



### ***About the Teen Performance Ensemble***

WFT's Performance Ensemble program, for students in grades 6-12, is the opportunity for teen actors to deepen their skills as theatrical storytellers. Over a 12-week period students will further develop their actor's tools while rehearsing for a culminating production of the musical ***Once On This Island Jr.*** by the legendary writing team of Ahrens and Flaherty to take place on the WFT stage on **May 31 (7pm) and June 1 (3pm and 7pm).**

**Tuition \$850\*** \*Some tuition assistance available. If accepted into the program we will work with you to create a plan.

**Audition required. Auditions by appointment:** Wed. 1/16 5-8pm, Sat. 1/19 1-5pm, Sun. 1/20 1-5pm (in 15 min. slots) Email Jeri Hammond at [jerih@bu.edu](mailto:jerih@bu.edu) with preferred day/ time range to reserve a slot. This round of auditions will determine acceptance in the program. We will hold 1-2 callback/ rehearsal days in February (dates TBD) to assign roles and then begin our regular rehearsal process March 2.

### ***About Once On This Island***

With its poignant story and catchy Caribbean-flavored score, *Once on This Island* is a highly original theatrical adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's popular fairy tale, *The Little Mermaid*, and the Tony-nominated Broadway musical by the legendary writing team, Ahrens and Flaherty (Ragtime, Seussical).

Through almost non-stop song and dance, this full-hearted musical tells the story of Ti Moune, a peasant girl who rescues and falls in love with Daniel, a wealthy boy from the other side of her island. When Daniel is returned to his people, the fantastical gods who rule the island guide Ti Moune on a quest that will test the strength of her love against the powerful forces of prejudice, hatred and even death.

### ***About the Director***

Jeri Hammond, Director of Education, who directed the inaugural Teen Performance Ensemble production of *Into the Woods* last spring, returns to direct *Once On This Island*.

*"Almost from the moment the curtain closed on Into the Woods, students began asking me what musical would be next. The complex ensemble work, important themes, music, acting, and movement demands, focus on storytelling-- and the sheer beauty of the piece, makes Once on this Island, a perfect learning opportunity for our Teen Ensemble."*

## Rehearsals and Auditions

We will typically rehearse 3 days a week Monday/ Wednesday evenings and weekends. Actors will not be called to all rehearsals. A rehearsal schedule will be developed to best work around cast availability.

Auditions will be held **Wed. 1/16 5-8pm, Sat. 1/19 1-5pm, Sun. 1/20 1-5pm (in 15 min. slots)**  
**Contact Jeri Hammond at [jerih@bu.edu](mailto:jerih@bu.edu) to schedule an audition or for more information.**

## AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:

**Please note:** This preliminary audition will determine acceptance into the program. You will then complete the registration process. We will spend the first couple of rehearsals (mid-late Feb. dates TBD) in audition callbacks to determine specific roles.

1. Bring a resume or paragraph or two stating your prior experience
2. Bring a headshot or photo of yourself
3. Look over the attached potential rehearsal dates and times. Be ready to share availability and conflicts at your audition.
4. Prepare 32 bars of a musical theatre song of your choice (not from *Once on this Island* but in keeping with the style of the show)
5. Prepare the following Storyteller cut from the show. This ideally should be memorized (or you should be very familiar with it), and incorporate varied vocal, facial, and physical storytelling that conveys the emotional context of the story.

## Storyteller:

Once on this island , the gods sent a storm even worse than this one.

But, out of that terrible storm, there came a story.

The tale of a peasant girl who fell in love with a young grand homme.

A girl chosen by the gods for a magical fate.

The story of Ti Moune!

The story begins on the night of the flood.

Many huts washed away! Many peasants drowned in Agwe's angry waters!

But one small girl caught his attention.

A she was spared. An orphan, plucked from the flood by Agwe.

Sheltered in a tree by Asaka.

And sent on a journey by the gods. A journey that would test the strength of love...

Against the power of death...

On this island of two different worlds.

**Rehearsal Availability: Please bring completed sheet with you to your audition.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

We understand that teens often have lots of commitments. We will do our best to work around them as much as possible. Knowing conflicts and availability at the onset will allow us to create a rehearsal schedule that best works with cast availability. Please note that not every actor is called at every rehearsal.

**Mondays 6-9pm**

March 4, March 11, March 18, March 25, April 8, April 15, April 22, April 29, May 6, May 13, **May 20**

**Circle available dates and note additional info re: Monday conflicts/availability here:**

**Wednesdays 6-9pm**

March 6, March 13, March 20, March 27, April 3, April 10, April 17, April 24, May 1, May 8, May 15, **May 22, May 29**

**Circle available dates and note additional info re: Wednesday conflicts/availability here:**

**Saturdays 2-7pm**

March 2, March 9, March 16, March 23, March 30, April 6, April 13, April 27, May 4, May 11, May 18, **June 1**

**Circle available dates and note additional info re: Saturday conflicts/availability here:**

**Sundays 2-7pm**

March 3, March 10, March 17, March 24, April 7, April 14, April 28, May 5, May 12, May 19,

**Circle available dates and note additional info re: Sunday conflicts/availability here:**

**Required Tech/ Dress and Performance Dates: Mon. 5/20, Tues. 5/21, Wed. 5/22, Thurs. 5/23, Tentative Fri. 5/24, Tues. May 28, Wed. May 29, Thurs. May 30 and performances on May 31 and June 1**

***Note any conflicts with dates in red here and speak with the director:***