



Big Fish Summer 2026 Audition Information

For students who will **complete 6th-12th* grade** (see 3rd-5th option below) this Spring of 2026.

Location: Auditions and callbacks will be held on TCOE's Liberty Campus in the Planetarium and Science Center (PSC) building at 11535 Ave. 264 in Visalia.

Vocal and Acting Audition Day Option 1*: Monday, April 27, 2026

Vocal and Acting Audition Day Option 2*: Tuesday, April 28

**Choose and attend only one day of vocal and acting auditions listed above.*

Dance Audition Day: Wednesday, April 29

- **Check-in begins at 4:00 p.m. for each day above. The entire group will begin auditions at 4:30 p.m.** The audition form is available on our website so you can bring it with you. You will still need to check in on the day of the audition for measurements and a photo.
- End times for all audition days are impossible to estimate at this time because the number of attendees is unknown. In the past, when we had around 50 participants, we finished around 7:00 p.m. However, each show and group is different! Parents/Guardians will sign up for the BAND communication app onsite so we can share when we are wrapping up.

Everyone must participate in all three disciplines involved in the audition (vocal, acting, and dance) in order to be considered for casting. The directors and audition panel fully understand that students have strengths and weaknesses and varying levels of experience and confidence in the three disciplines. There are plenty of roles in every show that are not dance-heavy or don't necessarily have a vocal solo. Just try your best and learn from the experience, no matter what happens!

***3rd-5th Grade Audition Day** Thursday, April 30. Check-in begins at 4:00 p.m.; auditions at 4:30. **This audition is only for the supporting role of Young Will.** Everything (music, acting scenes, etc.) will be provided online in advance and on-site. We may cast from the 6th-12th grade pool, but if there are younger students, currently in grades 3rd-5th, who are up to the commitment of the summer show, we want to give them a chance! In the show, Young Will is Edward's son, approximately 10 years old. He is precocious and intelligent. Vocal range is Middle C (or octave below/above) - very little dance required. **Students called back for Edward will be asked to join.**

Dance Callbacks: Thursday, April 30 at 5:30 p.m. **by invitation only.**

Vocal/Acting Callbacks: Saturday, May 2, **by invitation only.**

- 9:00 a.m. last chance/make-up auditions **(to be coordinated w/ Bethany via email in advance).**
- 10:00 a.m. Vocal/Acting Callbacks begin
- Participants will be released from Vocal/Acting callbacks in smaller groups as we learn more. We will communicate with parents/guardians via BAND as we are wrapping up with certain characters. If you are called back for multiple parts or large parts, please plan to work until at least 4:00 p.m. Bring snacks and water. It's a very long but exciting day.

Parents/Guardians: You're invited to join your student during the check-in period from 4:00-4:30 p.m. on audition days to sign paperwork, join BAND, etc. However, once auditions/callbacks begin, you will be asked to leave the building. Our activities are closed while students are on site, and our building is locked during activity times. Please plan accordingly, and thank you for your cooperation.

Big Fish Audition Instructions and Tips

Vocal and Acting Audition Tips:

You choose your own audition song from a stage or film musical, including animated films, preferably NOT a song from *Big Fish*. Select 16 to 32 bars of music (30 to 60 seconds) of the song that you feel most confident about, and that shows off your singing and acting abilities. You are not allowed to perform with a pre-recorded backing track or a capella. If you need help with this, email charlotteg@tcoe.org.

This year, our accompanists have offered you the chance to email them your sheet music ahead of time so they may practice your selections. If you are auditioning on Monday, 4/27, you can email your sheet music to rhenczel@gmail.com. If you are auditioning on Tuesday, 4/28, you can email your sheet music to adamwlong@comcast.net. Whether or not you take advantage of this opportunity, you must bring a clean copy of the piano vocal sheet music (with the appropriate edits clearly marked in a binder) with you to the audition for the accompanist. Click [HERE](#) to view Playbill's tips for preparing sheet music.

You will be given the acting audition scene/sides to review and prepare when you arrive at the audition. Take this time to get familiar with the audition side. Take this chance to make the reading your own and show off your talent. Be confident and go up there with a clear, loud voice. If you have any questions about the audition side, make sure you ask. We always want you to feel comfortable.

Please wear comfortable clothes that represent your personality, BUT are neat, clean, and make you look well put together. Have your hair off your face, so we can see your face. No hats please.

Dance Audition Tips:

Please wear dance attire or athletic/gym/P.E. clothing for your dance audition. You may wear jazz or ballet shoes if you have them. If not, light and flexible sneakers are great. Pull your hair securely off your face. No jeans, dresses, open-toed or slip-on shoes, crocs, or hats. You will be taught the dance combination on-site. We will go through it several times as a group, then you will be divided up into smaller groups for your actual audition. If you have any further questions, email mckenna.hoffman@tcoe.org.

