

Dear Auditioner,

Welcome to the WPPAC Conservatory/Sandbox Theatre auditions for *columbinus*. In this packet you will find the following information:

- A note from the Director of *columbinus*
- Audition information including location and what to bring.
- Rehearsal information.
- An audition form and conflict calendar to fill out and bring back
- A parent permission and student understanding form detailing mature content contained in the show.
- The production, including a synopsis and character breakdown

Please note: students must be in grades 8-12 to audition. We look forward to seeing you at auditions! Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Regards,

Ariana Moses
Director of Education
White Plains Performing Arts Center

Daniel Ferrante
Executive Director
Westchester Sandbox Theatre

A note from the director, Ariana Moses:

A number of years ago I was teaching a Playscript Analysis course, and *columbinus* was on the syllabus as an example of a documentary play. As soon as I read it I thought, “this is a play that needs to be performed by young people.” It is an important, dissecting, and at times uncomfortable exploration of gun violence and the effects of bullying. Told from the point of view of high schoolers, teachers, administrators, and police officers, and taken from transcripts and interviews, *columbinus* is an extremely relevant and raw look at high school.

This play is not for everyone. It covers difficult subject matter and has strong language. (A little later in this packet you’ll see it outlined - **please read and sign.**) However, I believe that high schoolers live in the world - they face reports of this on the news all the time, and many use harsh language with their friends. This play captures the essence of teenagers as real people. It is my hope that with the exploration in this play we can also discuss solutions, become leaders, and help others to shy away from these types of tragedies. If you’re ready, I hope you will join me.

Let me know if you have any questions, and then, let’s let the work begin.

-Ariana

Auditions

Where

White Plains Performing Arts Center
City Center, 3rd Floor
11 City Place
White Plains, NY 10601

If you are driving, please park on the 5th level of the parking lot and take the pedestrian bridge across to the 3rd level of the City Center

What to Prepare

Please prepare a 60-90 second monologue of your choice..

What to Bring

Please bring with you to your audition the following:

- A picture and resume
- Your Audition Sheet
- Your Conflict Calendar
- Your signed Parent Permission and Student Understanding form

Rehearsals

Rehearsals:

Rehearsals will typically take place 3 days a week, typically 3 of Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, though some weeks will be different. Please see the attached calendar for more information. Not all performers will be called to every rehearsal, but due to the ensemble nature of the production, most performers will be called to most rehearsals.

Some conflicts will be allowed. However, too many conflicts will make participation difficult. Please email education@wppac.com with specific conflict questions.

Mandatory Rehearsals

Mandatory Rehearsals will begin the last week before tech.

Mandatory Tech Rehearsals and Performances:

Tech rehearsals will take place the week of February 11.

Performances will take place Friday February 16 - Saturday February 17 Sunday at 8:00 pm and Sunday February 18 at 2:00 pm.

Conflicts will not be allowed during mandatory rehearsal and tech dates unless cleared BEFORE casting. No conflicts are allowed for performance.

AUDITION FORM

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Grade (as of fall 2017) _____ Age _____ Gender _____

Home Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Participant's e-mail: _____ Participant's cell number: _____

Parent's email: _____ Home Phone: _____

Parent's Name: _____ Parent's Name: _____

Parent's cell number: _____ Parent's cell number: _____

If parent/guardian cannot be reached, emergency contact name and telephone number:

Are there any special needs, medical conditions or allergies about which we should be aware?

Audition Piece: (title) _____ (from) _____

Role(s) interested in: _____

Will you accept any role offered? _____

How did you hear about these auditions? _____

Are you and your parents familiar and comfortable with the content of the show? _____

PLEASE ALSO SIGN THE PARENT PERMISSION AND STUDENT UNDERSTANDING FORM

Do you have any commitments that would conflict with our rehearsal schedule?

Please list all conflicts on the calendar provided.

This includes all recurring outside classes and individual dates of conflict.

