



Putting your  
camp's  
theater  
program on  
the main  
stage

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# Spotlight the overall camp experience.

- Community
- Confidence
- Character
- Creativity



## Step 1:

Plan ahead and organize...  
before the summer!



- Create a timeline.
- Decide the productions and purchase scripts, royalties, and costumes before the summer.
- Envision the drama instructor you want for the program and create a job description.

## Step 2:

# Hire the right person...

### Ideal qualifications

- Previous Camp experience
- Children's theater experience
- Directing experience
- Touring experience
- Knowledge of the plays chosen
- Special skills for clubs and select periods
- Flexibility and ability to work with little support

...and know where to find them.

Websites

Backstage.com

Backstagejobs.com

Playbill.com

Artswire.org

Institutions

Universities

Theater Schools

Theater Companies



# BE HONEST!

- Explain time commitment and amount of actual time working on theater.
- Talk about the drama offstage.
- Describe counselor responsibilities.
- Discuss logistics and preparation details.
- Tell them they may need to recruit actors.

We're on the same page!



## Step 3:

# Make a commitment.

- Hold auditions on day two.
- Create a consistent schedule.
- Let the Drama specialist make announcements.
- Use staff as Assistant Directors, Stage managers, etc.

## Step 4:

# Make it meaningful!

How can this program help me reach my camp's mission?

What special clubs or selective periods can this offer?

How are we advertising this program to our camp families?

How do we use this program to strengthen evening activities and theme days?

Are there any chances to use this program differently?

Where did he get such cool powerpoint bubbles?



## Step 5:

Create two tracks.

### Performance

Monologues/Scenes

Camp Play

Stage Vocabulary

Playwriting

### Activities

Improvisation Games

Focus Games

Running Games



## Step 6: Give support!

- Recognize the need for prep time.
- Give access to materials.
- Assign CIT's and Staff roles both behind the scenes and on stage.
- Check in routinely.
- Plan a dress rehearsal.

Still on the  
same page!



## Step 7:

Pizzazz! Make the program feel special.



Wacky  
Costumes and  
snazzy  
backdrops

Posters and  
letters  
home

Playbills

Cool light and  
sound cues

## Step 8: Spread the word!

- Invite families and neighbors.
- Create buzz about the play.
- Organize a visiting day presentation.



## Step 9: Throw a part-ay!

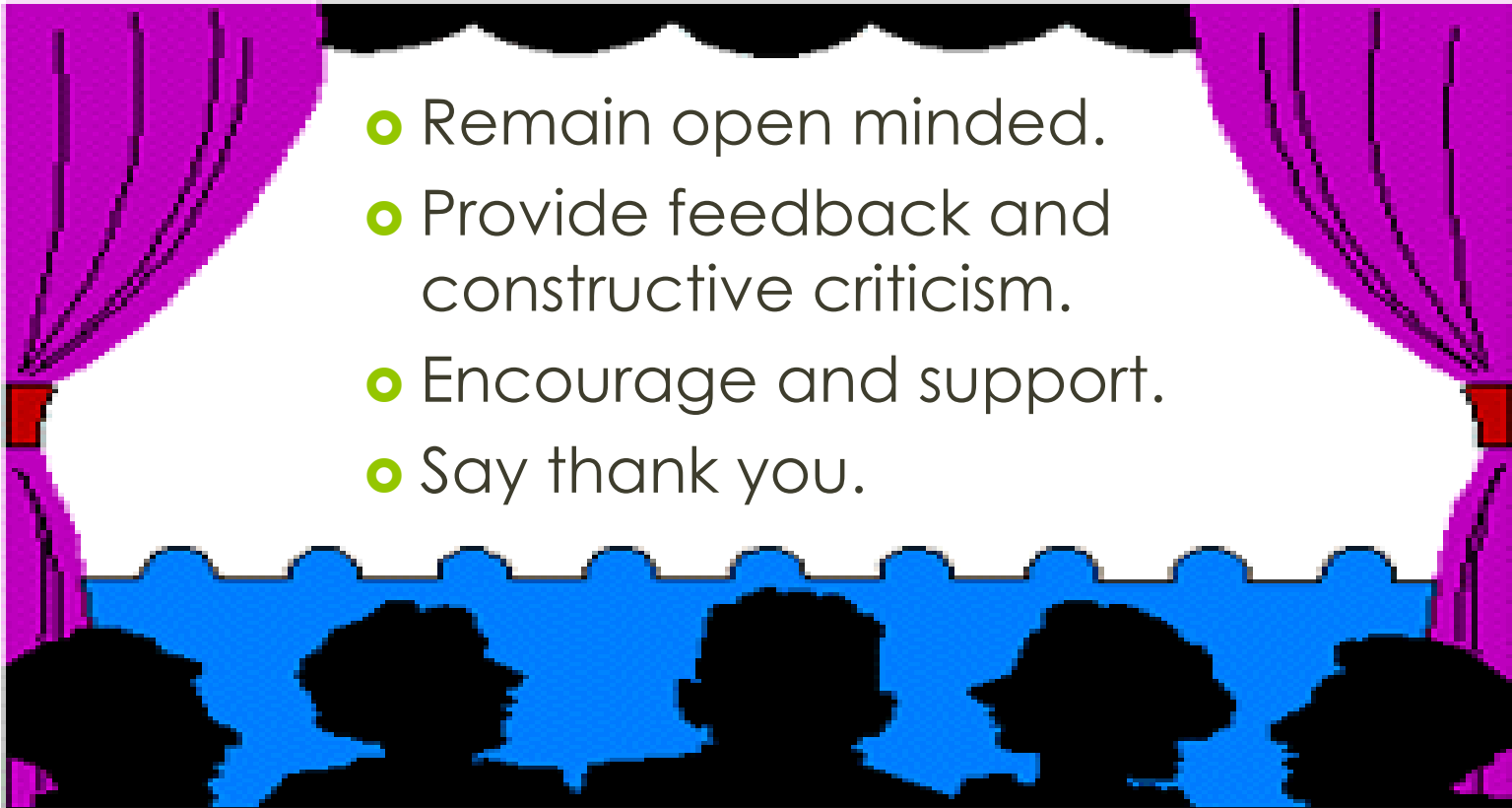
- Pizza and treats for the cast.
- Flowers for the drama specialist and extra time off the next day.
- Certificate of Achievement.
- Positive feedback.



## Step 10:

# Be a good audience!

- Remain open minded.
- Provide feedback and constructive criticism.
- Encourage and support.
- Say thank you.





And remember...

The process can be  
as important as the  
product!