



Blue Hill Troupe - Sponsorship Process 2011

Congratulations on taking a new role in the Troupe: proud Sponsor! Please read on for some important dates and information to share with your Sponsoree. We want to ensure that your Sponsoree's first experiences with the Troupe are welcoming ones!

Dates to Remember:

- **Thursday, August 25th - "Meet the Troupe"** at Blackstone's (245 E. 55th Street between 2nd and 3rd Avenues) from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. ***We invite both you and your Sponsoree to join us. Even if you are unable to attend, please encourage your Sponsoree to come. There will be plenty of Troupers from the Membership Committee to make them feel at home!***
- **Wednesday, September 7th. APPLICATIONS AND SPONSOR FORMS DUE**
- **Monday, September 12th & Tuesday, September 13th - New Members' Cocktail Parties** at the home of Georgia Van Dusen, 313 West 107th Street (between West End Avenue and Riverside Drive), from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. ***We ask that all prospective New Members attend one of these evenings to get further information about the Troupe, meet the Membership Committee, and sign-up for audition and interview times. Sponsors do not attend.***
- **Monday, September 19th and Tuesday, September 20th – Frontstage Auditions** at the home of Mac McMorris, 365 West End Avenue (at West 77th Street), Apt. 12A. If your Sponsoree is interested in Frontstage, please ensure s/he can attend one of these evenings. Information about the audition requirements is in the prospective member application package and will be further explained at the Meet the Troupe and Cocktail Parties.
- **Monday, September 26th and Tuesday, September 27th – Backstage Interviews** at the home of Cornelia and Jim Iredell, 600 West End Avenue (at West 89th Street), Apt. 1-A3. If your Sponsoree is interested in Backstage, please ensure s/he can attend one of these evenings. ***Also note that Sponsorees not accepted to Frontstage are encouraged to interview for Backstage***

And, of course:

- **Fall Show: *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, Oct. 28 – Nov. 5, 2011**
- **Spring Show: *Utopia Limited*, April 20-28, 2012**

Important Information to Share with Your Sponsoree:

First and foremost, please be sure to outline the time commitment that the Troupe requires of its active members. There *is* a direct correlation between new members' activity in their first year and their "staying power" in subsequent years. It seems a cliché because it's true: a new member only gets out what s/he puts in. Also emphasize the charitable aspects of what we do, along with the creative and social dimensions of the Troupe. While it's a seemingly big commitment, it's for a very worthy cause. As a sponsor, we also ask that you be involved this season, be it in the cast, at the workspace and/or in committees; let your Sponsoree see that the Troupe is important to you by also committing some of your own time.

- **For Frontstage candidates:** Please emphasize the expectation that new members participate in Winter Concerts and the Spring Show.
- **For Backstage candidates:** Please emphasize the consistent weekend commitment required of new members.

Here's an overview of the year's schedule:

Frontstage

- *October – early November:* assist with Fall Show production
- *Early October – mid-December:* Tuesday evening music rehearsals (7:30 – 9:30 pm) begin October 4.
- *January:* Spring Show staging rehearsals begin January 3. Saturdays (10:00 – 5:00) for principals; Sunday and Tuesday evenings for chorus.
- *Production weeks, April 13-28, 2012:* We're in the theater for technical/dress rehearsals, and the run.

In addition, Frontstagers are encouraged to assist at Backstage work sessions throughout the production period (schedule below).

Backstage

- *October – early November:* assist with Fall Show production
- *January 7, 2012:* Spring Show work sessions begin, and continue every Saturday (10am-6pm) and Sunday (12noon-5pm) until we are in the theater
- *Theater move-in weekend, April 7 & 8, 2012:* This is extremely important for new members and veterans alike. They should plan to spend as much time as possible helping that weekend as we clear out the workspace and bring the stage to life.
- *Production weeks: April 7-28, 2012 –* Backstagers are encouraged to assist as much as possible throughout these weeks leading up to opening night, at which point it's time for running crew and strike!

All

In addition to production responsibilities, we look to our new members for assistance on the program (e.g. writing, editing, photography, layout) and on tickets and subscriptions (e.g. helping with mailings, taking ticket orders, working in the box office), and we depend on **everyone** to sell ads and tickets! It's all for the benefit of the students of the "I Have a Dream" Foundation, after all. Of course, in addition to the work, we also have lots of opportunities for **FUN!** **Be sure to explain the layout of the Troupe year**, highlighting not only the theatrical, but also the social, with events from the New Members' Orientation to the Winter Ball, from Caroling to Cabaret, and everything in between. Please also be sure to let your prospective Trouper know that annual active member dues are \$75.00.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO RIGHT NOW

Let us know the name and contact information of your potential Sponsoree so we can be sure to send information and reminders, beginning with an invitation to the August 25th gathering at Blackstone's. **Remember: we can only send the information if we have a name!** You should always feel free to refer your Sponsoree to the Membership Committee with questions—and don't hesitate to contact us yourself! The BHT website (www.bht.org) is also a wealth of information for general questions.

Here's to the future class of 2011...Hail Poetry!

Membership Committee Co-Chairs:

Steven Petrucelli – Backstage Membership
admissions@bht.org or (212) 956-5525

Mark Heimbigner – Frontstage Membership
admissions@bht.org or (917) 521-0987

BLUE HILL TROUPE, LTD: 2011 SPONSOR'S FORM

Your endorsement of this candidate is important and should be taken seriously. We are relying on your judgment in our evaluation of the candidate's commitment and likely "staying power." All information provided on sponsor's form is confidential, so please feel free to be honest about your reasons for sponsorship. Please give your candidate(s) the enclosed application and information.

1. Membership Application: To be completed and returned by the **candidate**.
2. Sponsor's Form: To be completed and returned by the **sponsoring Troupe member**.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2011

FRONTSTAGE APPLICATIONS

Forms, etc. should be sent to: admissions@bht.org or by mail to Mark Heimbigner, 187 Pinehurst Avenue, Apt. 2C, New York, NY 10033. Call (917) 521-0987 with any questions.

BACKSTAGE APPLICATIONS

Forms, etc. should be sent to: admissions@bht.org or by mail to Steven Petrucelli, 315 West 55th Street, Apt. 6E, New York, NY 10019. Call (212)956-5525 with any questions.

Sponsor's Name

Telephone

Candidate's Name

Telephone

Candidate applying for Frontstage?

Candidate applying for Backstage?

Candidate applying for Both?

How do you know this candidate? For how long?

Why are you sponsoring this candidate, and what contributions do you expect her/him to make to the Troupe?

Is this candidate known by any other members of the Troupe? If so, by whom?

Please use the other side of this form for any other information you might think helpful.
Thank you.

BLUE HILL TROUPE, LTD: 2011 SPONSOR'S FORM

-Page 2-

Please add any additional information (Optional)