



Who Are We?

The Phoenix Players is a non-profit corporation and a 501(c)(3)charitable organization dedicated to bringing quality live theatre to audiences in the eastern Livingston County and western Oakland County area. The Phire Phlies is the youth acting ensemble that is part of the Phoenix Players.

Why is Being a Phire Phlie Unique?

We are unique in several ways.



- First, we have a strong focus on the acting part of the theatre, thus we do not do large scale musicals or big show productions. While musicals and “big stage shows” have their place in the world of theatre, they showcase dancing and singing, rather than acting. We are committed to the training and continual improvement of our ensemble members’ acting skills and choose plays that give the best opportunity for that mission.

- We do not come together for just one production. Auditions are held to become a part of the Phire Phlies troupe, rather than for one particular show. Phire Phlies then have the opportunity to be cast in the yearly Phire Phlies-only show (where every Phire Phlie has a part if they wish) and to be chosen for any play we do with children in the cast. In the past, such shows have included *Secret Garden*, *The Canterville Ghost*, *Anne of Green Gables*, and *Laura Ingalls Wilder: The Voice of the Prairie*. Phire Phlies may remain a member of the troupe until they leave high school. Some come back once a year, in between their school shows. Some choose to only do shows with the *Phoenix Players*. It is up to the children, once they are made a member of the Phire Phlies and have paid their yearly dues, whether they do a show or not.



- As our Phire Phlies are used to being on stage and acting with most of the others in the show, we have a quicker rehearsal schedule and need to have fewer scheduled rehearsals. The sense of being a stage family gives a level of comfort that is often reached only at the end of a production in other groups.

- Rehearsals are not just “run throughs,” as our directors have the training and skills to be acting coaches, giving the cast extensive stage training in addition to the usual direction given by many other groups.
- We are not into favoritism. All parts are chosen based only on who the director feels will do the best job in the role. As a Phire Phlie develops his or her talent, inclusion of specific roles to showcase those talents will be incorporated into the play choices.



What is Expected of Phire Phlies?

The Phire Phlies are a group of young actors who are serious about their craft. They like having fun, but also want to advance their skills. Thus we ask:

- A commitment to join us for an extended time, rather than just for one show. If invited to be a member, the whole group will be giving their time, skills, and commitment to help the young actor or actress grow as part of the talented Phire Phlie family. This does not mean that we are asking for a certain number of years, but rather that there is a outlook becoming a continuing and active member, which will help everyone reach their highest level of ability.
- A level of “professionalism” is expected of all Phire Phlies, which includes learning lines on time, being on time for rehearsals, listening to direction, being respectful of other Phire Phlies and the adults working with them, and being open to continual improvement.
- All members must adapt a troupe attitude, which means accepting that different parts call for different actors. This includes not complaining about roles and who was cast where, but working hard in whatever part they are asked to play.
 - Treating each other as part of a stage family is vital and required of all Phire Phlies. This means total acceptance of the uniqueness of each troupe member and respect for what they bring to the ensemble.



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What is Expected of Phire Phlies Families?

As in any activity, the support of parents and siblings is vital to the success of any Phire Phlies' undertaking and to the continued vitality of the Phoenix Players. This support includes:

- Making sure that cast members are on time for all rehearsals and shows.
- Making sure that they are picked up on time after rehearsals and shows.
- Helping out when asked with backstage work, which can include costumes, props, sets, hair, and makeup.
- Helping out during shows (including those in which your child may not be involved--each shows funds and supports the other shows) by taking tickets and ushering.
- A financial commitment that currently includes the following for the 2011-2012 season (the Board sets the commitment level each year):
 - Dues of \$50, which must be paid before the season starts to maintain eligibility for any shows for that season. (The total is the same if a Phire Phlie joins later in the season)
 - A training fee of \$50 per show in which the Phire Phlie is cast.
 - Support of fundraising activities: at this time we have Casino nights scheduled January 5-8 and April 21-24 at Doc's Sport Retreat in Livonia. As the non-profit sponsor of these events, we are only involved in selling and redeeming chips. For this, we receive approximately \$2000 per session, which is vital to our budget. Phire Phlies parents or extended family over 18 are expected to fill two time slots per session. The first time, we can pair you with an experienced person for training.

Auditions are held when openings occur in the troupe. Usually this is once a year. If you would like further information or would like to be informed when auditions are held, email: thephoenixplayers@gmail.com.