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Tuesday, May 01, 2007

How to Start Acting Up (on a stage)

Contributed By [Laura Peebles](#) | [Acting Up](#)Part 2 of 4: [Call Backs](#)

In part 1 of this series, we learned about Eben Franckewitz, a 10 year old boy from Loveland, who was auditioning for Acting Up's community theatre presentation of "Once on This Island". Acting Up was looking to cast 50-60 young performers ages 5-18 in their Caribbean flavored, Tony-award nominated musical.

Eben checked Acting Up's website (www.ActingUp.com) and noticed he was invited to call backs. Out of almost 150 auditioners, approximately 17 were invited to call backs so Eben was pretty excited. The director and co-choreographer, Arlene Borock, led the auditions.

There was a wide range in ages at callbacks from 6 to 18 years old, each reading for all of the different parts. Eben was given some lines to practice; lines for a storyteller. In this production of "Once on This Island", the story is told by a group of storytellers around a fire while they wait out a terrible storm.

During call backs, Eben and the other young performers also learned another dance and a song from the show. Eben lined up with several other kids auditioning for storytellers and they each read their lines in dramatic fashion, first starting at one end of the line and then reading one at a time starting at the opposite end. Borock, a teacher at Mason High School, seemed excited about the talent pool at callbacks. She even announced that all the kids at callbacks would have a roll in the musical, even if they were not cast as the leads.

The musical director, Nick Washington who is a fifth-grade teacher at Mason Intermediate School, had the youngsters sight-read some songs from the show. Some kids were singing for the parts of the little girl or one of the gods. Eben sang loud and strong and felt fairly confident about his performance.

Judging from the title of the next part of this series "Rehearsals," we can safely assume that Eben got a role.

In fact, Acting Up cast approximately 60 talented young performers for this musical. The cast is not just from the Mason-area but covers 30 different schools from as far away as Springboro, Oxford and Bethel-Tate. Check back next week to see how rehearsals are going for Eben and his new friends, the cast of "Once on This Island."

Performances of "Once on This Island" will be held 7 pm Friday, May 11; at 1 pm and 7 pm Saturday, May 12; and at 1 pm Sunday, May 13. Tickets are \$8 each and are available online at www.ActingUp.com. For more info call 513-588-0988.

Part 3: [Rehearsals](#)Part 4: [Opening Night](#)

Eben Franckewitz auditions for ActingUp's "Once on This Island"

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