



# Blue Hill Troupe

## Frequently Asked Questions About joining the Blue Hill Troupe

### ***What are the dates for membership events for the 2019 season?***

The dates for the 2019 membership events are listed below:

**Meet the Troupe:** August 1

#### **August Membership Opportunity**

**Membership Cocktail Party:** August 12

**Front Stage Audition:** August 19

**Back Stage Interview:** August 22

#### **September Membership Opportunity**

**Membership Cocktail Party:** September 9

**Front Stage Audition:** September 15

**Back Stage Interview:** September 22

**New Member Orientation:** October 3

**Meet the Workspace:** October 19 & 26

### ***Who may perform in the Fall Show, Spring Show, and Concert Series?***

After their first year, both Frontstagers and Backstagers are welcome to audition for the non-G&S show. Only Frontstagers may perform in the G&S show and Concert Series. Acceptances into the frontstage is de facto casting into the chorus of all Spring Shows and the annual Concert Series as long as a member remains in good standing (i.e., up to date on dues) and commits to rehearsal schedules.

### ***Who may come to production work sessions at the workspace?***

All Troupe members are welcome and encouraged to come! It may be called work but everyone considers it fun. You get the opportunity to be creative, learn new skills, use power tools if you want, and enjoy parties every Saturday evening after work sessions where all Troupers are welcome. We encourage Frontstagers to come down on their non-rehearsal day to pitch in, sew costumes, paint, craft props, or help construct set pieces.

### ***Can I audition for a lead in my first Spring Show?***

Yes! All lead roles are by audition only, and Frontstagers are eligible to audition for leads in their first year. Auditions for the Spring Show are held in December. In fact, it is quite common for new members to get lead roles. If you aren't cast as a lead, you are expected to perform in the chorus.

### ***Do Backstagers have performing opportunities?***

Although only Frontstagers may perform in the G&S show and Concert Series, Backstagers may audition for lead or chorus roles in the non-G&S show. Also, all Troupers may perform a song or other short act in the annual BHT Cabaret usually held in the spring. Backstagers may also audition to join Frontstage later if they decide they want to sing G&S.

### ***What is the time commitment my first year?***

Being a member of the Troupe is a commitment. Without the commitment of members of the Troupe, the show won't go on. Your commitment gets the sets built, props crafted, and music learned. This results in wonderful shows with great production value and most importantly earns money for our charity partner. Plus, you will meet and get to know members of your new member class and veteran Troupers who will quickly become your friends and family.

***Fall Show:*** The 2019 Fall Show chorus and leads have already been cast. Once you get into the Troupe, Frontstagers and Backstagers are expected to jump right in and come to the workspace on weekends, sign up to usher, or do running crew.

***Frontstage:*** There are weekly (Tuesday) vocal rehearsals from October to January, excluding some holiday weeks. From early January through the move-in to the theater there are two weekly rehearsals – Saturdays for principals and Tuesdays and Sundays for chorus. Anyone who has done a show knows that the last few weeks from the move-in to the theater through closing night are busy but also fun and satisfying.

***Backstage:*** All new Backstagers are expected to give a commitment to come to the workspace at least 5 times a month. Backstagers are expected to be at the workspace on Saturdays (10am-6pm) and Sundays (12-5pm) in the spring season (January through theater move-in) unless they have other pressing commitments and help in the theater during the setup and run of the show. We understand you may not be able to make every weekend; however you won't regret the commitment!

### ***If I audition for Frontstage and am not accepted can I audition in a future year and/or join Backstage?***

Yes and Yes! In fact, if you are not accepted into the frontstage, we encourage you to consider interviewing for backstage the same year. It would shift your commitment from rehearsals to the weekend production work sessions but would allow you to still be involved in all of the volunteerism, creative endeavors, and social aspects that Troupe has to offer. You are welcome to re-audition next year. In fact, the Troupe includes lots of people who have done just that, and they continue to be actively involved both frontstage and backstage. Even if you choose not to join backstage, you are welcome to audition in the future.

### ***What should I sing for my audition?***

Sing a non-G&S piece in English, preferably musical theater or operetta. Sing something you are comfortable singing. You must bring sheet music for the accompanist in the key to be sung. The accompanist will not transpose for you. You may also be asked to vocalize, sight-read a simple melody, or perform some ear training exercises.

### ***What are the 2019-2020 season productions?***

The fall show is *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and performance take place November 8 – 16, 2019 at the Theater at St. Jean's located at 180 East 76th Street. The spring show is Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Sorcerer* and performances take place April 22 – 26, 2020 at the El Teatro of El Museo del Barrio located at 1230 Fifth Avenue.

### ***What organization is the charity partner for the 2019-2020 season?***

This year the Blue Hill Troupe is partnering with Rocking the Boat. Rocking the Boat empowers young people from the South Bronx to develop self-confidence, set ambitious goals, and gain the skills necessary

to achieve them. Students work together to build wooden boats, learn to row and sail, and restore local urban waterways, revitalizing their community while creating better lives for themselves. Kids don't just build boats, boats build kids.

Rocking the Boat is committed to helping its participants:

- Stay in high school until they graduate or receive an equivalency diploma
- Enroll in college or trade school and be prepared academically and emotionally to succeed there
- Develop technical skills such as sailing, boat handling, navigating, chart reading, carpentry, sample collection and testing, scientific observation, and recording data, all of which reinforce STEM concepts and put them into a practical context
- Develop soft skills such as leadership, communication, teamwork, problem solving, and critical thinking

Partnering with the Blue Hill Troupe will allow Rocking the Boat empowers young people from the South Bronx to develop self-confidence, set ambitious goals, and gain the skills necessary to achieve them.

***How much are membership dues?***

Annual dues for active members is \$80 and payable online or by check. Payment for dues will be expected upon acceptance into the troupe.

***Where can I get more information?***

The best place to get more information is to talk to any Troupers you may know and come to one of the Membership Cocktail Parties. Feel free to ask the Membership Committee anything that isn't clear about our process or various aspects of Troupe activities. If you are not sure if we are the right group for you, we would rather have you come meet us and ask questions than have you potentially miss out on a fun opportunity to volunteer, perform, and socialize with a great group of people. You can also contact the Membership Co-Chairs: Sloan Delfi, Sam Wilder, and Stephanie Johnson @ [admissions@bht.org](mailto:admissions@bht.org).