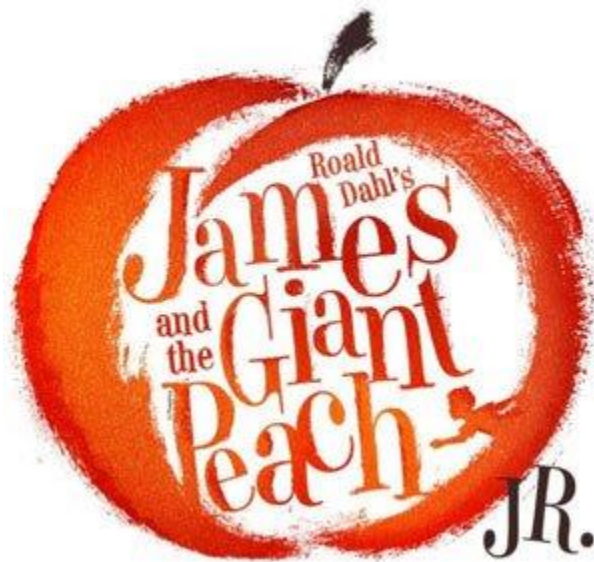




**2024 FALL / WINTER SEASON**  
**BRONZE STAR PROGRAM**  
**GRADES K-4**



**PROGRAM GUIDE**

## **Our Bronze Star program is the roots of our family tree.**

In the Bronze Star program, the goal is to foster a love for theater and performing. Over the course of the semester, the children develop confidence, coordination, communication & social skills, along with the crafts of acting, dancing, singing, and other skills specific to the production being rehearsed.

Star 2B's unique philosophy of kindness is introduced and encouraged through our Kindness Pledge. It is so rewarding to witness a group of children who don't know most of their peers grow into a cohesive cast, supporting and cheering each other on. The life-long friendships for many Star 2B actors begins here.

All levels of performers are welcome, from beginner to professional. Individualized attention is the focus, and Star 2B strives to take each individual to their next level.

Star 2B is located within the beautiful Poughkeepsie Day School campus. With 3 studios, a large lounge and outdoor space, and the 200+ seat James Earl Jones Theater Star 2B has the capacity to offer multiple rehearsals and performances at the same time.

Star 2B will never turn away a family because of financial reasons. Payment plans, financial assistance, work study, and scholarships are all available based on individual situations. The arts are important for all ages, and Star 2B is committed to provide experiences for everyone.

### **A letter from the Founders: Julie Altomari & Theresa Podhurst**

When we started Star 2B in May of 2012, we had no idea that it would develop into a true family-like community. Our focus in 2012 was to provide a safe, creative space for our own children, where they felt confident enough to take risks and chances and to still be accepted by their peers. This focus stands true to this day.

We have found that when a group comes together, regardless of age, and they learn how to be kind and supportive to each other, the results on stage are magical. The camaraderie and love for each other is so apparent to anyone watching. This is a foundation that can be taken anywhere in life. We have seen this happen over and over throughout the past decade (plus).

The two of us have been so fortunate to have been able to watch hundreds of children grow up in our studio and on our stage. Their families have become part of our families. We hope that if you're not already a part of our family, that you will join us. You're in for a beautiful journey!

# What to Expect

## **Saturday, September 21st “Getting to Know You” Day**

This will be a day of dancing, music, and fun! The cast will learn a song, a dance, and will play around with some acting. (This is a day for the actors and team to meet each other, get used to the space, and play! This day is not about casting.) Wear comfortable clothes and shoes for movement!

## **Saturday, September 28th Role Placement Day**

The actors will be asked to sing the song that was taught on the 21st or their own song for the creative team. They may be asked to read something or sing something else. This day will be used for playing around with casting options with all of the actors. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes for movement!

## **The Remainder of Saturday Rehearsals**

The actors will have fun with the team creating their production of James & the Giant Peach Jr. This will consist of individual and group music instruction, dance/movement, and acting. There will also be a 30 minute non-show specific performance skills class each week within the rehearsal time.

