

Audition Information for “Hind’s Feet on High Places”

Hello! We are so excited to see that you are interested in auditioning for New Hope’s Spring production of “Hind’s Feet on High Places”! Please take note of the following before auditioning for the show:

Auditions: To audition, please come to room 29 on either the 4th or 5th of February between 3:30 and 5:30. There, you will fill out an audition form, and then wait to be called into the audition room. This is on a first come, first served basis.

Sides: Outside of room 29 are printed copies of sides. Sides are short scenes from the play that you will read in the audition. Please feel free to take a copy of all of the sides and get familiar with them before the audition. That’s what they are there for! Miss B might ask you to read any of them, so read them carefully! These scenes do not have to be memorized; reading them is just fine! This is all you will have to prepare for the audition. If you do not see the character you would like to audition for on the sides list, don’t worry! I will still have you read the sides and take into consideration the role that you would like. I have added a separate “side” for any elementary grade students auditioning. It is labeled “Sheep Monologue” and that is all they will need to prepare for their audition!

Schedule: If you are cast in this production, please note that rehearsals are just like practice for any sport. You are required and expected to come to every rehearsal that you are scheduled for. The schedule for rehearsals will be posted every week by emailing it to parents. You will be required to give all known rehearsal conflicts to Miss B; There will be a space not only on the audition sheet, but in the parent meeting to do so. **No conflicts will be accepted after February 16th.** Rehearsal schedules will be written as flexible as possible, but please understand that being in a theatre performance is a big commitment. If you cannot make a rehearsal due to sickness or have an emergency, please let Miss B know as soon as possible that you will be missing it. It is not the end of the world to miss a few rehearsals, and sickness and emergencies arise, but consistent absence will be detrimental to the production. Just like any sport, teamwork is needed to put on any production. Not only will your absence affect you, but your castmates will be affected as well. Please note that not every cast member will be called to every rehearsal. If not in the scene we are practicing on a certain day, they will not be needed/called.

Run Schedule: There will be a mandatory parent meeting on Wednesday, February 11th, at 5:30 in room 29. Actors will get scripts, and other necessary information will be relayed. Rehearsals will start on Thursday, February 19th. Rehearsals will run from 3:30 to 5:00 each day after school, but a cast member may not be called for the whole duration of practice. **Rehearsals will run longer the last two weeks of rehearsal.** Please understand that lead roles will have a more demanding schedule, while smaller speaking roles may not have as many rehearsals. Rehearsals up to April 30th are missable, if necessary, but no absences, except in emergency, are permissible

from May 1st through May 17th. These are a little over the last two weeks of rehearsals for the production, and we will be running the entire show with the full cast each day. Please note that there are two Saturday rehearsals, May 2nd and May 9th. These are also unmissable unless an emergency arises.

We will be performing five shows: Friday, May 15th at 8:30am for our Elementary students, Friday the 15th at 7:00, Saturday the 16th at 2:00, Saturday the 16th at 7:00, and Sunday the 17th at 2:00.

Note on Casting: I am so excited to see so many students excited to be a part of our theatre program! I love having many different ages on stage and behind the scenes. Theatre is such a collaborative art, and everyone involved has something amazing to offer! That being said, while this is a school production, I approach it with the same level of commitment and professionalism as any theatrical endeavor. I hold the same expectations for the students involved.

Participation in the play is not only a creative opportunity but also a responsibility. I am looking for students who demonstrate a positive attitude, respect for others, and the maturity to take this commitment seriously. Being part of a cast requires teamwork, discipline, and a consistent effort to contribute positively to the rehearsal process and final performance.

Only students who meet these expectations, both in demeanor and performance, will be cast in the production. Additionally, any student who does not uphold the guidelines or show respect for the process and their peers may be removed from the cast.

Please note that this is not a daycare environment. Rehearsals are structured, where students are expected to be attentive, respectful, and engaged. The play we are producing carries a serious and meaningful message, and I want to honor that by giving our best effort as a cast and crew. I will only be casting students who are ready to contribute to that goal in a thoughtful and respectful manner.

Please also be aware that this show has a smaller cast, and I will be unable to cast every student who auditions. I would love to have a part for everybody, but due to the roles available this year, unfortunately that will not be possible.

I believe strongly in the potential of our students and I pray we can create a production that not only honors God, but our school and peers! I appreciate your support in helping reinforce these values as we work together toward a successful show!

Code of Conduct: This production strives to honor God in every way. Please know that if you are cast, the same school rules apply after school hours during rehearsal. The 10 Commandments and the teachings of Jesus in Scripture will be held highly as standard behavior for this production. When behavior becomes a matter of dispute, the Bible will be consulted. All rules fall under this: Love God and love others.

Behavior Expectations:

- No physical or verbal violence; campers are to encourage one another, both in truth and kindness.
- Swearing will not be tolerated; all things said will be appropriate.
- All cast members will dress according to the NHCS dress code while on campus.
- Substances, such as alcohol or illegal substances, are prohibited.

- Electronic devices are not to be a distraction, and if seen being used without permission, they will be taken and given back to the cast member at the end of rehearsal.