Callbacks Tips:

There will be **invitation-only callbacks in vocals and acting** for students from whom we wish to see more. For this specific show, there will also be a **dance callback** for larger dance numbers like *I Know What You Want*, *Showdown*, and *Red, White, and True*. Anyone who received a vocal/acting callback for Edward, Sandra, Jenny Hill, or the Witch must participate in the dance callback. The choreographer may also invite students to participate in the dance callback based on their dance audition.

We will hand out any callback materials after the dance audition is complete OR we may send an email to students. **It is VERY important that your email is legible on your audition form.**

Always remember, just because you didn't get a callback doesn't mean you didn't get cast or didn't get a role. Callbacks are just for those we want to see more from.

If you have a scheduling conflict with auditions/callbacks, please reach out to bethany.rader@tcoe.org by April 22 to see if we can accommodate you.

Rehearsal and Show Information for Big Fish

Cast and Parent Meeting Day

If you are cast in the show, attend this mandatory meeting to mingle with your fellow castmates and members of the production team, complete your registration, download the Google Drive folders, pay your \$85 tuition, sign up for our communication platform, get measured for your costume, and take home your script and other materials!

- Tuesday, May 12, 2026, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Planetarium (PSC).

Classroom Rehearsals

Please review this information thoroughly so you may accurately and completely list your conflicts on your audition form.

Table Read

- **Tentatively** Monday, May 25, from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- All leads and featured parts (those with speaking parts) are asked to attend this rehearsal to read and sing through the entire show! The director will talk through the vision and give character development tips. It's a super fun experience!

Vocal Coaching Sessions

- Tuesday-Thursday, June 2-4, Charlotte will schedule coaching sessions with leads, understudies, and vocal features to get a head start on solos, duets, and small group songs. These rehearsals will happen in the afternoons between 2 and 6 p.m. based on student availability.

Classroom Rehearsals

- Begin the week of June 8 using the attached draft schedule.
 - *Tulare Joint Union High School students are permitted to join the first Monday-Wednesday rehearsals after school gets out. If your school has foggy day extensions. Please speak with Bethany at auditions and list conflicts on your form.*
- Rehearsals are from **1:00-6:00 p.m.** Please note this is different from previous summer schedules. Not all cast members will be called for all rehearsal times.
- The cast should have all song lyrics and lines memorized (off book) by the very first rehearsal. The cast should also be very familiar with all songs in the show and ready to learn harmonies on Day 1 of rehearsal.
- Cast members may be called for costume fittings outside their regularly scheduled rehearsals.
- Final classroom rehearsal before loading into the theatre venue is Thursday, July 2.
- Conflicts after our final classroom rehearsal are **not** allowed.
- We are adding "**Media Mondays**" to our rehearsal schedule. This is when we will be filming or photographing content for our social media and website. This helps us advertise our shows and program. Every Monday, cast members are asked to wear specific items:
 - Black pants or longer black shorts.
 - Jazz shoes, show shoes, or athletic shoes.
 - Past TCOE show t-shirt or a plain full-coverage t-shirt with no prints, designs, or logos.
 - Hair pulled back neatly and securely off the face. No accessories.

Theatre Rehearsals and Performances

- Performance **Venue**: Rotary Theater at 330 S. Dollner St. in Visalia.

Load-In: Monday, July 6 at 9:00 a.m. Load-in is mandatory for most cast members and requires trucks, trailers, power tools, and elbow grease from our teens and parent/guardian volunteers.

Sitzprobe is tentatively on Thursday, July 9, from 7:00 - 10:00 pm (tech rehearsal will end early to take an hour unsupervised dinner break before Sitzprobe begins).

The **all-day tech/dress** rehearsal on July 11 is a long day! Students should eat a filling and sustaining breakfast to get them through the run. They should bring clean* snacks (for emergencies during the run) and a packed lunch. Students will *not* receive a break to eat their lunch out of costume until after the run is complete (usually around 2 p.m.). *Clean snacks mean food that can be eaten neatly without the possibility of spilling, staining, etc. Examples might include apples, pretzels, raw almonds, celery sticks, and clear water. Snacks that do not fit this criteria include chips, cheesy items (due to grease stains and orange cheese dust), berries, peanut butter, chocolate, anything oily or with sauces/dips/dressing, drinks with any color, etc.

- **Call times** for dress rehearsals and show days (beginning Monday, July 13) are tentative and are subject to change as we get closer and learn more about the show.
- Our **dismissal times** for the final two weeks will be late! We will know more as we get closer and will update parents/guardians via BAND or email with further details.

Performances are

- July 17 at 7:00 p.m.
- July 18 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. (cast does **not** leave theater in between shows)
- July 23 at 7:00 p.m.
- July 24 at 7:00 p.m.
- July 25 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. (cast does **not** leave theater in between shows)

Strike occurs Sunday, July 26, the day after the final show. Strike is mandatory for most cast members and requires trucks, trailers, power tools, and elbow grease from our teens and parent/guardian volunteers.

