



Fall Play New Participant Meeting
Tuesday 9/9/2025



What is PV Theatre?

-The *extracurricular* theatre program of Pascack Valley HS.

WHAT WILL WE DO?

- Produce the Fall Play (November 20-22) and Spring Musical (April 23-25)
- Often produce 1-2 other small events during the year (ex. 24 Hour Play Festival)
- Host International Thespian Society (Honor Society for Theatre) Troupe
- Take field trips (to Broadway shows/other shows), potentially participate in theatre competitions
- Participate in theatre awards competitions for HS Theatre productions

Who's Who

FALL PLAY STAFF

- Tom Lupfer, Director/Producer
- Merielle Lupfer,
Director/CHAMP Crew
Supervisor
- Jonathan Melchiorre, Sound
Designer
- Gus Koeniges, Crew Supervisor

Read more about our program
at: www.pvhstheatre.org



Who are we?



Directors @ PV Theatre since Spring 2007

Mr. Tom Lupfer (Lupfer)

- Director
- Producer (paperwork/\$\$)
- Construction Crew Assistant Supervisor

Mrs. Merielle Lupfer (She-Lup)

- Director
- CHAMP Crew Supervisor
- Choreographer
- PV Theatre Class of 2001 (8-show senior)



Meet the Lupfers

Lupfer

- Drama Teacher/Director at Glenfield MS (Performing Arts Magnet) in Montclair.
- MA, NYU Educational Theatre
- BA, Susquehanna University, Theatre

She-Lup

- 5th Grade ELA Teacher at Meadowbrook School in Hillsdale.
- BS, NYU Educational Theatre
- Hillsdale residents
- 11-year-old twin daughters (Antoinette & Cordelia)- 6th grade at George White MS.



How can you participate?

-Cast (all students who audition are accepted– auditions are for placement (roles) only)

-Crew (Scenic Construction, Scenic Painting, Lighting, Sound)

CHAMP Crew

Costumes

Hair

Accessories

Makeup

Props

- Stage Management, Company Management, House Management, Publicity/PR, (**maybe**) Pit Band (Spring Musical) OR: ???????????



Fall Play: *The Laramie Project*

-Last produced on the PV Theatre stage in 2011 (MSU Foxy Award winner for Best Drama)

-*The Laramie Project* is a documentary-style play by Moisés Kaufman and Tectonic Theater Project that explores the aftermath of the 1998 murder of Matthew Shepard in Laramie, Wyoming. Created from over 200 interviews with town residents, the play uses the real words of the community to portray their reactions to the hate crime and to examine themes of prejudice, love, and the human spirit's capacity for both compassion and bigotry.



Spring Musical: *Mamma Mia!*

-April 23-25 (Dates are later to accommodate the renovations to the auditorium).

ABBA's hits tell the hilarious story of a young woman's search for her birth father. This sunny and funny tale unfolds on a Greek island paradise. On the eve of her wedding, a daughter's quest to discover the identity of her father brings three men from her mother's past back to the island they last visited 20 years ago.

The story-telling magic of ABBA's timeless songs propels this enchanting tale of love, laughter and friendship, creating an unforgettable show. A large cast, non-stop laughs and explosive dance numbers combine to make *Mamma Mia!* a guaranteed smash hit for any theatre. A mother. A daughter. Three possible dads. And a trip down the aisle you'll never forget!

How do rehearsals work?

September: **Table Work**

The cast will be learning the history of Matthew Shepard's story, the work of The Tectonic Theatre Project (who created the show), and doing other work to support our production.

October: **Staging Rehearsals**

A script will be provided, and you will only have rehearsal on days that we are working on your scenes. This will be arranged around the conflicts provided by the company, as much as possible.

November: **Tech Rehearsals, Dress Rehearsals & Performances**

-From November 1st through November 24th (strike day), we are in **tech and dress rehearsals & performances**. All of these dates are “Blackout Dates”, and considered mandatory for the Full Cast— no conflicts will be accepted (please speak with Lupfer if you have a concern).

Rehearsals cont.

Weekly schedule:

Mondays	3:30-5:30pm
Tuesdays	3:30-5:30pm
Wednesdays	3:30-5:30pm
Thursday	3:30-5:30pm
Fridays	OFF
Saturdays	September: OFF
	Early October: 10am-1pm
	Late October/November: 10am-4pm

What about the crews?

- CHAMP Crew will meet some weekday afternoons (3:30-5:30pm) and Saturdays (10am-4pm).

- Crew will meet some afternoons (3:30-5:30pm), some evenings (5:30-7:30pm), as well as some Saturdays (10am-4pm).

- All dates will be posted on the PV Calendar– it is the student's responsibility to check the calendar and report conflicts.



Expectations

Follow our [theatre calendar](#)

-3-5 days a week (some weeks, it varies widely)

-Submit conflicts– we will work around you

EXCEPT for NO CONFLICT Dates

-Production fee: covers meals during show week, show t-shirt, digital copy of show video, production party after final performance.

-Come prepared to work – we have fun, but we work hard.

How to support your student

- Checking Calendar (before making plans during rehearsal time)
- Reporting Conflicts (email to tlupfer@pascack.org)
- “Blackout” Rehearsals (Any issues on these dates must be discussed prior to auditions— approval will only be made on a case-by-case basis)
- Production Form (covers show week meals, show t-shirt, production party after final performance)
- Bio form



Communication

WEBSITE

- The backstage website is where all important information will be posted. Please check it regularly.

EMAIL

- All conflicts **MUST** be emailed to Lupfer (tlupfer@pascack.org).
- Do **NOT**: tell a friend, email a SM, email She-Lup, or tell Lupfer when you see him @Theatre.
- If you have a specific question, you can email the staff (who all have Pascack emails), or email Lupfer, who will forward the request accordingly.

If it isn't written down, it did not happen.

Friends of PV Theatre — Parent Booster Group

- Meals
- Senior Citizen Performances
- Lobby
 - Concessions, Theatre Gear, Flowers, 50/50, Candygrams, etc.
- Accessibility & Educational Outreach
- Playbill Ads
- Grant Writing
- Fundraising
- Friends of PV Theatre Board

Fundraising

Ticket sales are our only source of income for the majority of our costs:

- Scenery (lumber/other materials, paint)
- Props
- Sound Equipment
- Lighting Rentals
- Costumes
- Wigs
- Makeup

What will we do with more money??

- Theatre is expensive! Production choices are dictated by available funds to create the world of each show. (Support ticket sales)
- Field trips (bus costs are absurdly high!)

How will we raise more funds?

- Bake Sales
- Ad Sales for Playbills
- Lobby Sales @ Shows
- Snap Raise (February-March)

We welcome your ideas/support!

Production Agreement & Crew Form

- The cast **Production Agreement** outlines all rehearsal expectations and responsibilities– needs to be signed by cast/their responsible adult before auditions.
- All crew members/their responsible adult will sign an **Auditorium Safety Contract**.

Questions??

