



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 24, 2009

Peanut Gallery presents:

What: Auditions for "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever"

When: October 16, 2009, 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.

October 17, 2009, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Where: Midland Center for the Arts, Lecture Room

1801 W. St. Andrews Rd., Midland, MI 48640

Cost: Free

Information: Call Ticket Office at (989) 631-8250 or (800) 523-7649 or www.mcfta.org

MIDLAND – Adults and children ages 4 to 14 who have a flair for the dramatic are invited to audition for the upcoming Peanut Gallery production *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, at Midland Center for the Arts, 1801 W. St. Andrews Rd., Midland. Auditions take place in the Lecture Room from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Friday, October 16, 2009, and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 17, 2009. Performance dates are December 10 through 13, 2009. Directors Cheryl and Larry Levy are looking to fill 26 roles: **9 adults and 17 children**. Additional roles are also available for **baby angels, shepherds and angel choir kids**, ages 4 to 10. Although not a musical, the cast will be singing various Christmas carols as part of the script, and those auditioning will be asked to sing a few notes of a favorite carol. The directors are looking for personality over singing ability! Audition packets are currently available at the Front Desk of MCFTA.

Choir Director Bill Heeschen will form a special caroling group to sing in the lobby prior to the shows, as well as do other promotional events. You do not have to have a role in the show to be in the "**Pageant Carolers**." You just have to enjoy singing Christmas songs! Interested singers of all ages must pick up an audition packet from the Front Desk of MCFTA.

Crew members are also needed. While you need not audition for the play to be on the crew, you do need to apply. Children interested in crew should pick up an audition packet and fill out the "Additional Information" form where they can indicate which crew they would like to be a part of: Makeup, Stage, or Props. These forms can be dropped off during auditions and a crew chair will contact the child. Our Crew Chairs provide the training and Peanut Gallery crews participate in a positive theatrical experience (=FUN!).

The Herdmans are absolutely the worst kids in the history of the world. They lie and steal and smoke cigars (even the girls!). They talk dirty, hit little kids, and cuss their teachers. Still, no one is prepared when the Herdmans invade the church one Sunday and decide to take over the annual Christmas pageant. And their interpretation – the Wise Men are a bunch of dirty spies and Herod needs a good beating – has a lot of people up in arms. But the actual pageant is full of surprises for everyone, starting with the Herdmans themselves. For more information about the auditions, contact the Theatre Guild office at 631-5930 ext. 1720.

Peanut Gallery is the youth theatre division of the Theatre Guild, a resident organization of the Midland Center for the Arts. Peanut Gallery produces multiple shows a year, as well as classes, all designed to build young people's theatre skills and to introduce young people and their families to live theatre.

Midland Center for the Arts, Inc. is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation formed under the laws of the State of Michigan incorporating six groups: Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art, MATRIX:MIDLAND, Midland County Historical Society, Midland Symphony Orchestra, Music Society and Theatre Guild. Activities at Midland Center for the Arts are supported in part by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. For the latest Center news, visit our web site at www.mcfta.org.

Contact:
Kristen Wuerfel
Marketing and Media Relations Manager
(989) 631-5930 x 1274
wuerfel@mcfta.org

#

Midland Center for the Arts • 1801 W. St. Andrews Rd. • Midland, MI 48640 • (989) 631-5930 • (989) 631-7890 fax • www.mcfta.org