

Evergreen Theatre 1 Day Residency Workshop Teacher's Guide

OUR SCRIPTS

- Are typically 3 - 3.5 pages of dialogue
- This translates to 4 - 8 minutes of theatre approximately
- Science and/or social curriculum links explored within the storyline
- A variety of characters telling the story (ranging from easy to challenging roles)
- Blocking and movement suggestions written into the script
- Character actions/reactions are also suggested in the script
- SFX/Music Cues included. Evergreen will bring this soundtrack on the day of

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN (See supporting document with script)

- Please note that this doc is **based on a rough number** of performers (25 - 30)
- You must **adjust for your class** AND their strengths/weaknesses.
- Each character group will have a suggested #, a general description of the role, how many lines they are required to speak and the level of difficulty for the dialogue.
- This IS the script writer's opinion but we all have different perspectives so I recommend **reading through the script for yourself**. Get a feel for what each character requires
- There are some cases where we have a single individual performing a role. We do like to create opportunities for students who desire a more significant/challenging role. This could also be a teacher if desired. It provides variety for our audience and in some cases... is based on the costumes we have access to.
- All that said... this **character breakdown document is a suggestion based on what the writer imagined** as they created the script. Your Evergreen artist will be as flexible as possible to accommodate the needs of your class.

DIALOGUE

- We use a lot of **choral speech** in our EGT scripts. This is beneficial for many reasons... smaller voices, nerves on performance day, performing in a gym where 1 voice might not be loud enough, someone is sick or scared and pulls out of the show last minute.
- If there is any theme/dialogue that you or any students feel uncomfortable with for any reason or you have a question about the science, please reach out to us ASAP so we can make appropriate/timely adjustments.

CASTING

- This is an **extremely important** part of the theatrical process.
- It is paramount that you read through the entire script with your students.
- Most will be drawn to 1 or 2 characters.
- Taking their desires into consideration is very important but in some cases **you might need to gently guide them into the role that they can be most successful in**
- Consider the challenges that come with each role and how the student fits

- **Each character group MUST have a leader.** Someone that will be confident not just with remembering their lines, but recalling blocking, entrances and exits and other students can look to for support
- If it is a solo role or very small group... will they be loud enough?
- Are there students that will not be able to focus if they are in the same group?
- If there is a student you know will miss the performance or likely “pull out” they should definitely be placed into a role with larger numbers so that they will not leave a noticeable hole.
- At Evergreen we like to use the phrase, “You get what you get, and don’t get upset”.

THE PERFORMANCE... WHAT ARE YOU HOPING TO PRESENT?

- There are **3 end results** that your EGT artists can help you achieve
- These results are **tied closely to the prep work you do** with your class

Option #1 is a **READER’S THEATRE**/minimal costumes/props

1 position and the students rely heavily on their scripts

Option #2 is a **GETTING THERE** fully staged show with scripts in hand + costumes/props

Full blocking but as the students are still heavily reliant on their scripts, there is not much time to work on specific acting elements of the play

Option #3 is a **POLISHED** (as much as possible) fully staged show with costumes/props + character development/theatrical development (mannerisms/accents/physicality)

*** The script is (for the most part) memorized and as such the artists can devote their time to staging and theatricality on all levels***

- Your EGT artist is **happy to assist you** in achieving whichever end result you desire, but cannot work miracles.
- A 1 day residency = max 3 to 4 hours of rehearsal time followed by a performance.
- The **prep time** you/your class puts in **determines the level of presentation achieved**
- **PLEASE** be sure to **let us know what you are aiming for** so we can communicate your wishes to the EGT artist.

THE SET/STAGE DIRECTIONS

- Evergreen will bring 2 sections of backdrop that we will use to create “wings”... a place for the students to enter and exit from/hide behind until their moment.
- See below to help decipher stage directions:
 - **ST R** is the actors stage right
 - **ST L** is the actors stage left
 - **UPST** is upstage (or closer to the back of the stage)
 - **DST** is downstage (or closer to the front of the stage)
 - **CST** is centre stage
 - **DIAG** (rarely used but is on the diagonal)

REHEARSAL TECHNIQUES (Tips and Tricks)

- Once roles have been cast try to **do your read-throughs in their character groupings**. It's more of a team effort.
 - Have a choral speech discussion. Ask students what the goal is? Try counting them in so they are always starting together. Practice speaking slower (especially on longer lines) with pauses at the end of sentences
 - A character worksheet can be a great tool to get your students thinking about their character beyond their lines. Have them write down their character at the top of the page and then ask them to answer some of these questions...
What are you? Who are you? How do you feel about other characters? Are you good? Evil? Do you speak differently (accent)? Do you move differently? What is your ultimate goal in the scene? What might your character wear?
 - An Italian run through can be a great way to test memories. You read through the script from start to finish using a quick pace without stopping to fix anything.
 - When you are ready to get the script on its feet consider breaking it down into mini scenes or units. As a director it can help you focus on specific moments and also gives the performers easy starting points. You can use the entrance and exit of a secondary character to create these "soft" scenes.
- ***Make sure you are not always starting at the beginning of the script. This makes for a very strong intro, but leaves the less practiced ending quite weak***

COSTUMES

- Each character will be provided with costume pieces to help visually convey their role.
- Can range from a simple T-shirt or hat to a unique specialty costume. We try to make sure every student gets something "cool" but depending on the character assignments, and our available stock, sometimes there is some variability that cannot be helped
- Please note that dressing a class usually between 15-20 minutes which is a large chunk of time considering we get only 3 – 4 hours with your class before they hit the stage.
- Your EGT artist will most likely hand out costumes in the last hour of your class time.

TEACHER ROLE

- Many scripts can/will have a small teacher cameo which your students will LOVE. It's also reassuring to them that you are so involved. This could also be an aide, parent, administrator, custodian etc.

THE BIG DAY

- You will receive our 1-day residency schedule from whoever the school contact is.
- As we have so much to accomplish, please be prepared to spend the bulk of your day with the class focused on preparing for the show.
- EGT artists will set up a backdrop and sound system in whatever room is selected for your presentation, preferably the stage or gym.
- Each class will get a similar amount of "on the stage" rehearsal time. The number of classes participating will determine how much "stage time" each class receives. When not on the stage we will either be using your classroom or break out rooms as per organized with the school contact.
- **PLEASE HAVE NAME TAGS ON THE STUDENTS** before we arrive to the first class