

Ohana Arts Youth Theatre Company
“PEACE ON YOUR WINGS”
2020 Summer Tour & Audition Information

Tour Performance Schedule:

Honolulu - July 24th-26th, 2020

Los Angeles - August 6th-9th, 2020

Denver - August 14th-15th, 2020

Hiroshima - August 29th-30th, 2020

Auditions: Ohana Arts invites talented youth between the ages of 5 and 18 to audition for the 2020 Ohana Arts Youth Theater Company cast of “Peace On Your Wings”. Younger students ages 5-10 are required to be accompanied by a parent or guardian on the tour. Prior musical theatre experience and background in Ballet, Jazz, contemporary and/or acro is a plus but not required.

Important information:

- **General auditions:** General auditions will take place on **December 7th from 1-7pm** in Honolulu at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Kennedy Theatre building (rear entrance).
- **Scheduling an audition:** Students must submit a completed application at the following link: <https://ohanaarts.wufoo.com/forms/zoubavg0jf6295/> by **DECEMBER 1st, 2019** in order to receive an audition time. **No walk-ins will be accepted.** Applicants will be notified of their individual audition time no later than December 3rd.
- **Resume, Letter of Recommendation, and Short Essay Questions:** Students selected to be a part of the new “Peace On Your Wings” cast are not only expected to perform well, but to also be ambassadors of the show’s message of peace. Ohana Arts is interested in working with students who are able to understand the importance of this message and who have the maturity to be a traveling ambassador of Sadako’s story. Therefore, applicants must also submit a resume, letter of recommendation, and answers to two short essay questions as part of the application. These items must be uploaded with the initial application at the link stated above.
- **Evaluation of applicants:** Initial evaluation of applicants will be based on the applicant’s audition (60%), letter of recommendation (20%), and essay question

answers (20%).

- **Call-back auditions:** Call-back auditions will take place on **Sunday, December 15th** in Honolulu at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Kennedy Theatre building (rear entrance).

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:

1. Two 16-bar excerpts from two different songs from standard musical theatre repertoire. One excerpt should be from an up-tempo song, and one should come from a ballad or slow song. Please bring piano accompaniment sheet music with 16-bar excerpt clearly marked for the pianist.
2. One short monologue (under 1 minute) from a play or musical which shows the variety or his or her acting ability.
3. Please come warmed up and prepared to dance in proper dance attire. Jazz or lyrical shoes preferred. Some may be asked to dance in sneakers for the callback.

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION:

Applicants are required to submit a letter of recommendation from a teacher, director, or other mentor (no family members) with the online application **in the uploads section**. The letter does not need to reflect an applicant's talent or achievements. We are most interested to hear about the applicant's work ethic, character, ability to work with others, learning style and general attitude.

SHORT ESSAY QUESTIONS:

Applicants are also required to submit a response to the following two questions (each answer should be between 150-250 words if the applicant is in the 7th-12th grade, and 50-150 words if the applicant is in the 1st-6th grade). Please be sure to include the applicant's name on the PDF document and submit it with the online application **in the uploads section**.

- 1) What does peace mean to you?
- 2) Peace On Your Wings shares the message of "Ichi-go, Ichi-e", meaning "today is the first and last day of your life" or "this moment will never repeat". If you become a member of the 2020 Peace On Your Wings cast, how will this be an "ichi-go, ichi-e" experience for you?

CHARACTER LIST:

Sadako

Sadako Sasaki was 11 years old when she was diagnosed with Leukemia resulting from radiation caused by the atomic bomb that was dropped on her home town, Hiroshima. The fastest runner in her class with a vivacious personality, Sadako is well liked by all her classmates who unknowingly rely on her to keep their bond of friendship strong.

Gender: Female

Age: 11-18

Vocal range: Alto belt with strong head voice.

Shizuka

Sadako's most loyal and closest friend who struggles with Sadako's terminal illness after having lost almost all her family members to the atomic bomb. Often labeled the class nerd and the smartest kid in her class, Shizuka displays a wide emotional range.

Gender: Female

Age: 11-18

Vocal range: Alto belt with a strong head voice.