## **Tech Week**

Tech week is the Monday through Friday leading up to the show weekend. This is the time that lights, costumes and microphones are added into the show. These rehearsals are super important, so that the actors can get used to being on stage with lights, costumes and mics.

## **Show Weekend**

The casts will be called to the theater 90 minutes before their show starts. This gives them time to do a fun warm up on stage, and get into costumes and microphones. They will then be relaxed and ready to share their talents with the audience!

## **What to Bring to Rehearsal:**

- ★ Refillable water bottle with their name on it
  - ★ Nut free clean snack
    - ★ Script
    - ★ Pencil
- ★ Shoes that they can move in (NO boots, sandals, crocs, clogs, open toed shoes)
  - ★ Clothing that they can move in comfortably
- ★ Star 2B Studio is a cell-phone free studio. They can bring their phones in, but they must be left in the Rock Star Lounge with their belongings. In an emergency, they can be reached by calling the Star 2B studio.

## What to Know

### Attendance Policy

Each actor is allowed 2 excused absences. You will receive a conflict form in your email to fill out and submit prior to the cast list being released.

If an actor misses a rehearsal, they are responsible for reviewing any materials covered at that rehearsal. They will have access to videos through a link sent out for a Google Drive folder.

If an actor has more than 2 unexcused absences, there may be scenes that they will not be put in for the performance (scenes that were taught when they were absent).

\*\*This does not apply if other arrangements were made with Star 2B.

### Payment & Cancellation Policy

A \$100 non-refundable deposit is required at the time of registration. The remaining balance will be divided up into monthly payments charged on the account on file as follows:

\$155 on September 7th

\$155 on October 1st

\$155 on November 1st

**Please note that our overall production costs are based on the number of actors who are cast in the show. There will be no refunds given after the actor auditions. If an actor drops the production in the middle of the process, they are still responsible for the balance of tuition owed. The balance will be charged in full when the actor drops.**

**If you would like to pay in full, please email us before September 7th.**

**\*\*Any payment made after the 10th of the month will incur a \$20 late fee\*\***

## **Costume Information**

Costumes for all productions are rented from a professional costume warehouse. This will include the majority of costumes. Actors may be asked to provide their own pants, socks, and shoes. It is recommended to have a base costume for costume changes. This could consist of a tan leotard and tights or a tight fitting sleeveless shirt and tight fitting shorts in neutral colors. Emails will be sent out with more details throughout the process.

## **An Important Note on Casting**

**Every child cannot play the same role.**

**Casting can be the most challenging aspect of this program. It is important with this age group that parents and students understand the process.**

**It is our philosophy to give each child a part that suits their needs and abilities. Overwhelming a child with a part that is too difficult can have disastrous consequences, and do serious damage to self esteem.**

**When we cast a show, we use several criteria to determine casting. They include:**

- **the child's experience and confidence level,**
- **the child's ability to perform the part (reading lines, singing, acting, etc.)**
- **the child's history with the program (creating individual challenges and personal growth),**
- **and fairness**

**We do not cast based on:**

- **number of years or performances that an actor has been with Star 2B,**
- **any requests from actors or parents**

**It is important to note that as we consider all of the above considerations, there are no steadfast rules. Every season, we must make judgment calls in order to benefit each child and the program.**

**For the children who participate in many productions over a long period of time, we have the ability to help them grow from one production to another.**

**As parents, you have an important role in this process. Please reinforce to your child the importance of every role, and the satisfaction that comes with participating in a production process.**

**If your child is disappointed, it is important that you listen, be compassionate, and continue to reinforce the value of the role they receive. It is sometimes natural for parents to feel disappointment for their children. We ask, however,**

that you try not to perpetuate or instigate disappointment in your child or compare your child to other children. Each child is on their own individual journey and we are all there to support each of them.

