BIG TIME STUDIOS · YOUTH THEATRE 2026/27

Disney

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL JR

All things parent book

THE RADLETT CENTRE · 15–20 JUNE 2027

Big Time STUDIOS

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SECTION 01

Rehearsals

Rehearsal overview

WELCOME REHEARSAL

Sunday 3 January 2027

WEEKLY SESSION

1:30 – 5:45pm

ALL SUNDAYS · JANUARY – JUNE

3 Jan*	10 Jan	17 Jan	~~24 Jan~~
31 Jan	7 Feb	~~14 Feb~~	21 Feb
28 Feb	7 Mar	14 Mar	21 Mar
~~28 Mar~~	~~4 Apr~~	11 Apr	18 Apr
~~25 Apr~~	~~2 May~~	9 May	16 May
23 May	30 May	~~6 Jun~~	13 Jun

Rehearsal · No rehearsal — school holidays · * Welcome rehearsal

Each cast is required for part or all of the 1:30–5:45pm session on every rehearsal date above. The exact split will be announced before accepting your child's place.

SUNDAY 3 JAN Big welcome rehearsal — students receive their scripts, meet the creative team and learn a number from the show.

IMPORTANT DATE Sunday 21 March — Headshot day

Children who are unable to attend will still have their name included in the programme; however, they will not have a headshot or be included in the cast photographs, as our professional photographer is with us for one day only.

Rehearsal notes

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

We've worked to accommodate time off for children across all of our students' schools. Many schools close for Easter, while many of our students' schools close later for Passover. To avoid clashing absences and the difficulty of rehearsing with a partial cast, we've built time off around each of these periods into the schedule.

IF WE FALL BEHIND

If the production is falling behind, we may need to extend rehearsal timings or call students in earlier on a Sunday to catch up with the show.

REHEARSAL COMMITMENT

By accepting your child's place in the production, you are confirming that they are **available for all scheduled rehearsals** and are committed to attending each week.

We treat our productions as **full professional productions** and ask our students to approach the rehearsal process with the same level of commitment, teamwork and responsibility. With a large cast, every performer plays an important part, and absences can have a significant impact on the rest of the company and the progress of rehearsals.

We completely understand that **illness and genuine emergencies are unavoidable**. However, by choosing to take part in the production, students are making a commitment to their cast and creative team. This may occasionally mean missing a birthday party, social event or other non-essential activity in order to attend rehearsal.

Please check all rehearsal and production dates carefully **before accepting your child's place**. If you are already aware of an unavoidable absence, this must be disclosed to us before accepting.

We want the experience to be exciting, rewarding and as close to a professional production environment as possible — and consistent attendance from the whole company is a vital part of making that happen.

SECTION 02

Show week

Show dates

WHY THESE DATES

Theatre availability is tight across the region, and the Radlett Centre could only offer us this single week in 2027 — 15 to 20 June. Demand for the venue is so high that we've already secured our 2028 production too, as that was also down to their last remaining week.

Our last two productions saw some performances play to low audience numbers, which takes the energy out of the room for the children on stage. To make sure every performance has the audience it deserves, each cast will perform two shows this year rather than spreading across more, smaller performances.

CAST KEY

- Cast One — Wildcats Red
- Cast Two — Wildcats Gold

TUESDAY 15 JUNE · CAST ONE

Tech rehearsal

4:00–8:00pm

WEDNESDAY 16 JUNE · CAST TWO

Tech rehearsal

4:00–8:00pm

THURSDAY 17 JUNE · CAST ONE

Dress rehearsal

4:00–8:00pm

FRIDAY 18 JUNE · CAST TWO

Dress rehearsal

4:00–8:00pm

On tech and dress rehearsal days, children should arrive at the theatre as close to 4pm as possible. Students are not expected to take time off school.

Show weekend

SATURDAY 19 & SUNDAY 20 JUNE

SHOW ONE
Sat 19 June · 2:00–3:15pm ·
Cast Two
Required from 10am

*Please note: This show time may change to 4:30–5:45pm, in which case the cast will be required from 1:30pm. Final timings will be confirmed before families are asked to accept their child's place.

