

Dear Parents and Faust Members,

We would like to invite you to audition for a role in Faust International Youth Theatre's upcoming production of Roald Dahl's *The Witches*. This production is Directed by Daniel Rogers. Assistant Directors are Neo Msimka and Dezlenne Ulster-Weale. Creative Producer is Emma York and the Producer is Matthew Gregory. Performances take place from 2nd – 4th May 2025 at the Shouson Theatre, Hong Kong Arts Centre.

Roald Dahl's The Witches

To audition, applicants must be aged 8 or above and be registered in Terms 2 and 3 of a weekly Faust group (Season 26).

ABOUT THE SHOW

"A real witch could smell you across the street... to a witch, you would smell like fresh dog droppings!"

Roald Dahl's scariest book is brought to life in a tremendously terrifying treat for the whole family!

Witches absolutely detest children. They find them revolting and are planning to wipe them out like weasels! They want to squish them and squiggle them and make them disappear. But one brave young boy and his grandmother have a plan to get rid of the witches for good... if only they can avoid being turned into mice.

Faust International Youth Theatre is proud to present this wonderful story, live on stage at the Shouson Theatre.

We are looking for a cast of enthusiastic young actors aged 8 and up, to star in the retelling of this exciting story. We are looking for passion and enthusiasm to contribute to a company of actors that will bring this production to life with energy, movement and humour.

Roles include all of the classic characters from Roald Dahl's fantastic tale, alongside an ensemble who will be absolutely essential in putting this story together.

ABOUT THE AUDITIONS

Audition Date

2:00pm to 7:00pm Saturday 8th February
(timeslots divided by age)

Selected Call Backs*

4:00pm to 6:00pm Sunday 9th February

*Call backs will not apply to everyone. Anyone who is needed for a call back will be notified by 10:00pm on the Saturday evening.

Auditions are open to all actors aged 8 to 19. Please note that to perform in this production, you need to be a **paid member of any weekly Term-Time Faust workshop group during the period of rehearsals and performances.**

To audition, please complete the [online audition form](#) no later than **Thursday 6th February** or email Auditions@FaustWorld.com for available slots.

A specific audition time will be sent to you **after receipt of the audition form**. Audition times will be allocated based on availability.

Tell your friends! If you have a friend who may be interested in auditioning, feel free to share this audition notice. Non-Faust members are welcome to apply to audition. Please note that they will be required to join a weekly Faust term-time group to perform in the show. No additional performance fee is charged.

PREPARATION FOR THE AUDITION

Once you fill in the audition form, you will be sent a confirmation email with your audition time and venue.

- Auditions are held in groups of 12 and will last approximately one hour.
- The audition will involve movement and performing your selected audition piece (please see below).
- We encourage all actors to be familiar with the text and character they choose. Of course, you are most welcome to learn the lines if you wish.
- Every child who auditions will be welcomed warmly and encouraged to do their best.
- All participants should arrive for the audition in comfortable clothing that they can move in.

We are looking for a diverse cast and encourage you to share with us YOUR interpretation of the lines you have been asked to perform. There is no wrong way. Only your way. The rest, believe it or not, is out of your hands!

If you are not cast, please remember that this is not about how well you did. It's more about the creative team finding the right balance and fit. There will always be more opportunities ahead.

Parents will be notified via email on Tuesday 11th February of the audition results.

Participants are expected to approach this audition and production in a serious and professional manner. Large amounts of energy, enthusiasm, patience and commitment will be needed from children and parents alike. Please check your other commitments before deciding to audition.

Call Backs: Please note that after auditions wrap up on Saturday 8th February, some actors may be asked to return for a call back on Sunday 9th February. Not all who will be cast will be called back, but call backs can be helpful when the Directors need to see a little more from an actor.

PRODUCTION COMMITMENT

Please have a look over the details below and discuss the production commitment with your child. Productions have up to three rehearsals a week and it is essential that every effort is made to ensure children attend all rehearsals called. During production week, children will also be called to rehearsals and performances in the theatre during the day. All actors must be able to attend all rehearsals and productions during production week.

Do note that performances take place over a long weekend: Thursday 1st May and Monday 5th May are public holidays. Parents should check their travel plans carefully before deciding to audition.

Production Week (28th April to 4th May 2025)

- Technical rehearsals – Tuesday 29th April & Wednesday 30th April, Late Afternoon / Evening
- Dress rehearsal – Thursday 1st May, 9:00am – 6:00pm (public holiday, no school)
- Five Performances – Friday 2nd May to Sunday 4th May
 - Friday morning show for schools
 - Friday & Saturday evening performances

- Sunday daytime and evening performances
- All performances take place at the Shouson Theatre, Hong Kong Arts Centre, Wan Chai
- Cast members will be required to miss school on Friday morning for the first performance. Faust will provide a letter to explain their absence to school.

