



the young  
storytellers  
...foundation

# FOR ACTORS

So you're acting in a Big Show? Here's what you can expect.

You are going to be a part of the culminating moment of a six-week one-on-one mentoring program. Each fourth and/or fifth grade student has written a short screenplay entirely in their own words. You are here to bring it to life for them. While you are performing on stage, it's good to keep in mind that the kids, and their scripts, are the true stars of the evening. The more energy you bring, and the more fun you have, the more you will facilitate this.

Arrive at your school no later than 5:30 PM. This will give you a chance to play a few games with the mentors and students, share in the pizza party, and give everyone a chance to loosen up.

Casting will begin soon after. Take a seat on the stage with the other actors and wait to be cast. You might have to introduce yourself, or give an "audition" – a funny voice, or tapping your head and rubbing your stomach at the same time, are both considerable talents in this realm. You should really, really want to be cast in roles. The more you beg and plead and fight for the kids to cast you, the more fun it makes it for them. Applaud them after they've finished casting their scripts.

Your role, and all of your dialogue, will be highlighted in the script you receive. Think of your performance as a spirited staged reading or rehearsal. You'll be on your feet, script in hand, making choices on the fly.

After all ten kids cast their scripts, around 6:00 PM, the Big Show begins. If you are cast as a Narrator, read the action into the microphone at the podium. Remember that the narrator is just as important a role. You're not simply reading stage directions, you're reading the action of the story. The actors will be helping you by performing the actions as you describe them.

Here are some other things to keep in mind:

- Do not improvise the dialogue. Make what the kids wrote work, no matter what this entails. Improvise physically as much as you want, but leave the language intact as written. Part of the celebration of the Big Show is having the kids hear their own words on stage.
- Make background noise and sound effects if you're not playing a role.
- Become background objects. Trees, fish, oceans, planes, armies... Make anything and everything come to life, even if you haven't been cast in the role.
- Be LOUD! There is no microphone for anyone except the narrator, and these auditoriums don't have the acoustics of a real theater. Make sure the audience can hear you, if they can't, coughing and boredom set in quickly.
- There is no such thing as too big or too broad a choice. Throw out realism. Louder, faster, funnier are about the only notes to keep in mind.
- The more fun you have, the more fun the audience will have.

Thank you. You're about to be part of something magical—giving these students and their families an experience they will not soon forget. We're sure you'll be back next time. There's no such thing as one Big Show. They're just too much fun.