SHOW TWO
Sun 20 June · 11:00am–12:15pm
Cast Two
Required from 9am

SHOW THREE
Sun 20 June · 2:30–3:45pm
Cast One
Required from 12:30pm

SHOW FOUR
Sun 20 June · 5:30–6:45pm
Cast One
Cast remains on site from show three

Cast One — Wildcats Red Cast Two — Wildcats Gold

DROP-OFF & PICK-UP

From the stage door. Standing at the entrance of the Radlett Centre, turn left, walk straight down, turn right and you'll see a member of staff.

BETWEEN PERFORMANCES

Children must stay backstage and will not be permitted to leave the building. Exceptions are made for secondary school students with permission slips, where the break is long enough.

Cast allocations & religious observance

We are committed to making our productions accessible to students whose religious observance may prevent them from performing on particular days.

PRIOR TO AUDITIONING

Families will be asked to let us know if their child is **unable to perform on Friday evenings and/or Saturdays due to religious observance**. This information will be taken into consideration when allocating our two casts.

A COMPLEX PROCESS

Allocating approximately 60 students across two balanced casts is a complex process. Alongside availability, our creative team must consider roles, ages, abilities, casting suitability and the overall balance of each company. We therefore ask that the non-Saturday allocation is requested only where a student's own religious observance prevents them from performing on that day, rather than because of friendships, family preferences or preferred performance dates.

A SUNDAY OPTION FOR EVERYONE

If your child is able to perform on Friday evenings and Saturdays but a family member is unable to attend on those days, please note that **both casts will also have a Sunday performance**, ensuring there is an alternative opportunity to see the production.

We will always do our best to accommodate genuine religious observance. Once casts have been allocated, however, we cannot accept requests to change casts based on friendships or preferred performance days.

If there are any other circumstances affecting your child's availability that you feel we should be aware of, please contact us before accepting their place.

My show bag

- ★ Lunch/dinner, a bottle of water and plenty of snacks (no nuts!)
- ★ Black jazz or black ballet shoes.
- ★ Shorts and/or crop top if your child is uncomfortable changing around other children (these must not be seen under their costumes so we recommend black, white, beige, low neckline etc)
- ★ Your script, a notebook and pencil
- ★ Make-up: please see our makeup document for more information — applies to boys as well
- ★ Hairbrush, hairbands, hair spray and hair grips
- ★ Dressing gown to prevent costumes getting dirty when eating
- ★ Clear tights always come in handy!
- ★ Face wipes
- ★ Any medication you may require (this must be given to a teacher upon arrival. Pick up can get very busy, please request your medication back at pick up in case it has not been put in your child's bag)
- ★ Something non-electronic to keep you entertained during downtime, such as a book, colouring or puzzle book. Please remember that our strict no-phone policy applies throughout rehearsals and show week.

SECTION 03

Audition information

Audition dates & timings

AUDITIONS

Sunday 8 November 2026

AGES 7–10

1:30 – 3:30pm

AGES 11–18

3:30-5:45pm

RECALL ROUND

Sunday 29 November 2026

Please note this date has changed slightly since we first announced it, due to a clash in the creative team's availability.

The audition process

A simple, four-stage journey from first audition to accepting a place — designed to feel exciting and clear for both children and parents.

01

First audition

SUN 8 NOVEMBER

A short song and dance routine is taught on the day, so there's nothing to prepare in advance. Students perform in small groups or individually, and where time allows we may also hear short acting extracts. This lets the creative team see children perform, take direction and work with others.

02

Recalls

NOTIFICATIONS AIM: **FRI 20 NOV**
RECALLS: **SUN 29 NOV, 1:30–5:45PM**

Students invited to recalls receive songs and script extracts in advance and are expected to prepare and memorise them before attending. This round lets the creative team explore characters, pairings, acting choices and vocals in more detail.

03

Casting

AIMING FOR **FRI 4 DECEMBER**

The creative team finalises both casts, weighing roles, vocal and acting suitability, age, and the balance of each company. This is a target date rather than a guarantee — if there's any delay, families will be kept updated.

