

# There is Magic in the Middle With ULL Advisory



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# You get to direct the Junior High OAP!!

## Directing the Middle school student can be a magical experience!

1. The Challenges/Joys of Junior High students
2. How/where to get started: The script
3. Show Design
4. The Production Notebook for the Company
5. Why you should apply for State Honor Crew

# The Challenges/Joys of Directing the JH Student

- ★ Maturity level
  - Social (Squirrel wrangling)
  - Relationships
  - Picking Age Accessible Material
- ★ Sharing Students
- ★ Parents
  - Friend or Foe

# How to Get Started

- ★ How to choose kids to build a show around
- ★ How to choose a script based on those kids.
- ★ Where to find scripts
  - UIL Approved List of Plays
  - SUGGESTED Reading list for MS/JH



# Don't take a shot in the dark at a script-- Use data!

When you want to find a script, you don't want to find the script first and hope the kids fit. BUT? How do you do that, anyway?

- Literally count the viable actors you have and be honest with yourself.
- Make a set of lists:
  - Count and list the males
  - Count and list the females
  - Count and list how many can be gender-neutral or identify as gender-neutral
  - Prioritize each list by "best or most promising" to "needs much improvement"
    - This will force you to identify your "alpha kids" more objectively
    - ALPHA KIDS ARE YOUR LIKELY LEADS
    - This should help narrow down scripts
    - Then, it is a matter of finding scripts that accommodate the numbers.

# So I know my numbers, but what now?

Making prioritized lists helps you to identify your leads and the numbers for the supporting cast.

- Merge your separate lists into one fully prioritized list to see if you are looking for a male-driven or female-driven or gender-neutral show
- The play companies will usually show either a basic breakdown of numbers of males to females, or you can see the cast lists
- Start searching by eliminating shows with fewer cast members than what you want to use (up to 20)

# Great, but now what?

Remain open-minded! Here's why:

- You MUST read a WHOLE script and not someone's edit of a script to know the fullness of the story
- More than one script might speak to you
- Know (or get to know) your kids by having a multi-faceted audition process, and you'll recognize "the one" much easier
  - Sometimes a kid gives you his/her/their all at auditions, and that's as far as they will go
  - Talent on stage is important, but having a collaborative and cooperative nature is just as important in an actor.
  - Not all casts are good with all types of scripts



# Isn't that a gamble?

MAYBE, but the efficiency with which you eliminate scripts helps you to find the right ones easier AND it allows you to plug kids into roles that suit them best

- Play theatre games and give scenarios for imagination and improv
- Have students audition with short (30-second to 1-minute monologues you provide or they choose
  - Have them employ their own original blocking
  - Require them to memorize them (but give a wide berth to newbies)
  - Make sure they understand characterization and emotion is important
  - Have auditions in class or in front of an audience
- Flexibility and adaptability is more important than a cold reading or a one-off audition for finding directability and range

# Funny or Poignant/Character-Driven or Ensemble-Driven

BOTH!!! If you can find a script that fits your kids AND has both humor and ends with a gut-punch or something meaningful (and the kids can perform it well), then you are halfway to success!

- Don't try to pigeon-hole your kids into what you HOPE they can do
- Just because you like humor doesn't mean that's right for your kids, or visa-versa with poignancy
- Some groups are better with specific types
  - If your lists felt "even" without real #1's or #20's, then an ensemble-driven show might be best
  - If your lists has a couple of alphas and then you had a number of really good after that, then character-driven might be best
  - If it's "some of both," then a mixed-type character/ensemble show might be best

# At the end of the day...

Having an audition that is process-oriented and not just a “cattle call” of cold readings will help you more than anything to pinpoint:

- Fearlessness
- Directability
- Capabilities
  - Comic Timing or Dramatic Emphasis
  - Movement
  - Collaboration
  - Good Instincts
  - Curiosity
  - Vocal Appeal



# Script Resources

Use the resources you have available:

- UIL- Drama loan library
- Amazon "See Inside" feature
- Amazon used scripts
- Ask-a-friend (Presenters, fellow directors, etc)- Network
- UIL and TxETA FaceBook Groups and Pages
- Get to know the various publishers and their typical scripts
- Explore lesser-known resources like publishers abroad
- Your school librarian

Start building your own script library now. It'll help you in the future!



