

AKEELAH AND THE BEE AUDITION PACKET: YOUTH & TEENS

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.

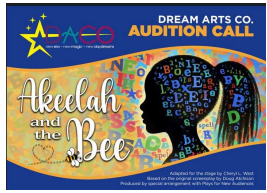
The journey of Akeelah and her quest to triumph at the National Spelling Bee is a heartwarming tale that inspires determination and courage. As you prepare for your audition, remember that every role, no matter how big or small, contributes to the magic of the story. Embrace the opportunity to be part 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

Dream Arts Company offers a comprehensive educational experience for young artists in elementary through high school. Our tuition-based structure ensures students access to quality arts education, fostering creative talents in a structured environment. It's important to note that while tuition covers the core educational services, additional expenses, such as tickets for performances, merchandise, costumes, makeup, etc., are separate costs. This allows families to manage their budgets accordingly, ensuring students can participate in the entire artistic experience without hidden fees. Dream Arts Company's transparent approach to costs associated with arts education makes it an attractive option for parents looking to invest in their children's artistic development.

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 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



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groups and other organizations. Participation in all scheduled performances is essential for the continuity and success of the show.

Financial Assistance

We believe equal access to the arts is vital. We want to ensure that financial constraints do not hinder participation. Offering payment plans and need-based scholarships for productions allows all children to explore their talents and passions. It's essential for parents to know that these options exist and to communicate any financial assistance needs early in the audition process. This proactive approach allows for inclusive planning and ensures every child can shine on stage.

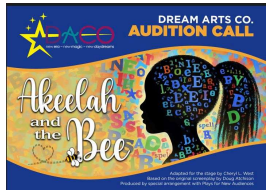
Casting

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



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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.

Tuition & Fees

- Tuition Fee: Elementary, middle, or high school participants who are cast will pay a \$225 production fee. Tuition is non-refundable/non-transferable. 100% of these fees are put towards the cost of the production. All shows and final rehearsals are mandatory. If financial assistance is needed, please indicate interest in your audition email request.
- Costume Fee. The production fee does not fully cover rented or custom-made costumes. Participants will pay a fee to help cover the rental, creation, and/or purchase of costume items. Prices will vary depending on the size and number of roles/costumes needed for each actor.

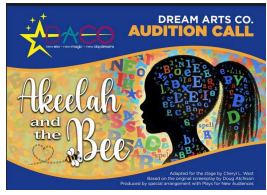
ADDITIONAL FEES (most are optional):

- Merchandise (cast t-shirts/sweatpants/bags, etc.)
- Show tickets
- Field trips
- Costume accessories/shoes/wigs/leotards/tights/stage makeup/hair accessories (not optional)
- Cast Party.

These and other ancillary costs are not included in the tuition fee.

Parent Volunteer Hours

- Parent Volunteer Hours are REQUIRED for all parents with children in elementary, middle, or high school.
- After casting, you may indicate your work assignment preference, but assignments are based on production needs. The strike (theater clean up and move out) is scheduled immediately following the final production.



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- Children of parents who fail to volunteer for pre-production and show duty will be dismissed from the cast. Tuition and production-related fees, including tickets, are non-refundable.

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.
- No tuition will be refunded if a performer is forced to withdraw because of too many conflicts.
- 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.)

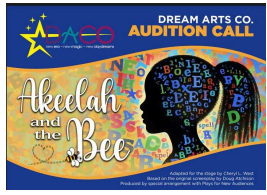
Rehearsal & Show Dates

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 elements of the performance, 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



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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.

Rehearsal Location

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

Performance Location

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

Performance Dates

February 6-8, 2025

Audition Requirements

Get ready to showcase your talent! To audition, students 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.

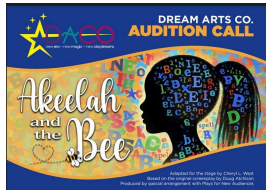
- Arrive NO MORE THAN 10 minutes before your audition appointment.
- PLEASE NOTE: The audition process may take approximately 1 -2.5 hours.

- Dress in a way that is both professional and comfortable, allowing for natural movement.

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

- Maintain courteous and professional behavior at all times, as it will be noted.

- Stay relaxed, breathe, enjoy the process, and let your personality be visible.



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- Keep hydrated with water and maintain a positive demeanor with a smile.
- Upon entering the audition room, greet the panel with a smile and a hello.
- Introduce yourself and your piece confidently while standing on the designated mark.
- Always conclude the audition with gratitude and be prepared for any additional questions or requests from the panel.
- Remain confident and leave the room knowing you have given your best performance.

Audition Callback

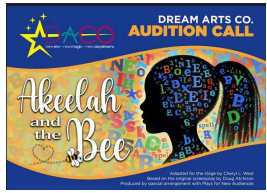
Callbacks are a critical step in the selection process in the context of auditions. They typically last at least four hours and require full attendance from those called back. Participants need to be flexible and patient during these sessions. Unfortunately, if a participant cannot attend the callback,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

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



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- 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 Foy/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

Akeelah and the Bee