04

Accepting your place

DEADLINE: **FRI 11 DECEMBER**

Once casting is announced, families have until this date to formally accept their child's place and make the first payment. A role isn't confirmed until this is complete — after the deadline, unaccepted places may be reallocated.

A NOTE ON ROLES & CASTING

Students are auditioning for a place in the production as a whole, rather than for one specific character. Being considered for or recalled for a particular role during the process doesn't guarantee that role. Our production includes principal, featured and ensemble roles, and every member of the company plays an important part in bringing the show to life — please only audition if your child would be happy to accept any role offered. Casting decisions are made by the creative team, and previous roles or involvement in Big Time productions don't guarantee an equivalent or larger role this year.

Roles available

CHARACTERS · IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Chad Danforth — a member of the basketball team with a deep passion for the game; Troy's best friend

Troy Bolton — the most popular kid at East High and star of the basketball team; weighed down by his dad's expectations, he struggles to embrace his love of singing

Ryan Evans — an attention-loving star of the school musicals; Sharpay's twin, growing tired of living in his sister's shadow

Gabriella Montez — a new student at East High who is fiercely independent, intelligent, and musically talented

Ms. Darbus — East High's eccentric drama teacher; fuelled by a deep love for theatre

Ms. Tenny — a chemistry teacher at East High

Moderator — the rule-enforcing administrator of the Science Decathlon

Zeke Baylor — a kind basketball player with a crush on Sharpay and whose heart lies in the pastry kitchen

Sharpay Evans — the egocentric star of East High's theatre program; Ryan's twin who never lets him, or anyone, forget she's the leader of the pack

Taylor McKessie — president of the Science Decathlon team and top Brainiac at East High; an early friend to Gabriella

Jack Scott — the school announcer whose nerdiness fades away into a hip and confident persona when broadcasting

Coach Bolton — coach of the basketball team and Troy's father; more focused on the game than on his parenting

Martha Cox — a Brainiac with a secret passion for hip-hop

FEATURED THESPIANS & PARTY KIDS

James, **Susan**, **Cathy** and **Cyndra** — Thespians who take part in the school musical · **Kratnoff** — a Brainiac on the Science Decathlon team

ENSEMBLE

Cheerleaders and Drum Major · Jocks on the basketball team · Brainiacs of the Science Decathlon team · Thespians who take part in the school musical · Party Kids at the ski resort karaoke competition · Rebels — Jocks, Brainiacs and Thespians alike who dare to mess with the status quo and break off from their cliques

CHARACTER LIST AS PUBLISHED IN THE OFFICIAL SCRIPT · CASTING AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CREATIVE TEAM

Tips, tricks & timings

AGE 7-10

1:30-3:30pm

AGE 11-18

3:30-5:45pm

Listen carefully

Pay close attention to instructions during the audition. Following direction well is something directors really look for, as it shows you're ready to work as part of a team.

Personality

Don't just focus on "getting it right" — let us see who you are. A smile, good energy, and enthusiasm can be just as memorable as the performance itself.

Stay positive

Even if you make a mistake, keep going and don't give up. A positive attitude and resilience can leave a stronger impression than a "perfect" performance.

Wear the right clothes

Dress in something comfortable that you can move in. This helps you feel relaxed and ready for acting, dancing, or singing without being restricted.

Respect the space & others

Be polite to staff and kind to your fellow auditionees. Good manners, patience, and teamwork are qualities that help any performer shine.

Enjoy the experience

Remember, an audition is also a chance to perform and share your talent. Treat it like a mini performance, have fun, and be proud of yourself for showing up.

Terms & things to note

SHOW SPACES

Due to staff ratios and safety we can only take a limited number of students and no child's space is guaranteed, even if they've taken part previously.

AVAILABILITY

In order to take part in the show students must be available for the full production week (with the exception of religious restrictions i.e. Shabbat).

SHOW CASTS

These are allocated by the creative team and we cannot accept requests. We will take into account those with religious restrictions.

PHONE CALLS & FEEDBACK

We do not accept phone calls after casting announcements to discuss decisions. We are happy to provide written feedback if requested but will not tolerate abuse, intimidation, or disrespectful behaviour towards our staff or students.