Other Notes

- **Understudies and Swings**: Since returning to live performances after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, TCOE Theatre Company has made it standard practice to have understudies and swings for various roles. Our understudies are not guaranteed a performance and **will only perform if** the person cast in the role is unable to perform due to an emergency, sickness, or injury (which has happened!). Understudies for the Summer Production will have at least one full run-through rehearsal in the classroom and a run-through on stage. Their family will be invited to attend the on-stage rehearsal.
- **Incident Reports**: If a student complains of illness or pain or is injured during rehearsal, the "incident" will be reported to the primary parent/guardian via email if nothing else. This is to ensure that parents/guardians can seek professional medical advice if necessary.

Conflict Requests

Please carefully review the information above so that you may have an idea of the time commitment for this project.

Please list any and all conflict requests with the dates and times listed on the General Rehearsal Schedule on your audition form. Know that while we try our best to accommodate all your amazing extracurricular activities, your conflict requests may affect your casting. We want this experience to be as stress-free as possible for everyone (including you!) and we want to honor those who are willing to make this project a priority in their lives. We expect students to attend all required rehearsals unless absences have been approved by the directing team ahead of time and as soon as possible.

While we do our best to schedule around pre-approved absences, understand that you are not guaranteed to be included in the scene, song, or dance being taught while you are out. **Only two excused absences are allowed during the June 8 - July 2 rehearsal period.** We recommend leaving at least one of those excused absences unclaimed as a back-up in case something comes up or you aren't feeling well one day. While illnesses and unexpected family emergencies are reviewed on a case-by-case basis, missing more than the two allotted absences may result in your removal from specific scenes or numbers, or the production entirely. We are unable to accommodate any conflicts beginning July 6.

- By committing to the production, you are agreeing to schedule personal commitments (like vacations, birthday parties, doctors' appointments, etc.) around our rehearsal schedule.
- All conflict requests (like school functions, sports activities, dance classes, etc.) should have been submitted on your audition form. If you have questions about conflicts, please email bethany.rader@tcoe.org.
- TCOE Theatre Company's Conflict Appeals Policy: We make a great effort to create a detailed calendar that allows students to only come to rehearsal when we are working on material in which they are involved. For this reason, if a student requests to be absent from a rehearsal or performance date, and if this request was not submitted by callbacks, then the absence may not be excused, and the student may face adverse action, including being replaced by another student for the performance and production. Requests for absences received after callbacks may or may not be approved based on the discretion of the directors. In determining whether to grant the request for the absence, the directors shall take into consideration factors including, but not limited to: (1) whether the absence is school-related; and (2) the impact of the absence on the rehearsal process and the rest of the production. If the directors deny the request for an unscheduled absence or absence date change, the student or the parent/guardian may appeal in writing the directors' decision to the County Superintendent or his designee. The appeal to the County Superintendent or his designee must be filed within three (3) business days of the directors' decision to deny the absence. The decision of the County Superintendent or his designee on appeal shall be final.

Parent/Guardian Commitments

Financial Commitments

PLEASE NOTE: Scholarships and financial support are always available. Do not let this section deter you from participating. Please email bethany.rader@tcoe.org for more information.

- \$85 tuition fee for the entire summer. This also includes one souvenir show t-shirt.
- Performers will be asked to provide their own specified show shoes, specific costuming undergarments, hair/makeup supplies, and potentially some simple costuming items (e.g., their own white t-shirt). We suggest planning for an additional ~\$100 to cover these supplies.
- There are no complimentary tickets. All audience members must purchase a ticket (\$17).
- Optional onsite lunch during two-show days (~ \$20 each)
- Optional cast party (~ \$15-\$25)
- Optional show DVD (~ \$10)
- Requested concessions and water donations (\$25+)

Again, we never want a student to feel they can not participate due to cost. If you feel this might be an issue, please speak with Bethany.

Volunteer Commitments

- Parents/guardians are encouraged to join our Theatre Company Boosters Club. More information will be available once casting is complete. Our Boosters are responsible for our concession stand, ticket taking and ushering, lunches on our two-show days, keepsake show t-shirts, videography and photography, and many other important tasks. Stay tuned!
- Our program survives with the help of our parent/guardian volunteers! Be prepared for calls to help with crafting, sewing, building, painting, cleaning, laundering, chaperoning, etc. throughout the entire process. Some of our parents/guardians spend countless hours working on multiple projects, and we can't thank them enough! We also want to help lighten the load, so we are asking that each parent/guardian of each cast member volunteer for **at least 4 hours this summer**. This is lower than years prior in the hope that additional parents will sign up to support! Thank you all in advance! To put that into perspective, costume or set building workdays are usually 2-3 hours each. Chaperoning at one performance is around 4 hours. Taking home one load of laundry counts as 30 minutes. When you register your student, you will select how you would like to volunteer your time. If we all pitch in, who knows what we can accomplish for the success of our show and our students!