

## **JUNIE B JONES and HOW DEMOCRACIES DIE**

### Audition information

#### **WHAT ARE THEY??**

**Junie B Jones** is a one-act musical adaptation of four of Barbara Park's best-selling books, brought to life in a genuinely comical (and not strictly-for-kids) musical developed by Theatreworks USA. This is also a chance to do a full-scale Theatre for Young Audiences production and gain valuable experience in one of the most common post-graduation gigs for young performers. Bring your enthusiasm and sense of wonder as we explore Junie B's year in first grade.

#### **JBj REHEARSAL/PERFORMANCE DATES:**

Rehearsals will likely begin Monday, August 26. Rehearsals are generally 6/6:30pm to 10/10:30pm M-F and Sunday either 1-5pm or 6-10pm (depending on actor availability).

*Since the show run time is under 1 hour, if we find we can drop to 5 days a week, we will.*

Tech rehearsals will be SAT Sept 28 (probably 11am-5pm), Sun Sept 29 (probably 11am-5pm). Dress rehearsals will be 5/5:30pm-11pm on Monday and Tuesday, Sept 30 and Oct 1. Performances are Oct 2 (10am school show), Oct 3 and 4 (7pm) Oct 5 (10am and 2pm) and Oct 6 (2pm). Talk-backs/character introduction with the audience will be scheduled for some/all morning or afternoon shows.

**\*NOTE: some ensemble roles will be held for Freshman/Transfer auditions in July/August**

**How Democracies Die** will be a theatrical adaptation of the NY Times best-selling and award-winning book by Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt. The book draws on decades of research and a wide range of historical and global examples, from 1930s Europe to contemporary countries around the world to the American South during Jim Crow, through the re-alignment of the US political parties and on to (and past) the 2016 elections. The book systematically illustrates how democracies back-slide into authoritarianism, and also, what can be done to prevent this from happening.

We have been given permission to by the authors and publisher to adapt this non-fiction book into play.

#### **HOW WILL THIS BE DONE?**

This will be a hybrid approach. I will be conceptualizing the overall piece- and writing scripted sections directly from the book, before the start of rehearsals. I plan to have other parts of the piece designated that will be devised with the actors. Some of the rehearsals will be devoted to training the cast to be a devising ensemble. Then we will work on creating certain sections and further developing the pre-written parts. The final phase will resemble that of a more traditional rehearsal period where we will focus on deepening, refining and detailing the piece. As is the case with any new or developing play-cast members must be able to adapt to changes throughout the entire process, right up to the first performance. Ensemble members must also have the capacity to put the good of the overall production, first. As the play takes shape- scenes may be cut, or something that was developed by actor 1 may have to be performed by actor 2. The success of this piece will be dependent upon the collective needs of the ensemble.

I am seeking to put together an ensemble of creative, courageous, collaborative, theatre artists who desire to work selflessly together toward making something important.

#### **HDD REHEARSAL/PERFORMANCE DATES:**

Rehearsals will likely begin the week of Sept 21. Rehearsals are generally 6/6:30pm to 10/10:30pm M-F and Sunday either 1-5pm or 6-10pm (depending on actor availability). Tech rehearsals will be SAT Oct 26-12pm-5pm, Sun Oct 27, 12pm-5pm. Dress rehearsals will be 5:30pm-11pm on Monday and Tuesday, Oct 28 and 29. Performances are Oct 30- Nov 2 at 7pm and Nov 3 at 2pm. Talk-backs with the audience are scheduled for all performances. Unfortunately, students will not be able to be in both

*June B Jones* AND *How Democracies Die* (due to the time overlap). However, it is always a good idea to audition for both, and see what happens. The directors always collaborate to assure the best possible outcome for every student who auditions.

## AUDITIONS:

Unfortunately, students will not be able to be in both *June B Jones* AND *How Democracies Die* (due to the time overlap). However, it is always a good idea to audition for both and see what happens. The directors always collaborate to assure the best possible outcome for every student who auditions.

**General Call Video Submission: Due by April 14 by 12pm**

**[CLICK HERE FOR AUDITION FORM AND VIDEO SUBMISSION](#)**

### What to Submit

#### AUDITIONING FOR BOTH:

1. students should prepare the original Democracy piece (criteria below) as well as
2. at least 32 bars of an up tempo in the style of Junie B Jones.

#### AUDITIONING FOR JUST JUNIE B JONES:

1. 32 bars for 2 contrasting songs:
  - a. 1 up tempo, and
  - b. 1 other cutting they feel is appropriate for Junie B Jones

#### AUDITIONING JUST FOR HOW DEMOCRACIES DIE:

Create your own theatre piece that is anywhere between 1 and 5 minutes long based on this prompt: "Democracy. The truth is...."

It must include SOME text (IE- you must speak some lines). These lines can be something you write, or it can be from a pre-written source. BUT- it must NOT come from a play or movie script.

You don't have to have any political point of view, on this. You don't have to do any research. You don't even have to have any knowledge about the subject at all. Create this piece based on who you are and what you know/don't know, fear/hope, care/don't care, RIGHT NOW. Be yourself- be a character- be both. Make it funny- make it serious- make it both...it does not matter. Create something that is enjoyable for to make.

You don't need to worry about "am I doing this right?" There is NO right way to do it, other than I want you to use the prompt as the basis of your piece. (you don't need to state the prompt in your piece) and it needs to be between 1-5 minutes long and it must contain spoken words (how much is up to you). Even though you will video this piece- keep in mind that it's a THEATRE piece. (IE- approach it as if you were performing face to face in the theatre). You can frame it however you would like to. (Whatever works best for your piece). Have fun! Create!

**CALL-BACKS FOR JUNIE B JONES: Thursday, April 25, 6pm-finish**

**CALL-BACKS FOR HOW DEMOCRACIES DIE: Sunday, April 28**

### **Questions?**

Contact [Raina.Ames@unh.edu](mailto:Raina.Ames@unh.edu), JUNIE B JONES

Contact [David.Kaye@unh.edu](mailto:David.Kaye@unh.edu), HOW DEMOCRACIES DIE