

Jeanette Airen Performing Arts Studio



HIGH SCHOOL EDITION

AUDITION PACKET

AUDITIONS

Saturday, August 22nd 9:00am-12:30pm

Parent Welcome Letter

Welcome to the cast of *Stranger Sings!* Performing in a musical is an experience that young people will remember for the rest of their lives, and it is truly our pleasure to work with your child on this exciting project. We want everyone involved to understand both the benefits and responsibilities that go along with being in a musical, so we have detailed some of the basics here.

First off, there are a number of great benefits to being in a musical, including:

Active Participation in the Arts: Participating in the arts provides young people with a chance to explore their creativity and imagination in a structured and safe environment. Musical theater is specifically remarkable because it is the only art form that combines all areas of the fine arts: acting, singing, dancing, and visual arts.

Improving Literacy Skills: From reading scripts to memorizing lines to learning to tell a story, young people continually improve their literacy skills while rehearsing and performing in a musical.

Becoming a Confident Public Speaker: It takes a lot of guts to stand up and sing or dance in front of your family, peers, and what may seem like the entire community. Experience with public speaking at a young age gives students confidence that will be important to them for the rest of their lives.

Gaining Critical Thinking & Problem-Solving Skills: Putting on a musical is a group effort and every member of the team must work together to make it happen. Throughout the rehearsal process, the students will learn to solve challenges as they arise. Students will learn to trust and depend on themselves and their cast mates.

As with any group activity, every participant has responsibilities. Please look over the following items to make sure you and your child feel you can honor the commitment to being a part of a show.

Attendance: You will find a basic rehearsal schedule for the show listed in this packet. Please look it over closely to make sure your child has no conflicts with the rehearsals or show dates. If there are conflicts to our rehearsal dates, please include them on your audition form so we can do our best to create our rehearsal schedule to accommodate your child's conflicts. Students are expected to attend all rehearsals they are called for unless prior approval has been given. Failure to do so can result in dismissal from the show. Conflicts for performance dates will not be accepted.

Rehearsals: Rehearsals will last from 4:00-6:00pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays as well as some possible Saturday rehearsals. All rehearsals and performances will be held at *Jeanette Airen Performing Arts Studio*. Please check the schedule for the full list of rehearsal and performance dates and times. Students should bring their script, a bottle of water, and wear appropriate shoes and clothes for movement. Also, please make sure you have arranged for your child to be picked up on time from each rehearsal.

Costumes: If you already own clothing that may work for your child's costume, we ask that you provide whatever costuming you are able. Costume pieces that are a bit more specific and difficult to come by will be provided by the studio. A list will be sent home that describes what each character will need for their costume.

Homework: Students will have some homework for the show, including memorizing lines and songs, rehearsing their dances, etc. Work with your child to create a schedule so they have time to finish their homework from the musical in addition to their schoolwork. We don't want them to become overwhelmed with trying to balance their school studies and the musical production. All rehearsal materials can be found in the studio portal. See attached information of how to access these files.

Attitude: The rehearsal room and theater are safe spaces where young people can take positive risks and be themselves without the fear of being laughed at or alienated. This principle is essential to artistic growth and exploration. Participants are expected to respect these principles and are encouraged to remember it themselves when trying new things.

Volunteering: The most important thing you can do to help us with the musical is make sure your child commits to everything listed above. If you want to volunteer additional time or resources to the production, please let us know what you are able to help with. We will contact you when assistance is needed.

Finally, please remember that a musical is a living, breathing entity. Things don't always go exactly as planned, so changes to the plan will most likely be made throughout the rehearsal process. We promise to give you as much advance notice as possible on all changes that arise but in the end dedication, hard work and a little "theater magic" always make our shows a huge success and a rewarding experience for everyone involved.

If you have questions or concerns at any time throughout the process, please feel free to contact Jeanette Airen at jeanetteairenstudio@gmail.com or (818) 799-2884 and we will be happy to help you.