PHOTOS, FOOTAGE & SOCIAL MEDIA

In participating in our youth theatre productions you understand that your child will be professionally photographed, both as part of a group and as an individual. These production and rehearsal shots will be used on our website, social media platforms, and performance programmes. No identifying features such as names will be included in posts on social media and on the website.

TICKETS

Tickets for this production will be sold to the public as well as family and friends. Programmes will also be for sale and include each child's headshot, name and role in the show.

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

We operate a strict no-phone policy during rehearsals. All mobile phones must remain switched off or on silent and kept inside students' bags at all times. Any student found using their phone during rehearsals will have it confiscated and returned at the end of the rehearsal day. Our cast includes a wide range of ages, and some students are not permitted to use or access mobile phones. We are also unable to monitor content being viewed or shared between students on personal devices. For safeguarding reasons, students must therefore not show other cast members content on their phones at any time.

Parents who need to contact their child urgently during rehearsals can do so via the Big Time team.

SECTION 04

Cost to Take Part

Cost

FIRST INSTALMENT · DECEMBER

£190

SECOND INSTALMENT · MARCH

£190

Invoiced Per term Terms Two Instalments Two

DISCOUNTS

10%

Sibling discount

10%

If attending other Big Time group classes (does not apply to one-to-one lessons)

10%

Maximum discount per child

What are you investing in?

We invest heavily in creating large-scale, professional productions for our students, with the scale and quality growing each year. Our production budget increased from £19,000 for Annie in 2023 to £26,000 for Beauty and the Beast in 2024, alongside an increase from four to eight performances. Since then, we have continued to invest in increasingly ambitious production elements, including Aladdin's flying magic carpet and Shrek's large moving Princess Tower and collapsing shack, supported by expanded creative and technical teams to deliver these elements safely and professionally. Your fees contribute towards making this level of production possible and giving our students an experience that goes far beyond a traditional children's show.

CAST PARTY

Our owner knows first-hand the power of these experiences: as a shy child, participating in similar productions helped boost her confidence, playing a big role in her journey into adulthood. To celebrate each show's success, we host a cast party with food, awards, face painting, a live DJ, and a special gift for every child, giving them the biggest and best chance to shine.

What does my £380 include?

Your £380 production fee is a participation fee — it contributes towards roughly six months of rehearsals and training, alongside the major creative and production elements involved in giving your child the experience of a full-scale theatrical production.

YOUR £380 PRODUCTION FEE CONTRIBUTES TOWARDS

Training & rehearsals

Around six months of Sunday rehearsals, January to June

Professional direction, choreography and musical direction

Training in acting, singing, dance and musical theatre

Technical and dress rehearsals at The Radlett Centre

The production

A full-scale theatre set, costumes, props and staging

Professional sound, including overhead and radio/headset microphones allocated by role and scene, not to every performer individually

Participation in two performances at The Radlett Centre

Your child also receives

Cast T-shirt, script and rehearsal materials

Professional headshot

Digital production photographs

End-of-production cast party with food, entertainment, awards and a gift for every child

WHAT ISN'T INCLUDED

The £380 fee covers your child's participation, not audience admission. Parents provide: black jazz or ballet shoes; basic under-costume items (shorts, crop tops, tights) where required; personal show-week make-up; food and drinks during rehearsals and show week; audience theatre tickets; and show programmes.

WHY ARE TICKETS SOLD SEPARATELY?

The £380 fee supports your child's rehearsal, training and production experience. Ticket income contributes towards the costs of staging the performances themselves — theatre hire, technicians, licensed chaperones and stewards, and licensing/ticketing royalties. That's why tickets are sold separately, not included in the fee.

WITHDRAWALS & REFUNDS

Once an instalment has been paid, we cannot offer refunds. From the point a child accepts their place, we make financial commitments based on confirmed cast numbers — deposits and purchases for T-shirts, scripts, headshots, costumes, props, and theatre and set costs. If your child withdraws before their second instalment is due, the first instalment remains non-refundable and 50% of the remaining fees becomes payable.