Aiko

The most optimistic and friendly of Sadako's classmates, Aiko is often ridiculed for her quirky nature and positive attitude, and her slightly chubby physique. When Sadako is admitted into the hospital, Aiko is betrayed by her best friend who succumbs to peer pressure.

Gender: Female

Age: 11-18

Vocal range: Alto belt

Kenji

Small for his age, Kenji is eager to prove himself to the cool boys in his class. In so doing, he jeopardizes his close friendship with Aiko.

Gender: Male

Age: 11-18

Vocal Range: Alto belt

Kazuko

Perky, pretty, and popular, Kazuko is jealous of Sadako's charisma and likability. She attempts to win the affection of the coolest boy in their class who has his sights set on Sadako.

Gender: Female

Age: 11-18

Vocal range: Alto belt

Isamu

The ringleader of the middle school boys, Isamu is tortured by the emotional absence of his father who suffers post traumatic stress syndrome from the War. he is often mean to the girls in his class, and gets his minions to help him execute his plans, no matter what the cost.

Gender: Male

Age: 11-18

Vocal range: Tenor

Kiyoshi

The most popular boy in their class and a fast runner, Kiyoshi is well liked by his classmates, and shares a mutual and unspoken crush on Sadako.

Gender: Male

Age: 11-18

Vocal range: Tenor

Minoru

Comic and blundering, Minoru is Isamu's sidekick.

Gender: Male

Age: 11-18

Vocal range: Tenor

Masahiro

Masahiro is Sadako's older brother. Kind and often at Sadako's side, Masahiro has been forced to grow up quickly to help support the Sasaki family.

Gender: Male

Age 14-18

Vocal range: Tenor

Kiyo

A reclusive teenager who would rather read and write letters to her school friends than socialize with the other children in the Red Cross Hospital, Kiyo is Sadako's older roommate. Sadako pulls Kiyo out of her shell, and together, Sadako and Kiyo become the big sisters to the other children in their ward.

Gender: Female

Age: 14-18

Vocal Range: Soprano

Setsuko

Spunky and energetic, Setsuko is the most outgoing of the children in the hospital who happily shows Sadako the ropes.

Gender: Female

Age: 8-13

Vocal Range: Alto

Reiko

Vivacious child in the hospital.

Gender: Female

Age: 8-13

Vocal range: Soprano

Shigeno

Child in the hospital who is sweet and graceful.

Gender: Female

Age: 8-13
Vocal range: Soprano

Haru

Sweet and slightly rascal child in the hospital.

Gender: Male
Age: 8-13
Vocal range: Soprano

Itsue

The youngest child in the hospital with the oldest soul, Itsue steals Sadako's heart. It is Itsue's symptoms that make Sadako understand the seriousness of her own illness. Sadako and Itsue share a special bond.

Gender: Female
Age: 5-9
Vocal range: soprano

Rehearsals, Oahu Performances & Costs: Students will be required to attend the 2020 Ohana Arts Summer Festival and School 3-Week Musical Theatre Production Program to learn the show and prepare for the tour. The program meets Monday-Saturday, 8am-4:30pm from July 6th-24th, 2020, with performances at Kennedy Theatre in Honolulu on July 24th, 25th, and 26th. Students between the ages of 8-18 also have the option of enrolling in the full 6-week Musical Theatre Intensive program or the full 6-week Pre-College Musical Theatre Program. Tuition for the programs will be posted in mid-November when summer enrollment begins, and range from \$1180-\$1800.

Los Angeles, Denver, and Hiroshima Tour Costs: Ohana Arts will arrange and cover all airfare, hotel, ground transportation, and meals during rehearsals and performances for all cast members on tour in all cities. Students will need to bring some spending money for the occasional restaurant meal or any souvenirs they may want to purchase while traveling. Students will also need to obtain their own passport prior to the tour. Students between the ages of 5-10 are required to be accompanied by a parent or guardian on tour at their own expense.