Rehearsals (16th February to 1st May 2025)

Rehearsals will begin with a full cast read-through & Parent’s Briefing on Sunday 16th February. Full cast rehearsals will be on Fridays & Saturdays and selected cast rehearsals on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please note additional Sunday rehearsals will be scheduled closer to the date of the production as needed.

Tuesday	5:00pm – 7:00pm	Selected Cast Rehearsal
Thursday	6:00pm – 8:00pm	Selected Cast Rehearsal
Friday	5:00pm – 7:00pm	Full Cast Rehearsal
Saturday	2:30pm – 5:30pm	Full Cast Rehearsal

Please note:

- Cast members **MUST** attend every rehearsal they are called for.
- A Rehearsal Schedule will be issued every two weeks.
- Rehearsals will take place at the Faust Studio in Sheung Wan or at another venue if needed.
- If your regular Faust Group clashes with rehearsals, an alternative Faust Group will be offered.

Please check your availability for the above dates **BEFORE** auditioning to avoid disappointment. **It is essential that cast members attend all rehearsals and performances.**

On behalf of everyone at Faust and the production team, may I wish you all the very best for your audition and I look forward to seeing your prepared pieces.

Best Wishes,

Matthew Gregory
Producer

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Please find four audition pieces below.

Choose only one piece, and only one character from this piece, to familiarise yourself with. You will be asked to bring this character’s text to life in your audition. If you can learn the lines, please do, but if this is something you find challenging, then do not worry. We want to see your confidence and enthusiasm for this character come to life, so the more familiar you can be with the text, the better. Take the time to prepare for your audition by thinking about your character and how they might move, stand, speak and respond to others. Bring this into your performance as much as you can. We would rather see a script in your hand and bold acting choices, than lines memorised but little character.

AUDITION PIECES

Piece #1: Boy & Grandmother

GRANDMOTHER: Horrible things can be exciting boy. Take...Witches.

BOY: Witches? With silly black hats and black cloaks riding on broomsticks?

GRANDMOTHER: No. They're for fairy tales. Very tame. I'm talking of *real* witches.

BOY: *Real* witches?

GRANDMOTHER: Real witches dress in ordinary clothes and look very much like ordinary women. That's why they're so hard to catch.

BOY: But why should we want to catch them?

GRANDMOTHER: Because my darling boy, they are evil. They hate children. They get the same pleasure from squelching a child as you get from eating a plateful of strawberries and thick cream.

BOY: Are you being truthful, Grandmamma? Really and truly truthful? Not pulling me leg.

GRANDMOTHER: My darling Boy, you won't last long in this world if you don't know how to spot a witch when you see one.

BOY: Then tell me. Please!

Piece #2: Bruno & Boy

BOY: Hallo Bruno.

BRUNO: What you got in there? Something to eat? Give us some.

BOY: I've been to the pet shop. Grandmamma gave me some money.

BRUNO: What've you got?

BOY: White mice. I'm going to call them William and Mary.

BRUNO: Boring. Guess what pets I got.

BOY: What?

BRUNO: Chinchillas and Mink.

BOY: Oh?

BRUNO: Gonna make me Ma a fur coat, see.

BOY: Oh.

BRUNO: Bet my dad earns more than yours.

BOY: Probably.

BRUNO: How many cars has he got, your dad?

BOY: None.

BRUNO: Mine's got three.

BOY: What are you doing with that magnifying glass?

BRUNO: Roasting ants.

BOY: That's horrible. Stop it.

BRUNO: Here. Get away. Shove off.

Piece #3: The Grand High Witch

GRAND HIGH WITCH:

You may rreee-moof your vigs, and get some fresh air into your spotty scalps.

Vitches of Inkland. Miserable vitches.

Useless lazy vitches. You are a heap of idle good-for-nothing vurms!

As I am eating my lunch, I am looking out of the vindow at the beach.

And vot am I seeing? I am seeing a rreeevoulting sight, which is putting me off my food.

Hundreds of rrrotten rreepulsive children. Playing on the sand.

Vey have you not got rrrid of them? Vye?

You vill do better!

Piece #4: The Witches

THE WITCHES:

Down with children! Do them in!

Boil their bones and fry their skin!

Bish them, sqvish them, bash them, mash them!

Brrreak them, shake them, slash them, smash them!

We are having a plan a giganticus plan!

We vill buy sweetshops.

We vill fill them high with luscious sweets and tasty chocs!

Free sweets and chocs for every child!

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