Parent Permission and Student Understanding Form

PARENTS AND STUDENTS MUST SIGN THIS *BEFORE* AUDITIONING.

The play *columbinus* discusses heavy material that may not be suitable for certain students, including:

- Gun violence/domestic terrorism
- Murder and suicide
- Drug use
- Described sexual situations including implied rape and teenage pregnancy
- Nazism
- Frequent swearing — Fuck, Shit, Dick, Ass, Prick, Whore, Anal, Pussy,
- Occasional slurs — Faggot, Nigger

I, (PARENT) _____ by signing this form indicate that I have read this list and understand my child, if cast, will be exposed to the above mature content throughout the rehearsal and performance process as a member of the *columbinus* cast.

(PARENT SIGNATURE) _____

I, (ACTOR) _____ by signing this form indicate that I have read this list and understand that I, if cast, will be exposed to the above mature content throughout the rehearsal and performance process as a member of the *columbinus* cast.

(ACTOR SIGNATURE) _____

Conflict Calendar

PLEASE WRITE IN ALL CONFLICTS

Yellow = Potential Rehearsal Days - *not all will be rehearsal dates.*

Red = **Mandatory** Rehearsal, Tech, and Performance

Conflicts will not be allowed during mandatory rehearsal and tech unless cleared BEFORE casting

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>December</i>	AUDITIONS	AUDITIONS		CALLBACKS		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
CHRISTMAS EVE	CHRISTMAS					
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
NEW YEARS EVE	<i>January</i> NEW YEARS DAY					
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	MLK JR. DAY	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	<i>February</i>		
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
TECH	TECH	TECH	TECH	TECH	PERFORMANCE	PERFORMANCE
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
PERFORMANCE						
18						

Synopsis

columbinus, a play sparked by the April 1999 massacre at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, is a meeting of fact and fiction that illuminates the realities of adolescent culture by exploring the events surrounding the shootings. The play weaves together excerpts from discussions with parents, survivors and community leaders in Littleton as well as police evidence to bring to light the dark recesses of American adolescence. When *columbinus* premiered in 2005 at the Round House Theatre, Peter Marks of the *Washington Post* called it, "An ambitious examination of the suburbanization of evil," and the play went on to receive five Helen Hayes Award nominations including the Charles MacArthur Award for Outstanding New Play.

Act I begins in a stereotypical imagined American high school as eight actors dress themselves into teenage archetypes, and labeled rather than named. Interactions with each other and various adults are shown throughout the kids' school day and define each of their archetypes further. Each character's life and problems are displayed as Freak and Loner specifically are targeted by bullies and driven to violence and crime. In Act II, Freak and Loner transform into Columbine shooters Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold using clothing replicas and various stockpiled weapons. Most of Act II is comprised of home videos filmed by Eric and Dylan leading up to the shooting and the boys' eventual suicides as well as personal journals and witness accounts of the shooting itself.

Principals

- Loner/Dylan — an often-picked-on geek with romantic interest in Rebel. Becomes one of two shooters in Act 2.
- Freak/Eric — an underdog with a harsh ex-military father and special hatred for AP. The second of the Act 2 shooters.
- AP — a truly kind and intelligent individual, liked by all but not conventionally popular. Only principal role to survive the shooting.
- Jock — popular, athletic, and attractive. A hard-working student, he challenges the stereotype that jocks are dumb.
- Prep — your average school bully, only considered popular because of his connections. Has an unrequited amorous connection with Jock.
- Rebel — an artistic and hardened girl often labeled a goth or druggie. She connects with Loner and dislikes AP's purity. Seen self-harming in Act 1.
- Perfect — the most attractive girl in school. Considered too flawless and often called snobby or fake, she later reveals a poor financial situation and an illegitimate pregnancy.
- Faith — a passionate, virginal girl. Struggles to make friends due to her religious passion but generally well-liked and briefly receives romantic attention from Freak.

All actors except for those playing Loner and Freak play multiple roles. All characters except for Loner and Freak may be split to be make two roles, but no role will be doubled.