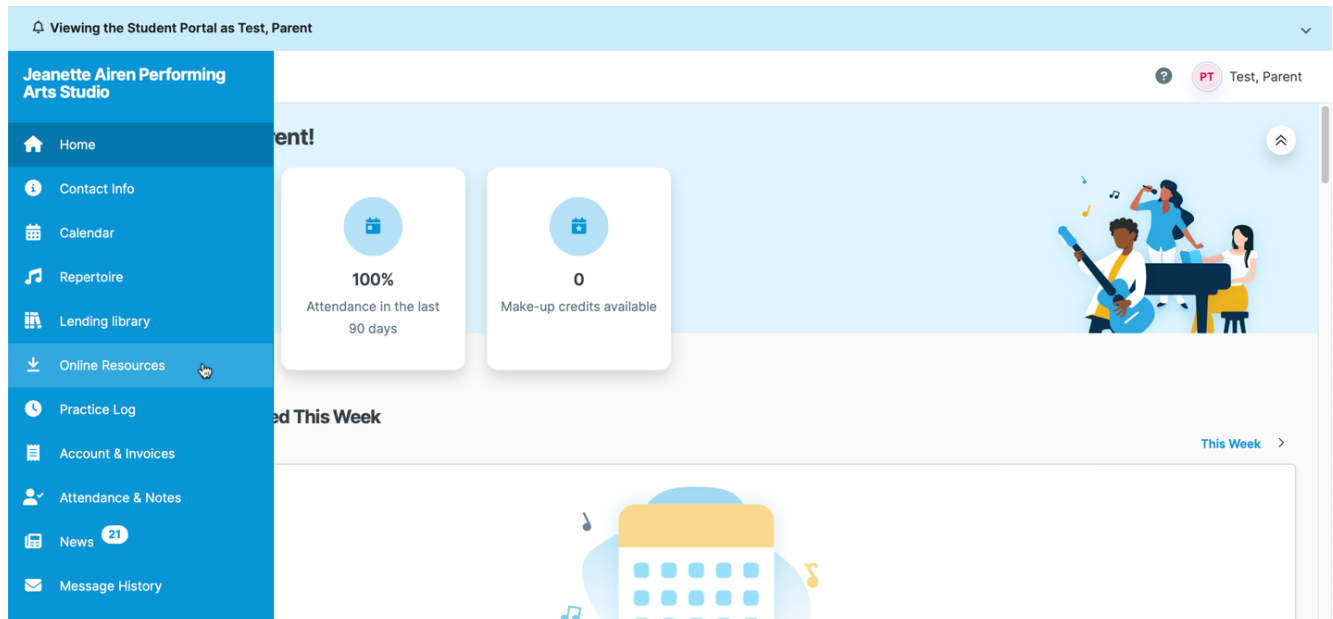
Sincerely,
Alexuss Song, co-director
Bells Thatcher, co-director
Jeanette Airen Performing Arts Studio

How to access the rehearsal materials:

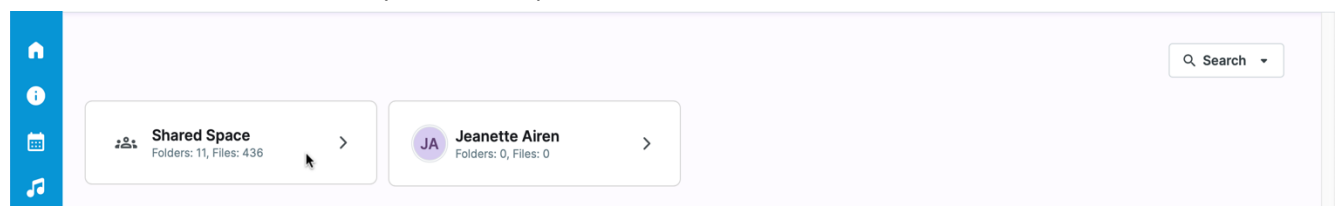
Go to **jeanetteairenstudio.com** and click on the “Student Login” button at the top of any page on our website.

Login using the email address on your account and your password. If you have not yet set up a password, let Miss Jeanette know and she will send you an email that will allow you to create your password. If you have a password but can’t remember it, click on “Forgot your password?” to reset it.