# Suggested Play Reading List for JS/MS

This list is a **REFERENCE** for directors to find scripts that are known to be "JH/MS school appropriate." Meaning that the plays on this list are ones that the content and characters are more age appropriate or accessible for this grade level.. It was created to help new or novice directors to find scripts and as a place to start.

Please note that this list has **TWO** sections. One for plays that are already approved for the UIL contest. The second section has plays that **HAVE NOT** been approved for the contest and would require submission through the UIL office for approval. They would also make great choices for a fall show.

# Design Considerations | Love a Good Box!

- ★ Junior High Students are smaller/Unit Sets are heavy
- ★ Budget
- ★ Storage
- ★ Boxes, Benches, and Ladders Oh My!
- ★ Projections
- ★ Envato Elements



# The Production Workbook

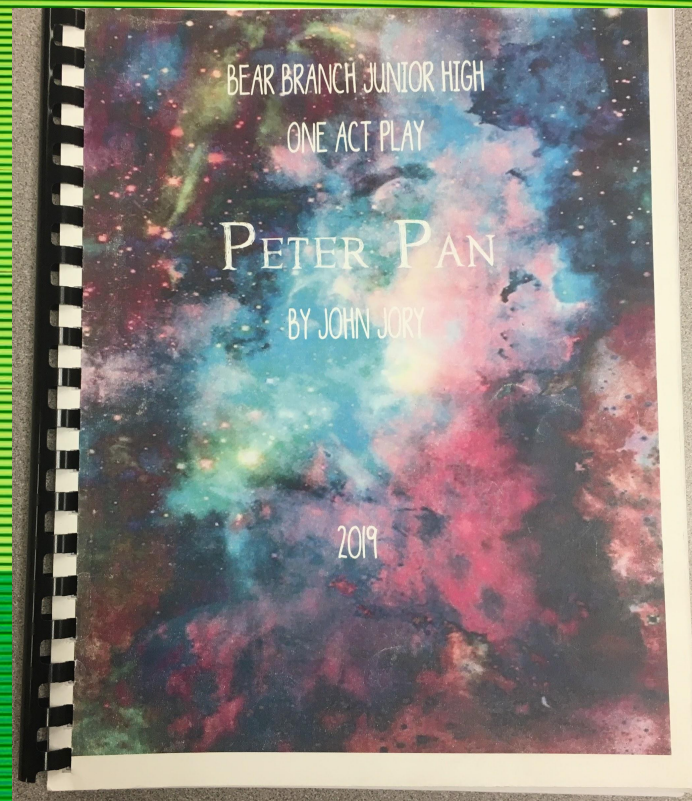
This was a game changer for me!! It takes time to do if you don't have a media specialist, librarian, or a print shop to do for you BUT it is worth it!

Benefits:

- ★ Everything in one place
- ★ Majority of paperwork is included and prevents multiple stacks of papers and chasing of copies to almost none!
- ★ Color coding helps kids know what is important.
- ★ Notebook for Rehearsal Notes, Clinics, and Contests

# Table of Contents

- ★ Blanket Permission Slip (on colored paper)
- ★ Remind PDF
- ★ Production Calendar (two copies: 1 on colored paper)
- ★ Stage Directions/ Body Positions/Blocking Shorthand
- ★ Company List
- ★ Script (If permission to copy has been granted)
- ★ Characterization Worksheets
- ★ Tech cue sheets (lighting and music log)
- ★ Costume measurement form
- ★ Props checklist
- ★ 20-25 sheets of lined pages for notes
- ★ Label with student name on back cover