Example budget

THEATRE

One Week Theatre Hire	**£7,000 – £10,000**
Technicians	**£2,500 – £4,000**
Microphone Hire	**£1,800 – £2,200**

STAFF

Director, Musical Director & Choreographer	**£8,000**
Assistants & Stage Manager	**£2,500 – £3,500**
Show Week Chaperones & Stewards	**£1,000 – £3,000**

OTHER

Props & Set	**£4,000 – £6,500**
Costumes	**£4,000 – £6,000**
Marketing	**£2,000 – £3,500**
Rehearsal Studio Hire	**£1,500 – £4,000**
Licensing & Ticketing Royalties	**£1,500 – £2,000**
Script & Programme Printing	**£800**
Cast T-shirts	**£600**
Show Photos	**£400 – £600**
Extras i.e. staging effects	**£600 – £1,000**

Theatre hire, technicians, chaperones and stewards are dependent on the number of shows.

SECTION 05

F.A.Qs

F.A.Qs

Where are Sunday rehearsals held?

Our regular Sunday rehearsals take place at our own purpose-built performance studios, with air conditioning and a secure buzzer-entry system. On rare occasions, a rehearsal may move to Hartley Hall, a few minutes away — families will be notified in advance of any change of venue.

BIG TIME STUDIOS

Mill Hill Library
Hartley Avenue
Mill Hill
NW7 2HX

Can parents stay and watch auditions or rehearsals?

Auditions and rehearsals are closed sessions, so parents are asked to drop children off and return at the designated collection time.

Are weekly rehearsals drop-off only?

Yes. Weekly rehearsals are drop-off sessions and parents are not permitted to remain in the studios during rehearsals. Children should be collected promptly at their designated finish time.

What should my child bring to their audition?

A bottle of water, a snack, and dance shoes if they already own them. Owning dance shoes is not a requirement for auditioning.

Do children need to attend the full recall session?

At present, yes — families should plan for recalled students to be available for the full session on Sunday 29 November, 1:30–5:45pm. The final schedule will depend on how many children are recalled and whether the creative team needs to see particular students together. If call times can be shortened, families will be informed once the recall structure is finalised.

Are children expected to practise at home?

Yes. Taking part in the production requires commitment outside of Sunday rehearsals too. Students are expected to learn lines, practise songs and harmonies, review choreography and go over any material set by the creative team between sessions. Rehearsal time is used to move the production forward, so we ask students to arrive each week confident with material they have already been taught and ready to build on it.

F.A.Qs, continued

What happens if my child isn't offered a place?

Unfortunately, the number of children we can accept into the production is limited, and not every child who auditions will necessarily be offered a place. Children not initially offered a place may be placed on our reserve list and could subsequently be contacted if an offered role or production place is not accepted. They are very welcome to audition for one of our future productions, including auditioning again next year, and to explore our regular weekday classes at Big Time Academy, which work towards end-of-term Watch Weeks and give students further opportunities to develop their skills and confidence.

Is there a refund policy if my child has to drop out?

We do not provide refunds if a child has to drop out. Our productions are budgeted very carefully based on exact participant numbers, with funds often allocated in advance to secure high-quality sets, costumes, and other production elements. When a child withdraws, these costs have already been committed, and we are unable to recoup them.

How long is the performance expected to last?

Performances are usually 75 minutes long with no interval.

Are there specific costumes or props we need to provide?

Yes, everyone is expected to provide black dance shoes; these can be jazz or ballet shoes but must not be trainers. We also ask parents to provide crop tops and shorts should children feel more comfortable with these under their costumes.

Who will be supervising the children during rehearsals and performances?

Our trained staff will supervise the children at all times. This includes our director, choreographer, vocal coaches and assistants, all of whom are DBS-checked and have experience working with children. We have a dedicated head chaperone who focuses on backstage management to ensure children are safe, calm, and that Big Time are abiding by the local council's rules for child performers.

Can we take our own videos and photos?

We understand the excitement of capturing your child's big moment, but for the sake of every young performer on stage, we are asking all audience members to resist the urge to take photos or videos during the performance. When phones go up, it shifts focus from the children's hard work and dedication to the screens in front of them. We'll provide professional photos of the production digitally at no extra cost.