## **JAMES & THE GIANT PEACH JR REHEARSAL SCHEDULE**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>CAST</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
<b>Saturday, September 21st</b>	<b>11:00-1:30</b>	<b>BOTH</b>	<b>James Earl Jones Theater/S2B Studio</b>
<b>Saturday, September 28th</b>	<b>11:00-1:30</b>	<b>BOTH</b>	<b>James Earl Jones Theater/S2B Studio</b>
<b>Saturday, October 5th</b>	<b>11:00-1:30</b>	<b>BOTH</b>	<b>James Earl Jones Theater/S2B Studio</b>
<b>Saturday, October 12th</b>	<b>11:00-1:30</b>	<b>BOTH</b>	<b>James Earl Jones Theater/S2B Studio</b>
<b>Saturday, October 19th</b>	<b>11:00-1:30</b>	<b>BOTH</b>	<b>James Earl Jones Theater/S2B Studio</b>
<b>Saturday, October 26th</b>	<b>11:00-1:30</b>	<b>BOTH</b>	<b>James Earl Jones Theater/S2B Studio</b>
<b>Saturday, November 2nd</b>	<b>11:00-1:30</b>	<b>BOTH</b>	<b>James Earl Jones Theater/S2B Studio</b>
<b>Saturday, November 9th</b>	<b>11:00-1:30</b>	<b>BOTH</b>	<b>James Earl Jones Theater/S2B Studio</b>
<b>Saturday, November 16th</b>	<b>11:00-1:30</b>	<b>BOTH</b>	<b>James Earl Jones Theater/S2B Studio</b>
<b>Saturday, November 23rd</b>	<b>11:00-1:30</b>	<b>BOTH</b>	<b>James Earl James Theater/S2B Studio</b>
<b>Saturday, November 30th</b>	<b>N/A</b>		<b>NO REHEARSAL</b>
<b>Saturday, December 7th</b>	<b>11:00-1:30</b>	<b>BOTH</b>	<b>James Earl Jones Theater/S2B Studio</b>
<b>Saturday, December 14th</b>	<b>11:00-1:30</b>	<b>BOTH</b>	<b>James Earl Jones Theater/S2B Studio</b>
<b>Saturday, December 21st</b>	<b>11:00-1:30</b>	<b>BOTH</b>	<b>James Earl Jones Theater/S2B Studio</b>
<b>Saturday, December 28th</b>	<b>N/A</b>		<b>NO REHEARSAL</b>
<b>Saturday, January 4th</b>	<b>11:00-1:30</b>	<b>BOTH</b>	<b>James Earl Jones Theater/S2B Studio</b>
<b>Saturday, January 11th</b>	<b>11:00-1:30</b>	<b>BOTH</b>	<b>James Earl Jones Theater/S2B Studio</b>
<b>Saturday, January 18th</b>	<b>11:00-1:30</b>	<b>BOTH</b>	<b>James Earl Jones Theater/S2B Studio</b>
<b>Monday, January 20th</b>	<b>4:30- 8:00</b>	<b>BOTH</b>	<b>James Earl Jones Theater/S2B Studio</b>
<b>Tuesday, January 21st</b>	<b>4:30- 8:00</b>	<b>BOTH</b>	<b>James Earl Jones Theater/S2B Studio</b>
<b>Wednesday, January 22nd</b>	<b>4:30- 8:00</b>	<b>BOTH</b>	<b>James Earl Jones Theater/S2B Studio</b>
<b>Thursday, January 23rd</b>	<b>4:30- 8:00</b>	<b>BOTH</b>	<b>James Earl Jones Theater/S2B Studio</b>
<b>Friday, January 24th</b>	<b>4:30- 8:00</b>	<b>BOTH</b>	<b>James Earl Jones Theater/S2B Studio</b>
<b>Saturday, January 25th</b>	<b>SHOW DAY</b>	<b>BOTH</b>	<b>James Earl Jones Theater/S2B Studio</b>
<b>Sunday, January 26th</b>	<b>SHOW DAY</b>	<b>BOTH</b>	<b>James Earl Jones Theater/S2B Studio</b>

## **The Team**

**Director  
Juliette  
Koch Kellogg**

**Music Director  
Anna DeMasi**

**Choreographers  
Ava Dvorak & Liz Tancredi Gillam**

**Acting Coach  
Theresa Podhurst**

**Music Assistant + Stage Manager  
Julie Altomari**