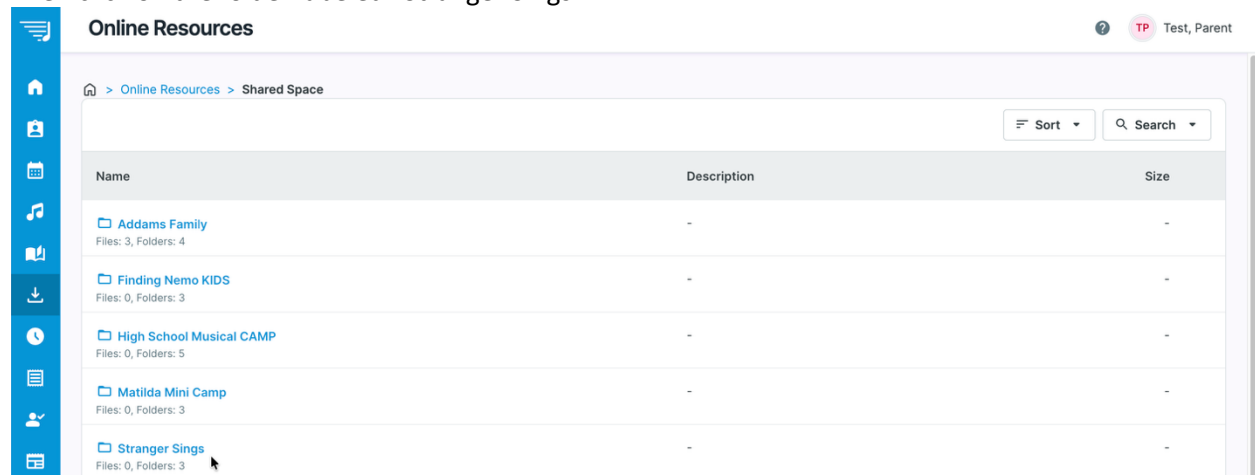
Once you are logged in, hover over the menu on the left side of the screen and select “Online Resources.”



Next, click on the folder that says, “Shared Space.”



Then click on the folder labeled “Stranger Sings”



This is the folder where you will find all rehearsal materials for your at home practicing.

STRANGER SINGS! – BASIC REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

(Some Saturday afternoon rehearsals may be added to our schedule. Please be sure to include any Saturday conflicts you may have on your audition form so we can plan accordingly.)

Auditions

Thursday, September 10th | 4:00–6:00 PM

Rehearsals Begin

Tuesday, September 15th

Weekly Rehearsals

Tuesdays & Thursdays | 4:00–6:00 PM

Additional Saturday rehearsals will be scheduled as needed.

Tech Rehearsals

Tuesday, November 3rd | 4:00–8:00 PM

Thursday, November 5th | 4:00–8:00 PM

Friday, November 6th | 4:00–8:00 PM

Performances

Saturday, November 7th | 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Sunday, November 8th | 2:00 PM

Cast Party

Sunday, November 8th | 5:00 PM

AUDITION INFO FOR “STRANGER SINGS”

The Audition Process

1. Read through this form COMPLETELY.
2. Practice the song and script you would like to perform for your audition, but be prepared to sing the other songs and read the other scripts, as we may choose one for you to perform as well. You do not need to memorize anything. You can use your packet during the auditions.
3. You will learn a dance routine as part of the audition. Please come wearing comfortable shoes (tennis shoes or jazz/ballet shoes only) and clothes you can move in.
4. Auditions will take place on Saturday, August 22nd from 9:00am-12:30pm. Please bring a snack and a full water bottle.
5. Bring your audition form filled out to your audition.
6. Everyone that auditions will receive a part in the show with speaking and singing solos (if you desire them).
7. Results will be posted online. An email will be sent out when the results are posted.

Audition Songs

“The Dad I Never Had” – Eleven (Track: 2:53, Instrumental: 3:40)

“Forever” – Nancy (Track: 0:45, Instrumental: 0:40)

“Adventure Song” - Mike, Dustin, Lucas (Track: 0:58, Instrumental: 1:01)

“In These Woods” – Jonathan (Track: Beginning, Instrumental: 0:06)

(The guide vocal tracks are the songs from the original cast recording. Some words have been changed in our version to make the songs more appropriate for kids. We can also change anything that we feel is still not appropriate in our script.)