SUMMER TOUR TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (July-August 2020)

The general schedule is as follows and subject to change:

July 6th-24th: Rehearsals in Honolulu at the Ohana Arts Summer Festival & School
July 24th: Performance #1 in Honolulu at Kennedy Theatre
July 25th: Performance #2 & #3 in Honolulu at Kennedy Theatre
July 26th: Performance #4 in Honolulu at Kennedy Theatre
August 2nd: Depart for Los Angeles

August 3rd: Crew Load-In, Cast Sitzprobe
August 4th: Cue-to-Cue/Tech
August 5th: Dress Rehearsals
August 6th: Performance #1 in Los Angeles at the Aratani Theatre
August 7th: Performance #2 in Los Angeles at the Aratani Theatre
August 8th: Performance #3 & #4 in Los Angeles at the Aratani Theatre
August 9th: Performance #5 in Los Angeles at the Aratani Theatre
August 10th: Depart for Denver
August 11th: Load In/Sitzprobe
August 12th: Cue-to-Cue/Tech
August 13th: Dress Rehearsals
August 14th: Performance #1 in Denver (Theatre TBA)
August 15th: Performance #2 & #3 in Denver (Theatre TBA)
August 16th: Depart for Honolulu
August 17th-23rd: Company Break
August 24th: Depart for Hiroshima
August 25th: Arrive in Hiroshima at night
August 26th: Visit Peace Park, Sadako Statue, Museum (AM); Cast visits Noboricho Elementary School while crew loads in (PM)
August 27th: Cue-to-Cue
August 28th: Dress Rehearsals
August 29th: Performance #1 & #2 in Hiroshima at Aster Plaza
August 30th: Performance #3 & #4 in Hiroshima at Aster Plaza
August 31st: Visit Miyajima Island, Depart for Honolulu

Youth Cast Member Expectations: *Peace On Your Wings* is a unique opportunity for young career-focused students who are experienced performers and possess a high level of skill and talent, who are treated by Ohana Arts as young professionals. In return, Ohana Arts expects cast members to conduct themselves as young professionals throughout the rehearsal process, while traveling, and in performance. Cast members are selected by audition, and are expected to practice on their own time and come to all rehearsals on time, dressed appropriately, and prepared. In addition, students are expected to exhibit good behavior, attitude, character, and work ethic at all times.

School/homework time on tour: Ohana Arts will designate 2-3 hours of dedicated homework time each day while on tour.

Letters to school administrations: Ohana Arts can provide a packet of letters from government institutions and an official invitation to participate from Ohana Arts that can be given to your child's school administration regarding missing school.

About the Ohana Arts Youth Theatre Company:

The Ohana Arts Youth Theatre Company is dedicated to producing and touring new works written for all-youth casts based on literary works and historical events, and which promote important messages relevant to today's youth. The company launched in 2014, with the premiere of Ohana Arts' first original musical inspired by the life of Sadako Sasaki, "Peace On Your Wings", which soon after embarked on a statewide tour, as well as tours to New York City and Los Angeles in 2015 and 2016. Future plans for the Ohana Arts Youth Theatre Company is to continue producing and touring new works written for all-youth casts based on literary and historical works, accompanied by a curriculum and teacher's guide that can be implemented by schools that participate in all educational and outreach performances. These curriculums will be made available on the Ohana Arts website for schools, youth theater groups, community groups, and teachers to have as a resource, along with the option to license and perform "Peace On Your Wings" and future original works in their community. This will provide educators, artists, and community groups a complete stage-to-classroom educational resource for years to come.

In addition to providing resources for schools, Ohana Arts Youth Theatre Company provides talented youth the extremely rare opportunity to experience being a part of a pre-professional touring theatre company, which includes getting mentored by members of the professional community, getting a taste for the demands of a professional touring schedule and working with a professional staff. As actors, students will often times be challenged to originate roles that have never been performed before. Throughout the program, Ohana Arts emphasizes the importance of developing good time management, being accountable, learning to think on their feet, work as a team, and be flexible in a changing environment. Students also learn hands on though this real-world opportunity skills such as interviewing with the media, recording in a studio, performing and speaking at events, traveling, and more.

