



FungusAmongus Players of Dassel-Cokato

A new approach to FungusAmongus auditions

Greetings from FungusAmongus Players to all prospective theatre *participants* in our upcoming season!

In attempting to develop recent productions from our company, we have discovered some issues that are causing difficulty in planning and eventually staging the shows slated for our projected season offerings. Foremost among these issues is the recurring problem of drawing sufficient numbers of performers available and/or willing to audition for the roles required to cast the shows.

We recognize that people are stretched many different directions in deciding where they might be willing to invest their precious time. Prominent among their considerations might be whether they wish to take on a weeks-long commitment to rehearsals. While we respect everyone's right to choose their areas of interest and dedication, our company has lately found it necessary to recruit, cajole and even plead with people in an attempt to simply cast the shows. Two summers ago, a production of "Romeo and Juliet" was canceled for lack of enough folks who auditioned to make the production happen. The recently completed production of "The Crucible" very nearly met the same fate.

So, we seek to try something different. We wish to institute a once-per-year GENERAL AUDITION for roles in the various shows being considered for the upcoming season. The idea is that we hold the audition using material that may not be specific to any single play under consideration for the season but would reveal potential talent for roles in plays not as of yet determined. This would provide us with information about:

1. Individual actors' availability at various times in the upcoming year;
2. Individual actors' appropriateness for key roles or roles with specific physical requirements of a particular play being considered;
3. Individual actors' preferences as to which shows (among a tentative list) they would be eager to – or conversely, reluctant to – perform in;
4. Whether the sheer number of actors necessary for certain shows would be forthcoming.

FungusAmongus Players of Dassel-Cokato Mission

The FungusAmongus Players provides access to a broad range of high quality, affordable theatrical experiences that move and entertain audiences and inspire community participation in all aspects of a production.



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*NOTE: While directors would gather some tentative casting ideas, this WILL NOT constitute formal pre-casting! There will still be individual auditions prior to the beginning of each chosen show's production. Directors love surprise walk-in gems! Also, we welcome with open arms newcomers, first-timers and other folk who may not have been present for the general audition.

Armed with the above information, our theater board could more accurately predict which shows under consideration would – or would not be – viable. We could choose a season that is “tailor-made” for actors we know will be interested and available. We could also actively seek shows that could effectively use EVERYONE who auditioned, so nobody needs to be turned away. We would hope to find at least one play in which each person who auditions could perform in the upcoming season.

Prior to auditions, a list of 8 – 12 tentative shows being considered for the season will be provided through the FungusAmongus website and social media channels. The prospective scripts will be available at the Dassel History Museum at least one month prior to the general audition and *may be* read in advance by those planning to audition, in order to better inform potential actors regarding story, mood, style, and content. Actors may then familiarize themselves with choices they might make regarding preferences among shows and specific roles. There will also be live play reading at various times prior to the general audition, as the Fungus board peruses potential play choices. Anyone interested may join us at the time and dates to be announced on our website and via social media channels.

This year we will have three separate dates for these general auditions, to better accommodate folks' scheduling availability. All three will take place in conjunction with the already announced dates for our summer show, “Much Ado About Nothing,” by William Shakespeare, directed by Isaac Olson. These dates are Saturday April 20, Thursday April 25, and Sunday May 5. All auditions will be held from 6PM until 9PM at the Dassel History Center.

We sincerely hope that this experiment will be suitable to our pool of performers, will aid our directors in pre-assessing casting options and provide our board with information necessary to choose a slate of shows that can be confidently cast.

Hoping to see you all at auditions!

David Metcalf

FungusAmongus Players Artistic Director

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PS: In addition to welcoming "new blood" to our acting talent pool, we are eager to hear from folks who would like to direct shows for our company. If you are an experienced director - OR - an experienced actor who would like to try your hand at directing, please submit a brief resume of your acting and/or directing work and indicate the theater companies with whom you have worked. Submit to: dmetcalf88@yahoo.com, along with contact data and I will bring your interest to the attention of the FungusAmongus Players board of directors. We welcome any suggestions you might have as to plays you would be eager to stage in some future FAP season.

For your information, here are a few titles we are currently *considering* for our 2024-25 season:

COMEDIES:

"The Explorers' Club": a group of intrepid British gentlemen are aghast that their revered organization may be infiltrated by a (gasp!) woman.

"Finishing School", two elderly residents at a retirement facility address the issues of aging, loneliness and boredom.

"The Death and Life of Sneaky Fitch", what happens when the town drunk violates 'The Code of the West' by becoming Gopher Gulch's top gunslinger?

DRAMA:

"A Cry of Players", an imagined recreation of the home life of young William Shakespeare *before* leaving Stratford-Upon Avon to become the world's greatest playwright.

"Spoon River Anthology", the inhabitants of an Illinois cemetery are briefly resurrected, each giving an account of his/her small town experience of life in late 1800's mid-America.

"Under Milk Wood", poet Dylan Thomas's depiction of the quirky inhabitants of a tiny Welsh fishing village as they progress through a single day in their lives.

MUSICALS:

"Annie", the tale of an optimistic orphan girl during the days of the great depression.

"You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown", the beloved "Peanuts" characters of Charles Schultz share their charming perspectives on their childhood world.

"Sweeney Todd", an innocent London barber is sent to prison by a corrupt and lustful judge. Upon his eventual release, his revenge-induced madness wreaks havoc among his unsuspecting enemies.

"Forever Plaid", when four young singers are killed in a car crash, they posthumously take the stage for one final gig in this goofy, 1950s nostalgia trip.

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