Please note that while these songs are sung by specific characters in the show, you will be considered for other characters as well. Remember that we may ask you to sing and read for a character other than the one you choose, so be familiar with all audition songs and scenes.

ABOUT THE SHOW

Stranger Sings! The Parody Musical catapults audiences back to the neon-soaked nostalgia of the 1980s! Packed with high-energy musical numbers, outrageous character send-ups, and clever winks at the beloved Netflix series, the show flips the Upside Down right-side up as it follows the kids of Hawkins, Indiana on their hilariously heightened adventure. Eleven belts, Barb gets her due, the Demogorgon dances, and every fan-favorite moment from the first season gets lovingly skewered with a pop-theatre sensibility.

With a synth-driven score, an immersive comic-book-meets-campfire aesthetic, and a tone that balances affectionate parody with whip-smart humor, Stranger Sings! celebrates the heart and friendships at the core of the original while delighting newcomers with its manic fun. The result is a joyously off-beat musical ride—equal parts nostalgia trip, spoof, and love letter to a cultural phenomenon. Whether you’re a superfan or simply love a clever send-up, this musical promises a weird, wild, and wonderfully upside-down night at the theatre.

Synopsis: Take a trip back to Hawkins, Indiana: 1983...when times were simpler, hair was bigger, and unsupervised children were getting snatched by inter-dimensional creatures. Stranger Sings! The Parody Musical is a hilarious “upside down” take on the hit Netflix series – and all its campy 1980s glory. Join Mike, Eleven, Lucas, Dustin, and the whole Hawkins gang for a night

of adventure, thrills, angst, heavy synth, poor parenting, convoluted love triangles, dancing monsters, and maybe, just maybe...justice for everyone's favorite missing ginger, Barb Holland.

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

(The characters are a lot more exaggerated and funnier than shown in the TV show, so don't be afraid to make strong choices and be silly!)

ELEVEN: Eleven is a mysterious girl with special powers who is trying to understand the world around her. She's brave and caring but doesn't always understand normal kid behavior, which makes her funny.

MIKE: Mike is the kid who REALLY wants to be the leader. He loves his friends and takes their adventures very seriously. He can be emotional, stubborn, and a little dramatic.

DUSTIN: Dustin is the goofy, enthusiastic friend. He's smart, curious, and always has something to say. He can turn almost any situation into a joke.

LUCAS: Lucas is confident and practical. He's often the one saying, "Wait...is this actually a good idea?" He isn't afraid to disagree with others.

WILL: Will is sweet, sensitive, and at the center of the story even though he spends much of it missing. (May be as a puppeteer)

NANCY: Nancy wants to figure things out and prove that she can handle herself. She's smart, determined, and takes things seriously.

BARB: Barb is Nancy's best friend, and she is not afraid to tell Nancy what she thinks. She starts out feeling like she's being ignored but has a much more comedic journey.

STEVE: Steve is the popular, confident guy who thinks he's pretty great. He's charming, but he can also be hilariously clueless.

JONATHAN: Jonathan is quiet and more awkward. He's artistic and sensitive and has a very different energy from Steve.

HOPPER: Hopper is a grownup. He's grumpy, sarcastic, and constantly dealing with the kids' chaos.

DR. BRENNER: Dr. Brenner is serious, controlling and mysterious. He treats Eleven like an experiment and believes he knows what's best.

ERICA: Erica is young, confident, clever, and willing to tell everyone exactly what she thinks.

JOYCE: Will's mom. She is loving, protective, worried, and intense. When something happens to Will, she does not sit around waiting for someone else to fix it.

DEMOGORGON: Physical comedy and over-exaggerated movement.

AUDITONS SONGS

"THE DAD I NEVER HAD"

I ALWAYS WANTED A DAD
WHO LOVED ME NO MATTER WHAT
WHO TELLS ME THAT I'M BEAUTIFUL
WELL, THAT'S NOT THE DAD I GOT.
OH, WHERE ARE YOU DAD?
ARE YOU THAT FAR AWAY?
PLEASE COME QUICKLY DAD
AND BE WITH ME TO STAY
BECAUSE I NEED MY DAD
TO SAY "I LOVE YOU"
INSTEAD OF "HEY KID,
GET IN YOUR CAGE."