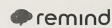




**Peter Pan**  
Adapted for the stage  
By Jon Jory  
From the book by J.M. Barrie

(WENDY lies in the bed reading. MRS. DARLING, enters dressed to go out.)  
MRS. DARLING: Wendy, dearest, you are reading into the night.  
WENDY: But the story is ever so fine, Mother, and the heroine is trapped upon a tree.  
MRS. DARLING: And there she must remain until tomorrow. (Kisses Wendy's cheek.)  
Your Father and I are going to a ball at the Spinderson's, but Nana will take great care of you.  
(NANA THE DOG, barks and appears from under the bed.)  
MRS. DARLING: Good Nana (Mrs. Darling picks up a leaf on the nursery floor, but no trees are visible.)  
WENDY: I do believe it is that Peter again Mother.  
MRS. DARLING: Are we acquainted?  
WENDY: I cannot say.  
MRS. DARLING: I remember from my childhood in the wildwood. There were stories of a boy who grew up, he would be grown up, he is just my size.  
(Peter Pan enters, carrying a bag.) There is mud on the bottom of his shoes. (He looks at his feet.) There is mud on the bottom of his shoes. (He looks at his feet.)

Notes:



STUDENT & PARENTS

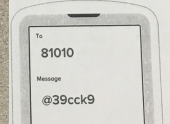
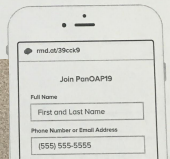
Sign up for important updates from Mrs. Medina.

Get information for Bear Branch J High School right on your phone—not on handouts.

Pick a way to receive messages for PanOAP19:

A If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to



computer to sign up for email notifications.

BEAR BRANCH MIDDLE SCHOOL THEATRE  
MAGNOLIA I.S.D.  
OAP TRAVEL CONSENT/MEDICAL RELEASE FORM

I hereby give my permission and consent for \_\_\_\_\_ to participate and travel with the One Act Play Company for all dates listed on the company calendar.

Students will be transported to and from the school by school bus. Every effort will be made to see that your child is well taken care of. However, since we must be prepared for any situation, please fill in the following:

Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_ Any medical history we should know: \_\_\_\_\_

Do we have your permission to take your child to the nearest doctor or hospital, should in our opinion, the situation warrant this action? YES NO

The Doctor on call, or Doctor contacted, has my full permission to treat or render emergency care. YES NO

Who is your family doctor?

In case of emergency, where may we reach him/her?

Please give the name and phone number of the nearest responsible party:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I UNDERSTAND THAT ALL STUDENTS ARE GOVERNED BY THE SAME RULES AS AT SCHOOL. I UNDERSTAND THAT ANY INFRACTION MAY RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

I hereby release the Magnolia Independent School District, Bear Branch Middle School, and all adult leaders from any liability and from any and all claims against them, individually or collectively, for any injuries which might be received during a field trip or activity, or in traveling to or from such field trip destination.

Signature of Parent \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Peter Pan Schedule

This is the official rehearsal calendar. We have your conflicts from the calendar. Should an emergency come up please notify Mrs. Medina ASAP. If you must not have any conflicts, \*\*

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
WED	12/12	3:15-6:00	AUDITIONS
MON	12/17	2:45-5:00	READ THRU
TUE	12/18	2:45-5:15	HOLIDAY
WED	1/8	2:45-5:15	OFF BOOK BY RETURN TO SCHOOL
FRI	1/10	2:45-5:15	COSTUME MEASUREMENTS/TEAMWORK
SAT	1/11	2:45-4:00	REHEARSAL
MON	1/12	2:45-4:00	REHEARSAL
TUE	1/14	9:00-10:00	REHEARSAL
WED	1/15	2:45-5:15	REHEARSAL/WORKDAY
FRI	1/18	2:45-5:15	REHEARSAL
SAT	1/19	2:45-4:00	REHEARSAL
MON	1/21	OFF	REHEARSAL
TUE	1/22	OFF	REHEARSAL
WED	1/23	2:45-5:15	HOLIDAY
THU	1/24	2:45-4:00	REHEARSAL
FRI	1/25	2:45-4:00	REHEARSAL
SAT	1/26	2:45-4:00	REHEARSAL
SUN	1/27	2:45-3:00	REHEARSAL
MON	1/28	2:45-5:15	REHEARSAL/WORKDAY
TUE	1/29	2:45-5:15	REHEARSAL
WED	1/30	2:45-4:00	REHEARSAL
THU	1/31	2:45-4:00	REHEARSAL
FRI	2/1	2:45-4:00	CLINIC @ LYNN JUNIOR HIGH

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Questions????



Thank you!

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