions.
- All conflicts must be handed in by the last night of callbacks.
- Additional or new conflicts are considered unexcused absences and may lead to being dropped from the show.
- We reserve the right not to cast a participant if that person has excessive conflicts.
- Participants may have NO conflicts during technical weeks (the last week of rehearsals before the show opens.)

Rehearsal & Show Dates

The rehearsal schedule is set to commence in mid-November 2024, with sessions planned for Wednesdays and Thursdays after 6:00 p.m. Flexibility is built into the schedule to accommodate weekend rehearsals as needed. However, these are not fixed and will be determined based on the production's requirements. It's important to note that attendance at every rehearsal is not mandatory for all actors, as calls will be dependent on the scenes being rehearsed.

Holiday Season: During the holiday season, rehearsals will not be scheduled for Thanksgiving weekend or on December 25, 26, January 1, or 2. If you have travel plans during this time, please specify your dates on your audition form. There are no casting penalties for travel.

Technical Rehearsals

Technical rehearsals are crucial for the success of any theatrical production. They ensure that all performance elements, including lighting, sound, and stage mechanics, work seamlessly together. All actors are expected to be present during the tech week from January 30, 2025, to February 8, 2025. These rehearsals will take place in the historic Flagstar Strand Theatre in downtown Pontiac, providing a unique opportunity to experience the grandeur of this venue while perfecting the show's technical aspects.

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Rehearsal Location

Rehearsals will occur at the DACO rehearsal studio in Downtown Birmingham.

Performance Location

Performances will occur inside the historic Flagstr Strand Theatre in downtown Pontiac.

Performance Dates

February 6-8, 2025

Audition Requirements

Get ready to showcase your talent! To audition, performers should prepare a captivating -two-minute monologue, an expressive poem, or an engaging story. You might even have the chance to do some cold readings from the script.

- Arrive NO MORE THAN 10 minutes before your audition appointment.
- PLEASE NOTE: The audition process may take approximately 1 -2.5 hours.

- Ensure all paperwork, including the conflict calendar, is fully and accurately completed beforehand.

Audition Callback

Callbacks are a critical step in the selection process in the context of auditions. They typically last at least four hours and require full attendance from those called back. Participants need to be flexible and patient during these sessions. Unfortunately, if a participant cannot attend the callback, scheduling an individual session at a separate time is generally impossible. Commitment to the callback schedule is crucial for consideration.

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Character Breakdown

NOTE: The provided age range is a guideline for the character's age.

Ideally, you should be able to play someone within that age range believably.

- AKEELAH ANDERSON – Female, 9-15, African American
- GAIL ANDERSON, African American, Akeelah's mother
- REGGIE ANDERSON, about 20, African American, Akeelah's brother
- DR. JOSHUA LARABEE, African American, Akeelah's spelling bee coach/teacher
- GEORGIA, 10-15, Akeelah's best friend
- BATTY RUTH, African American, Akeelah's first-floor neighbor
- MR. WILLIE, African American, building superintendent
- JT, 21, African American, neighbor
- RATCHET RHONDA, female, 10-15, African-American. Akeelah's nemesis.
- DYLAN CHIU, male, 12-15, Asian American
- JAVIER MENDEZ, male, 12-15, Latinx
- TRISH, female, 12-15, any ethnicity
- IZZY, female, 11-15, any ethnicity
- MR. or MRS. CHIU, Asian American – This role may be cast by either male or female
- PRINCIPAL, Any ethnicity or gender.
- OTHER ROLES: This production will have an ensemble playing various roles. **Gender and race are open to all.** Roles include DJ Rule, District Judge, TV Announcer, Chucky, Pronouncer, Snorting Girl/Boy, Crying Girl/Boy, Foxy Fay/Felix, Horse Girl/Boy, and Mohawk Girl/Boy.

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BREAK A LEG!

WORD OF THE DAY

audition
noun | aw-dish-uhn

1: a trial hearing given to a singer, actor, or other performer to test suitability for employment, professional training or competition, etc.
2: a reading or other simplified rendering of a theatrical work, performed before a potential backer, producer, etc.

GET READY FOR THE BEE