"FOREVER"

YOU KNOW YOU'RE NEVER ALONE WHEN YOU'RE
FRIENDS FOREVER
NOTHING CAN KEEP US APART WHEN WE
STICK TOGETHER
NO GUY CAN COME BETWEEN
THE BEST FRIENDSHIP YOU'VE EVER SEEN
BECAUSE WE'RE FRIENDS FOREVER
AND BEST FRIENDS NEVER DIE!

"ADVENTURE SONG"

HERE WE GO!
ADVENTURE IS CALLING
NO TELLING IF WE'LL EVER COME BACK
WHAT WE KNOW IS
SOMETHING IS OUT THERE
AND US THREE BOYS ARE HERE TO ATTACK
WE'RE READY TO TAKE ON WHATEVER'S AHEAD

DUSTIN

BUT WAIT, DON'T YOU THINK WE COULD WIND UP DEAD?

(A beat, as the three boys stop to consider...)

MIKE, LUCAS & DUSTIN

Nah!
ADVENTURE IS OUR GOAL!
AND ALSO TO FIND WILL

"IN THESE WOODS"

JONATHAN

HELP!

WHY AM I FEELING THESE FEELINGS ABOUT HER?

HELP!

WHY DOES MY HEARTBEAT FEEL LIKE THUNDER?

IT'S LIKE I'VE NEVER FELT THIS FEELING OF KNOWING SOMEONE

SO TRUE

MAYBE IT'S ALL OF THAT TIME ALONE WITH MY BROTHER THAT

BLINDED ME TO YOU...

SUDDENLY

I LOOK IN YOUR EYES

AND SUDDENLY

I LOSE ALL FEELING INSIDE, AND I'M SURPRISED

CUZ SUDDENLY

YOU'RE SO MUCH MORE THAN THE PICTURES I TOOK OF YOU

AT THE PARTY WITH STEVE

NANCY

Wait, what?

JONATHAN

THERE MUST BE SOMETHING IN THESE WOODS...

AUDITONS SCENES

SCENE 1 – MIKE, DUSTIN, LUCAS, ELEVEN

DUSTIN

Wait, who's that?

(The BOYS stare at ELEVEN, confused. ELEVEN stands silently.)

LUCAS

So.... what is... it?

DUSTIN

She looks like an escaped mental patient.

MIKE

Stop! I think she can hear us.

(HE approaches ELEVEN)

Do you...*(attempts sign language)* understand us?

ELEVEN

Yes.

MIKE

Omigosh she talks! Do you have a name?

ELEVEN

Jane.

LUCAS

Hey, what's that on your wrist? Is that a tattoo? Is that a permanent tattoo??

DUSTIN

Umm, badboss alert.

MIKE

Oh-one-one. Eleven. That's so cool. I think we'll call you Eleven.

ELEVEN

My name is Jane.

LUCAS

Eleven! That is the COOLEST name. It's like a sci-fi movie.

DUSTIN

Totally! My dad's last girlfriend's name was Eleven! And the one before her's name was Ten... Oh wow, my Dad sucks.

MIKE

Do you have a dad, Eleven?

ELEVEN

Papa?

MIKE

Yeah, a Papa. What's he like?

ELEVEN

Papa... Papa...

Scene 2 – Will

WILL

(calling out) Hello?? *(No response)* Hello!!!

(Still no response. WILL sighs.)

It's alright, Will. Your Mom is coming to rescue you. You'll be fine. Besides, maybe this place isn't so bad!

(Terrifying noises are heard. WILL freezes in fear.)

Well, I...don't know what that was...I'm sure you can learn to love this place if you just sing about it! Just remember what Jim Henson taught you. Oh look, a bird!

(A cute little black bird-like creature flits toward WILL. He extends his hand to it. The bird suddenly screams a horrible demonic sound, flashing its fangs in WILL'S face and flies away)

Well, I didn't like that. Come on, Will, get it together! Ya gotta believe in yourself!

(A BLACK DEMO BUNNY hops onto the scene. WILL goes to pet it.)