About Peace On Your Wings:

"Peace On Your Wings" is an original musical inspired by the real-life story of Sadako Sasaki and her one thousand paper cranes. Set in post-war, 1950's Japan, the musical follow the lives of middle school students in Hiroshima. When one of them falls seriously ill, the childrens' lives and their tenuous bonds with each other seem to unravel. But one girl's struggle and dreams for a better tomorrow teach the children---and the world---about courage, love, and peace. The play's original musical score and book, written by Ohana Arts' co-founders Jenny Taira and Laurie Rubin, combines modern pop with Japanese influences to create a unique, uplifting, and inspiring show.

According to Japanese legend, anyone who folds 1,000 origami paper cranes is granted one wish. Having survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima as a toddler, Sadako grew up to be one of the best athletes and most popular students in her middle school. At age 11 she was diagnosed with leukemia, or the "A-bomb disease " as it was then called, and given just one year to live. Hoping to be cured, Sadako Sasaki and her friends began making hundreds of origami cranes out of needle wrappings, medicine labels, and any other paper they could

find. When she reached 1,000, she continued folding for herself and others till she died at age 12.

Sadako has come to symbolize the effects of the peace movement, as her death inspired a youth movement to have a Hiroshima memorial built in honor of the child victims. "Peace on Your Wings" features an all-youth cast, and addresses universal themes present in young people's lives, while sharing the buddhist message 'Ichi-go Ichi-e' meaning, 'Today is the first and last day of your life.'

This groundbreaking show premiered on Oahu in November 2014 to a sold-out crowd. The cast then embarked on a sold-out statewide tour in 2015. The overwhelmingly positive response has led to an encore performance in Honolulu, as well as continuous plans for US and Japan tours. In September of 2015, the cast and crew of Peace On Your Wings traveled to Los Angeles, California for its exciting North American premiere, co-presented by the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center at their 880-seat Aratani Theatre. The show was incredibly well received by audiences, as the cast received standing ovations at every performance. In 2016, the cast and crew traveled to New York City for the debut of Peace on Your Wings at the Gerald W. Lynch Theater. In 2017, the show traveled to Northern California where a brand new cast of youth was assembled, comprised of children and teens who hailed from Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, San Jose, San Francisco, Sacramento, San Ramon, and Hawaii. The show had a weekend run of performances in October in San Francisco at the Cowell Theatre at Fort Mason, and at the Hammer Theatre in San Jose. In March 2018, the show was performed in Sacramento at the Benvenuti Arts Center.

In just a short time, *Peace On Your Wings* has already received many awards and recognitions, including a Certificate of Commendation from the City Council of Honolulu, an award from the United Nations Association of Hawaii, and a proclamation from Mayor Caldwell, who announced August 6th, 2015 as "Peace On Your Wings Day" prior to the opening night performance at Hawaii Theatre. *Peace On Your Wings* has also been the subject of two mini-documentaries by NHK (Japan's largest news network), and has been featured on KTLA news, Broadway World, Huffington Post, and MidWeek (cover story) amongst others. Sadako's real life brother Masahiro Sasaki, and his son Yuji attended these performances, and have become active proponents of the musical.

About Ohana Arts:

Founded in 2010 by stage director Cari Taira, composer/music director Jenny Taira, and opera singer/author Laurie Rubin, Ohana Arts is a 501(c)(3) non-profit performing arts organization which aims to inspire and engage people through high caliber educational and professional arts programs, and to cultivate an international family (Ohana) in the Pacific by promoting world friendship and peace through the universal language of the arts. Currently, the organization runs an annual summer program, serving youth ages 6-18 from over 40 schools around Oahu, as well as students from the mainland United States. Since the summer of 2017, Ohana Arts

has run in cooperation with the University of Hawaii at Manoa Department of Theatre and Dance. All Ohana Arts summer classes, rehearsals and productions take place at the Kennedy Theatre on the University of Hawaii campus. In 2014, Ohana Arts launched its Youth Theatre Repertory Company which commissions, produces, and tours new works of theater for all youth casts and audiences, based on literary works and historical events which convey important global messages with its flagship musical, "Peace On Your Wings." In total, Ohana Arts has produced over 30 fully staged productions, and currently serves over 100 students every year. Future plans include the opening of Hawaii's very first specialized high school for the performing arts.