

Welcome to the KingsWay Middle School production of...



Our shows are very much a team effort but the responsibility for that comes down to us all as individuals. If you wish to audition, your first responsibility is to make sure you and your family completely understand what will be expected of you, if you choose to audition and are selected.

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Extra information, audition material and forms at KingsWay School website

Section 1 Our Vision and The Management Team

KingsWay Production Vision Statement:

- To give students one of their most memorable moments of school life;
- To share with others the love of theatre and performing;
- To see young people learn about themselves, grow and blossom in a safe, yet challenging environment with a deliberate team approach rather than an individual focus;
- To teach young people what it takes to reach and maintain performance excellence: the disciplines, cooperation, stage craft and performing skills;
- To experience the enjoyment of coordinating so many people with a common purpose and watching, piece by piece, the jigsaw come together.

Production Management Team:

Co-Directors: Sam Hagen + Sophie Catterall

Choreographer: Maisie Dunning

Musical Director: Jo Clayton

Production Manager: Maisie Dunning + Claire Trebilco

Production Administrator: Aimee Robinson

Senior Management Liaison: Kristina Taylor

Section 2 Our Expectations of Production Members

What Are Our Expectations?

You will be required to make *The Lion King Jr* your **NUMBER ONE CO-CURRICULAR COMMITMENT FOR 2023.**

- Leave can only be applied for from Miss Dunning and granting it will always be at her discretion, taking into consideration what is best for the team.
- Excepting illness, emergencies and school trips, it is unlikely Miss Dunning will consider leave from rehearsals in 2023 unless it has been applied for, for a significant reason. **GOOD COMMUNICATION IS EVERYTHING.**
- Advertised rehearsal times are our **start** times – you are expected to arrive 5 minutes early and be ready to start at these times.
- Learning lines is something actors do in their own time – rehearsals are for putting the show together.
- If you are experiencing any difficulties in meeting our expectations (this might be due to workload, stress or other unexpected circumstances) you should discuss this with Miss Dunning. Please do this early so that we can work towards a satisfactory outcome.
- **Absence without leave or repeated lateness, are likely to result in dismissal from the company.**
- As this is a school production, school rules apply to all aspects of its preparation and performance.
- As with any production, there is a sacrifice of time and a significant commitment to ensure a show of excellence is produced.
- Students are required to attend all rehearsals, unless they are medically unfit, and have discussed prior to rehearsals legitimate reasons with myself. Failure to do so may risk their place in the production team.
- Any questions, please do not hesitate in contacting our Production Team.

By signing the pre-audition form, students and parents/caregivers are confirming that you understand and agree to our expectations and the commitments required. Do not sign if you are unsure or unwilling to meet expectations. Please contact Miss Dunning for clarification so you sign with full understanding.

Section 3 Term 1 Auditions and Rehearsals

The Lion King JR Audition Schedule			
<u>WEEK 2</u>			
Date	Auditions for	Who	Where
Thurs 9 th Feb	Group auditions for ALL Y7-9 students interested.	Year 7 - 9	G203/G204
Fri 10 th Feb	Group auditions for ALL Y7-9 students interested.	Year 7 - 9	G203/G204
<u>WEEK 3</u>			
Mon 13 th Feb	Principals (Mufasa, Young/Old Simba's, Young/Old Nala's, Rafiki's, Zazu's, Scar's, Three Hyena's, Sarabi, Sarafina, Timon and Pumbaa)	Year 9	G203
Tues 14 th Feb	Principals (Mufasa, Young/Old Simba's, Young/Old Nala's, Rafiki's, Zazu's, Scar's, Three Hyena's, Sarabi, Sarafina, Timon and Pumbaa)	Year 7 + 8	G203
Wed 15 th Feb	Callbacks	You will be emailed	G203
Thurs 16 th Feb	Callbacks	You will be emailed	G203

Due to the flooding/weather postponing the start of Term One, it will be a fast turnaround for the audition process. All students who are wanting to audition are expected to be in G203 at lunchtime Thursday 9th and Friday 10th Feb for group auditions. Students will be required to sing ('Happy Birthday' and/or 'Circle of Life') and learn a short dance phrase in groups.

