



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 professional level training and continual improvement of our ensemble acting skills and choose plays that give the best opportunity for that mission.
- Our leaders are professionally trained actors and teachers of theatre. While skills learned just doing plays are important, if your child is serious about acting, they also need training in proper acting techniques, which is very rare in children’s theatre. Leaders train during play rehearsals as well as in workshops that are offered first and at reduced rates to Phire Phlies.
- We do not come together for just one production. Part of the joy of being a Phire Phlie is that members act in many plays together, sharing the fun of becoming better in their acting skills and helping each other advance. Being on stage with children with whom you have acted before is a much better experience both in level of comfort and in opportunity to grow as an actor or actress.
- 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 an outlook of 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.

What is Expected of Phire Phlies Families?

As in any activity, the support of parents is vital to the success of the Phire Phlies’ program and to the continued vitality of the Phoenix Players. In order for your child to remain eligible to participate as a Phire Phlie, you must be actively involved throughout the season. This include may include:

- Volunteering to help out at rehearsals when needed such as serving as a monitor or bringing snacks.
- Making sure that your child is on time for all rehearsals and shows.
- Making sure that they are picked up on time after rehearsals and shows.
- Volunteering to help with backstage work, which can include costumes, props, sets, hair, and makeup.
- Volunteering to help 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 a per show training fee (currently \$100), annual dues (currently \$100) and support and staffing of fundraising activities, such as Casino Nights (we currently do three 4 night sessions at Doc’s Lounge in Livonia.)



How Can My Child Try Out for The Phire Phlies?

- We keep the number of Phire Phlies to about 12 in order to give them the level of attention and training that is appropriate for our unique purpose. Openings come available as current members leave. Thus we do not have a set schedule for bringing in new members.
- Because of the unique nature of our troupe, members must have a unique combination of acting ability and the temperament necessary to focus, be a part of the team, and take direction easily. Thus, we require that anyone who wants to be considered for membership attend either one of our summer camp sessions or a special session during the year if openings become available.
- We ask that all children who want to be a Phire Phlie attend at least one of our shows to see how we operate. At the show, the Phire Phlies Director will meet with the parents and the child and take information if the child is still interested.
- When an opening comes available, we contact those on the list and invite them to either a summer camp session or a special session, depending on the time of year.
- If you wish to be placed on the list, please contact us at theephoenixplayers@gmail.com and we can let you know what shows are upcoming and get you in touch with the tickets person.