Aww, an adorable little demo-bunny! Maybe this place really isn't all that bad!

(The demo bunny hisses and bites WILL on the hand, then runs away. WILL chuckles to hide the pain.)

Heh heh heh ...owwww.

Scene 3 – DUSTIN & STEVE

STEVE

Henderson? What the heck, man—

(Two SCIENTISTS come running on the scene, clearly looking for DUSTIN.)

DUSTIN

Look natural.

(The SCIENTISTS look to Spoofs Ahoy. STEVE waves, unsure. THE SCIENTISTS wince in disgust at STEVE in his dorky sailor outfit, then run off.)

Wow that was close. Thanks Harrington.

STEVE

Yeah, yeah whatever man. *(seeing another girl walk by)* Hey Kendall—buy a scoop of Pecan and you can butter me up for a kiss. What is wrong with me today...

DUSTIN

I'm sorry, what was that.

STEVE

I'm just off my game, man. I thought getting a job selling ice cream at the mall would be a total hot boy summer move but...

(HE lifts up his dopey sailor's hat to point to his hair)

It's this stupid hat. It's covering up my best asset.

(overwhelmed with emotions, HE begins to eat ice cream out of a tub)

DUSTIN

Yeah, it's definitely the hat.

STEVE

I just can't live like this anymore, man! Nancy dumped me, all these chicks keep ignoring me, some evil Russians want to blow up the mall...

(HE angrily shoves a whole scoop of ice cream in his mouth)

STEVE (CONT'D)

Why does everybody hate me?

DUSTIN

Dude, seriously? It's because you're like a humongous tool.

STEVE

I know!

DUSTIN

No, dude. That's bad.

STEVE

Oh.

DUSTIN

Yeah. You're a tool who doesn't understand that women actually want guys who respect them and treat them right.

STEVE

Dude, you're like twelve. You don't know anything about what women want.

DUSTIN

That's cute you think that.

Scene 4 – JOYCE & HOPPER

HOPPER

Umm, what the—

JOYCE

Will is in the lights.

HOPPER

In the lights?

JOYCE

It's Christmas.

HOPPER

Did you bake gingerbread cookies...?

JOYCE

Look—look!!

(SHE shows him the Christmas lights in her hands)

Will baby... can you hear me?

(The lights do nothing. JOYCE yells into them anyway.)

Will, I need you to stay away from heavy objects baby boy, you know your little arms will tear!!!

HOPPER

Joyce, you need to calm down.

JOYCE

I am calm!

HOPPER

Okay, but... and here me out.... You are talking. To your missing son. Through Christmas lights.

JOYCE

Hopper look—my magnets! My magnets!! They're not working anymore!!!

(She pulls out two magnets, and demonstrates that they no longer stick together. She stresses more.)

HOPPER

Joyce... I think you're going crazy.

JOYCE

...what did you just call me?

HOPPER

Oh no.

Scene 5 – JONATHAN & NANCY

JONATHAN

Alright, time to kill this monster and get my brother back! Sticky stairs?

NANCY

Check!

JONATHAN

And if all that fails, we burn the house down and run away.

(JONATHAN unsheathes his plastic lightsaber while NANCY pulls out hairspray and a lighter. They stand in silence, poised to attack.)

You think maybe we should have left the door open?—

(THE DEMOGORGON suddenly appears!!)

JONATHAN

Ahhhhh there it is!!!!

NANCY

Why is its face so weird!!!!?!!?!?

JONATHAN

It's coming toward us!!! What do we do???

NANCY

Jonathan kill it!!!!

JONATHAN

You kill it!!!!

NANCY

You're supposed to do it!!! You're the man!!!

JONATHAN

That's a reductive stereotype!!!!

NANCY

It's 1983—of course it's reductive!!!

JONATHAN

Gender roles are a societal construct!!!!!!

NANCY

Just do something!!!!!!

(JONATHAN swings his lightsaber pathetically, intimidating no one)

JONATHAN

It didn't work!!!!

NANCY

You're a disappointment!!!!!!

JONATHAN & NANCY

Aahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!!!!!!!—

SCENE 6 – BARB, JONATHAN & NANCY

BARB

Stop!