Following group auditions, all students will be required to individually audition and sing by themselves with a backing track. Audition material found on Google Classroom. All students auditioning for The Lion King Jr will be given a 5 -10 minute timeslot during lunch **Term One - Three** with call backs occurring after all original auditions have been done. If you would like to sign up for an audition please complete the following form or scan QR code:

<https://forms.office.com/r/DBcbgTMXbd>

'The Lion King JR' Audition Form



Please print and bring all docs relevant to any roles you are auditioning for – we will use the same for both. They are posted on the Google Classroom.
You are NOT expected to learn audition material by heart. However, it will help to come with a good working knowledge of the dialogue/number excerpts.

All audition materials can be found on the google classroom (see Section 6).

Rehearsals:

Once you have auditioned and if you have been given a place in the production, students will be required to be at after school rehearsals on **Monday 3:30-5:00pm** from **Term One Week Five**. Students are also required to select the **compulsory Wider Learning** option for Semester One, this will be valuable rehearsal time. With possible lunchtime rehearsals for dance/characterisation/singing.

If there is a conflict with another commitment, please reach out to Miss Dunning as soon as possible.

Rehearsal Schedule will be released at the beginning of Term One.

Holiday Bootcamp:

We will be having a production holiday bootcamp both in Term 1 and 2 holidays.

Term One Holiday: Thursday 20th + Friday 21st April 9am-3pm

Term Two Holiday: Specific dates to be confirmed but with 10th-14th of July.

Character Breakdown:

Rafiki

A wise mandrill who acts as healer of the Pridelands and guides Simba on his journey home. She is an omniscient character, evincing an air of mystery. Rafiki has significant solos in "Circle of Life" and "He Lives in You," and leads the African chants throughout the show, so cast a confident performer with a strong singing voice.

Gender: Female

Vocal range top: C5

Vocal range bottom: A3

Mufasa

The strong, honourable, and wise lion who leads the Pridelands. Mufasa should command respect onstage and also show tenderness with his son, Simba. Cast a mature actor who can convincingly portray the king.

Gender: Male

Vocal range top: C5

Vocal range bottom: B3

Sarabi

A featured lioness, Mufasa's mate, and Simba's mother. Sarabi has a few key speaking lines for an actor who can deliver the care and command of a queen.

Gender: Female

Zazu

The anxious yet loyal assistant to Mufasa who is always busy trying to do his duty. Zazu's lyrics are spoken rather than sung, and the role can be played by a boy or girl.

Gender: Any

Scar

The antagonist of the show, overcome with jealousy of his brother, Mufasa, and nephew,

Simba. Coldhearted and wickedly intelligent, he will stop at nothing to become king of the Pridelands. Cast a mature performer who can bring out this villain's dark side while handling Scar's sarcastic sense of humor. As his solos can be spoken, opt for an actor over a singer.

Gender: Male

Vocal range top: A4

Vocal range bottom: A3

Young Simba

The protagonist of the story, is an adventurous and endearing cub who can't wait to be king of the Pridelands. Simba is playful, energetic, and naive, but after his father Mufasa's death, Simba struggles with shame and his destiny. Cast a strong singer and dynamic performer in this role.

Gender: Male

Vocal range top: E5

Vocal range bottom: B3

Simba

Grows from a cub to lion in "Hakuna Matata." Older Simba has more complex moments as he reunites with Nala, mourns his father, and returns to confront Scar, so cast a more mature actor. Be sure that the change in actors is clear: Try having Young Simba hand-off a costume piece, such as a medallion, to older Simba. Also be sure that Simba and Young Simba share a movement vocabulary.

Gender: Male

Vocal range top: E5

Vocal range bottom: B3

Young Nala

A courageous lion and Young Simba's best friend. She is not afraid to speak her mind. While Young Nala does sing a little, look for a strong female performer who can portray this confident cub.

Gender: Female

Vocal range top: C5

Vocal range bottom: A3

Nala

Grows from a cub to a lioness before she confronts Scar, so cast a more mature actress to play the character beginning in Scene 10, As with older Simba and Young Simba, ensure that this switch in actors performing a single role is clear. Direct the actors to share a mask or costume piece that distinctly represents Nala, as well as a movement vocabulary.

Gender: Female

Vocal range top: E5

Vocal range bottom: G3

Sarafina

A featured lioness and Nala's mother. She has one short, spoken line, so consider giving this part to an actor who is putting in a lot of effort and hard work in rehearsal as a lioness.

Gender: Female

Shenzi

One of Scar's hyenas who plot to take over the Pridelands. She is the sassy one of the trio and is always looking out for herself. With Banzai and Ed, she should be able to laugh loudly and long, as well as be menacing to Young Simba and Young Nala.

