

The Boxcar



Children

Adapted for the stage by Barbara Field
From the book by Gertrude Chandler Warner
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The Community Theatre of Howell Announces Auditions for

The Boxcar Children

August 1st from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

August 2nd from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Callbacks – August 4th from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

School Show Performance Dates (morning performances) –
December 3rd, 4th and 5th

Public Performance Dates – December 7th, 8th and 9th

Directed by: Sarah Kinnison

Assistant Directed by: Justin Brandt

Produced by: Barbara Brandt

One of the most beloved children's series in literature, *The Boxcar Children* has become a classic that many have enjoyed. When the four Alden children lose their parents in an accident, they are threatened with separation. Instead of waiting for the adults to fix their "problem," they decide to run away together so they will never be apart. After sleeping in ditches and in the woods, they stumble upon an abandoned train boxcar in a field, and make it their home. Meanwhile, Ms. Sarah Calder, a social worker, searches for them and tries to discover who is offering a three thousand dollar reward to the person who finds the children. Although the oldest boy, Henry, works cutting the Truman's lawn for money, and the Boxcar is keeping them safe and warm, the four children find they still need outside help to survive. But who can they trust that won't try to separate them?

Mid-Michigan Fine Arts Association
P.O. Box 533
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BOXCAR CHILDREN AUDITION INFORMATION ENCLOSED

Auditions: **Wednesday, August 1, 2007, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**
Thursday, August 2, 2007, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

You need only attend one of these dates. Auditions will be held at the Howell High School Freshman Campus, 1400 W. Grand River in Howell. You may arrive ½ hour early to complete your audition paperwork. Audition paperwork can also be downloaded at www.cththeatre.org. Please bring a small photo that we can keep with you to auditions. Groups of four will begin auditioning promptly at the scheduled start time.

Callbacks: **Saturday, August 4, 2007, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** You will be notified on Friday if you are being called back on Saturday.

Cast List: The cast list will be posted no later than **Sunday, August 5, 2007, at 8:00 p.m.** The cast list will be located on the backstage theatre door and the website at www.cththeatre.org.

Round Up: Actor Round Up will be held on **Friday, September 21, 2007, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** An additional welcome activity for actors and their families will be held on **Saturday, September 22, 2007, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Rehearsal: Rehearsals will start **September 25th**. A detailed rehearsal schedule will be available at the auditions. **Please come prepared to list any and all conflicts from September 21, 2007 to December 9, 2007.**

All of our auditions are open to members and non-members alike! However, if you are cast, we do ask that you become a member. Copies of the script may be checked out for one week by contacting the producer, Barbara Brandt, at (810)225-0242 or brandt.clan@sbcglobal.net. There will be a \$10 deposit on all scripts which will be returned when the script is returned.

Co-sponsored by Drs. Fuhst-Wylie & Kahn, Family Dental Care, Howell, Michigan

Character Descriptions

The Alden Children

Henry – Should appear 12-14 yrs. old. Henry is the oldest brother. He's looked up to as co-leader of the four. He likes to read, is realistic and intelligent, and also is a hard worker. He doesn't trust grown-ups.

Jessie – Should appear 12-14 yrs. old. She is Henry's twin sister and the other co-leader of the four children. She likes to take charge more than Henry does and is bossy at times, but is mostly practical, more so than Henry is. She takes care of the younger kids.

Violet "Vi" – Should appear 9-11 yrs. old. Vi can be a bit stubborn. She likes to be and stay clean and keep everything in order.

Benny – Should appear 7-9 yrs. old. Benny is the youngest of the four children. He is 'slower' than most, but the most inventive and creative of all the children.

Adult Characters – TO BE PLAYED BY TEENS - (these four may double roles) We hope to cast ages 14-18 yrs.

Mr. Alden / Officer Banning – Mr. Alden is the children's long-lost grandfather. He's rich, demanding, and stubborn (like Violet), but practical (like Jessie). Officer Banning is a police officer who is looking for the four children.

Sarah Calder – The social worker dedicated to finding the missing Alden children. She is caring, and has the children's best interest at heart, even if it means bending the rules.

Mrs. Alberts / Mrs. Truman – Mrs. Alberts is the school principal who first discovers the children. She deems them a "problem that has to be solved" and is the one who causes the children to run away. Mrs. Truman is Sam's mom. She is loving, and wants to give the kids a chance. She is there with cookies and lemonade, but also points out what needs to be done in the time at hand.

Samuel Truman – Sam befriends Henry, likes to talk about sports, and takes Henry in. He is also the defender of the children, and doesn't want them to be handed over to the system.

The director reserves the option to cast outside of the listed descriptions based on audition participation.