(JONATHAN, NANCY, and the DEMOGORGON halt... as BARB makes her grand re-entrance)

BARB

Are you the Keymaster?

NANCY

Barb?!? What are you—

BARB

—doing here? Funny you should ask. Yes everyone, I’ve been alive and well in the Upside Down this entire time!

JONATHAN

I’m confused... who is that?

BARB

That’s right. Who IS that? Could that be poor Barb Holland, the throw-away plot device who not one person thought to look for??

NANCY

Barb, no! We just got busy—we figured you died or something.

JONATHAN

Umm, guys, the monster is still here.

BARB

Oh, him? You don’t need to worry about him. This is my new boyfriend, the Demogorgon.

JONATHAN & NANCY

What?!?!

BARB

Oh yes. He’s the King of the Underworld, and I’m—

(sung: a la “Hadestown”)

HIS LADY OF THE UPSIDE DOWN

(THE DEMOGORGON pulls out a red carnation and gives it to her)

Yes, he’s so thoughtful and sensitive.

DEMOGORGON

Feed me!!

(THEY embrace. EVERYONE watches in horror.)

BARB

Ow.

JONATHAN

(to THE DEMOGORGON) So, where’d you take my brother, you jerk??

BARB

Hey hey HEY—he’s NOT a jerk. You’re the real jerk, Nancy Wheeler. First you ditch me at Steve’s party, then you forget about me when I disappear, and now you go on and act like nothing’s happened??

NANCY

Oh my gosh, Barb, why are you being so weird?

BARB

Well, no more holding back. Barb is alive! And this time, nobody's gonna put this baby in a corner!

SCENE 7 – MIKE & ELEVEN

MIKE

Phew. That was close!

ELEVEN

Yes.

MIKE

That was so crazy. They almost found us.

ELEVEN

Yes.

MIKE

Yeah.

(a godawful silence)

So I...guess now we're...alone.

ELEVEN

Yes.

MIKE

Which is cool.

ELEVEN

Yes.

MIKE

Yeah...

(another godawful silence)

Sooo ummm... do you... like to do stuff?

ELEVEN

What?

MIKE

Like do you... go out much?

ELEVEN

Go out?

MIKE

Never mind, I'm sorry, I don't know what I—

ELEVEN

Mike. It's okay.

MIKE

No, it's just... I have really low self-esteem because of being bullied. But it doesn't matter, those guys are all just a bunch of mouth breathers anyway.

ELEVEN

Mouth... breathers.

MIKE

Yeah, it's because they all have deviated septums and can't breathe out their noses. (*ELEVEN looks confused*) I'm sorry, I'm such a freak.

ELEVEN

Mike.

MIKE

What?

ELEVEN

I understand.

MIKE

You do?

ELEVEN

Yes!

MIKE

Wow that's—you're—we're so—I'm—ahhhh—iiii...

ELEVEN

...are you okay?

"Stranger Sings!" Audition Form

Please bring this form filled out to your audition.

Remember, just try your best and have fun!

BREAK A LEG!!!

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Character Choice: (List your top 3 choices.)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

**Below are the important dates of the show. Please mark any dates that you have a conflict on.
All dates are mandatory. Some exceptions may be allowed.
Once the cast list is posted, there will be no changes allowed.**

Rehearsals: Sept. 15-Oct. 29 Tuesdays & Thursdays 4:00-6:00pm and some Saturdays.

List any specific dates that you will not be able to attend rehearsal:

Tech Rehearsals: (mandatory) Nov. 3rd, 5th, & 6th 4:00-8:00pm

Performances: (mandatory) Nov. 7th at 2pm & 7pm and Nov. 8th at 2pm
(Calltime is an hour and a half before showtime.)

List any previous experience in Singing, Acting or Dancing: _____

Please take measurement before the audition:

Height: _____ Ft. _____ In.

Costume size: (please circle one below)

youth small (6-8)

youth medium (10-12)

youth large (14-16)

adult small

adult medium

adult large

adult x-large

Additional Comments: _____

To be filled out by director only.

Vocal ability 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + Notes:

Stage Presence 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 +