Gender: Female

Banzai

A slick yet childish hyena who works for Scar. He would be the leader of the group if hyenas weren't so lazy. Look for an outgoing and confident actor who can portray nastiness and gruffness. As Banzai is always featured with Shenzi and Ed, consider audit
Gender: Male

Ed

The third member of Scar's trio of lackeys. He has a loud, cackling laugh that is his only form of communication. Ed should be played by an actor who can laugh unabashedly and communicate through physicality and facial expressions rather than words. This role can be played by a boy or girl.
Gender: Any

Timon

An outcast meerkat who lives in the jungle with Pumbaa. He is afraid of his own shadow, but pretends to be the confident, relaxed leader of the duo. Timon is one of the funniest characters in the show and should be played by a charismatic actor who understands comic timing. This part can be played by a boy or a girl.
Gender: Any
Vocal range top: B4
Vocal range bottom: B3

Pumbaa

A kindhearted, sensitive warthog who enjoys his simple life of grubs and relaxation. Cast a boy or girl who can portray this loveable and loyal friend to Timon and Simba with deadpan humour.
Gender: Any
Vocal range top: G5
Vocal range bottom: D4

Lionesses

The fierce hunters of the Pridelands and featured in "The Lioness Hunt," "The Mourning," and "Shadowland." These actors should be strong singers, as the material can be challenging. Depending on the complexity of your choreography, particularly for "The Lioness Hunt," strong dancers may be desirable as well.
Gender: Female

Hyenas

Scar's army, helping carry out his evil plot to take over the Pridelands. Hyenas are mangy, mindless creatures who sing in "Be Prepared." Cast actors who are able to sing the background parts of that song while playing the loud and raucous characters. Your hyenas can double as animals of the Pridelands or lionesses.
Gender: Any

Ensemble

The ensemble plays various inhabitants of the Pridelands, such as giraffes, elephants, antelopes, wildebeest, and other creatures you choose to include. This group can have as few or as many performers as your production permits. Be sure to cast many strong singers. There are also several moments to showcase individual dancers in "The Lioness Hunt" and "I Just Can't Wait to Be King."

Section 5: A Few Tips!

To ensure all aspects of your year get off to a positive start, effective time management and forward planning will be essential at the start of 2023. **Participation in *The Lion King JR* will not be an excuse for poor academic performance.**

Please remember **TEAM FIRST** will form the basis of **every** onstage and offstage decision the management team will make. For example, it will guide suggestions we may make at workshops and auditions about how we see your individual talents best fitting our production concept; don't be disappointed if they are not what you first thought - it is not a personal criticism but, as with being selected in a different position in a sports team, an opportunity for you to extend yourself in new ways.

Enthusiasm, punctuality, reliability, and communication are everything!

We unashamedly favour people who:
clearly support our team goals and expectations
are polite and friendly to everyone
read and follow the instructions we have issued above
are well-organised, punctual and reliable
show respect for others and work co-operatively
show initiative and help out where they can
are positive team players and want to excel!

Sometimes we find space for one or two whose enthusiasm, energy and team commitment are more obvious than their performance ability!!

Our audition motto is

**GET UP! GET SEEN!
GET HEARD!**

(If you don't you have no chance of being selected)

SECTION 6: Going Ahead!

Decision Checklist

- Read and highlight this document and discuss it with your family
- Consider your other commitments
- If unsure communicate with Miss Dunning or any other member of the Production Team **BEFORE** you audition in 2023. (maisie.dunning@kingsway.school.nz)

If You Decide To Go Ahead:

1. Complete Audition Form - <https://forms.office.com/r/DBcbgTMXbd>
2. Download material you will need from Google Classroom (password = **mfnk2pd**)
3. Get familiar with the relevant script excerpts and music

Our show will be taken place at Centrestage Theatre during the week of Saturday 5th – Friday 11th August, **Term Three Week Four**, specific dates and times to be confirmed.

The Technical week will be **Term Three Week Three**, please make sure these are dates your child is available.

Please follow this link to the google classroom where the audition material and audition form can be found. (please use students email to access)

<https://classroom.google.com/c/NTg2NzkzODA0OTlw?cjc=mfnk2pd>

There will be a \$120 production fee for participation in the Middle School Production.
PRODUCTION TSHIRT NOT INCLUDED.

- Payments will be required after the cast has been finalised.