

Hello, Highland Park Broadway Bound Cast & Families!

First and foremost I'd like to introduce myself and my assistant director, Elyssa. We both just moved to the Chicago area from Austin, Texas. I recently graduated from Texas State University with a degree in Directing. I've spent the last four years directing and producing theatre across Central Texas. I've recently directed a musical for my theatre company Off Key Anthem, and last December I directed a Christmas show, *A Monster Carol*. Elyssa graduated with a BFA in Performance and Production; her previous works include *Mr. Marmalade* (Director) and *The Normal Heart* (Assistant Director).

Our goal for this show is to really focus on nurturing and guiding our young student actors. Improv Playhouse is really all about "community" and guiding its students into a self-supporting troupe of actors and friends. Especially at this stage, there's a camaraderie that needs to be formed between actors in order to foster a good working environment. We'll be working on how to "trust" another actor when they're on stage with us, and how to feel comfortable working in an ensemble.

For our audition process, we focused on seeing everyone work in improv situations. We were looking for the ability to think on their feet and really go after what they needed from the other person on stage. After auditioning for two days, we were able to cast the show to the best of our ability. We worked our hardest to distribute parts fairly.

The cast is as follows:

Fiona - Young Simba/ Simba
Susanne - Scar
Charley - Mufasa
Zosia - Nala
Poppy - Pumbaa
Jordan - Timon
Cassidy - Zazu
Lily - Raifiki
Andrew - Banzai
Rebecca - Shenzi
Olivia - Sarabi

We could not be more excited to work with such a talented group!

Sincerely,

Taylor Pasche