Cast members repeatedly violating these expectations will not be able to continue with the production. The director has the authority to make decisions regarding a cast member's behavior at their discretion.

Production Fee: If cast, there is a production fee of \$50 to help cover the cost of cast t-shirts and other production costs. This will need to be paid at the meet and greet after the cast list goes up. If you are cast, please let me know if this fee is a problem for you to pay. We have scholarships for students who would still like to participate.

Please email any questions to jessieb@newhopechristian.net.

THE STORY - ALLEGORY:

“Hind’s Feet on High Places” is what is known as an allegory. An allegory is a story where the characters, settings, and events are symbols for deeper concepts or ideas; in this case, biblical principles and values. These symbols maintain their value throughout the story, and typically have names that represent the thing/idea/person that they are embodying. Please keep this in mind!

Much-Afraid is a parentless girl who escapes from the clutches of her relatives, the family of Fearings, and journeys with the Chief Shepherd of the Village up to the High Places, where she is healed by love. Born with physical disabilities that hinder her ability to walk and to speak clearly or smile, Much-Afraid wants nothing more than to be physically healed and to be given “hinds’ feet” in order to follow the Shepherd during his journeys up to the mountains, far above the troubles found in the Valley of Humiliation and the Village of Much Trembling.

Engaged to be married against her will to Craven Fear, Much-Afraid escapes an attempted kidnapping by venturing out of her home in the middle of the night. She encounters the Shepherd, who leads her to the foot of the mountains to begin her journey. Provided with two traveling companions, Sorrow and Suffering, Much-Afraid starts off on the path that will lead her up to the High Places and, she hopes, to the fulfillment of her heart’s desire. Along the way, she must overcome natural disasters, geographical and circumstantial hardships, and the attacks and assaults of various relatives who attempt to knock her off the Shepherd’s path and bring her back to the Valley.

Learning to embrace Sorrow and Suffering, who never leave her side and ultimately prove the most reliable and comforting guides, Much-Afraid attains a deep maturity during her travels and learns how to submit her own will to that of the Shepherd. The purgation offered by the pain she endures allows her to persevere and ultimately gain mastery of the fears that have assaulted her.

When making it to the High Places, Much-Afraid is given a new, glorified name, and is healed by the pools of the mountains. She then sees all that the Shepherd has led her through has all been for a purpose, and she can use her story to reach out to others, who, like her, need the Shepherd too.

Characters:

Please note that the cast is smaller this year, and it may not be possible to cast everyone who auditions!

Much- Afraid: Orphaned at a young age, she was forced to be raised by her terrible Aunt Dismal Forebodings. Now as a young adult, Much-Afraid lives in great fear of all of her Fearing relatives. Wanting to go to the safety of the High Places after a marriage proposal from Craven Fear and the Fearings, she submits her life to the Chief Shepherd and undertakes a long and brutal journey to the mountains. Much-Afraid represents the Believer in his or her struggles in this life, and shows how they are used for God's glory.

Shepherd: Keeps watch not only of the sheep, but of all the inhabitants of the Valley of Humiliation. His presence represents that of Christ, and he lovingly cares for Much-Afraid throughout the story, gently reprimanding and boldly leading her to greater places. He is always present on Much-Afraid's journey to the High Places, though he is not always seen or felt. The Chief Shepherd is a kind comfort in times of need, and a strong hand when danger arises.

Sorrow and Suffering: The two regal companions that the Shepherd provides for Much-Afraid. They are strong and silent guides, only speaking when Much-Afraid when she starts to accept their help on her journey. They become very close with Much-Afraid and aid her in her times of trouble, but not always in the ways that Much-Afraid wants. They carry out the Shepherd's will triumphantly, and receive new names in the Kingdom of Love.

Craven Fear: Much-Afraid's malevolent cousin and unwanted suitor, who represents cowardice.

Aunt Dismal: Much-Afraid's pessimistic and depressing aunt, who raised her.

Lord Fearing: The wealthiest member in the Fearing Family. Owns a mansion in the Valley of Humiliation, and keeps the family in line on their endeavors to capture Much-Afraid.

Resentment, Pride, Self-Pity, and Bitterness: All cousins to Much-Afraid, they sneakily aid Craven Fear in their attempts to subdue Much-Afraid.

Mrs. Valiant: A neighbor and old friend to Much-Afraid. Like her name, Mrs. Valiant is a brave and noble woman who defends Much-Afraid in her time of need.

Dryads: Ethereal Spirits of the Trees; they are close to the Shepherd. They take the role of the Narrator and help progress the story. They follow Much-Afraid on her journey, taking each step with her. Quietly in the background, they celebrate her triumphs and commiserate her failures. These characters are in and have the most dance heavy scenes.

Naiads: Similar to the Dryads, Naiads are the Spirits of the River. They are double cast with the Dryads, and also are a dance heavy role.

Hind and Hart: Female and Male Deer; they play a huge role in the symbolism of the story, representing the spiritual ascent of Believers and our surefootedness in Christ. Continually appear throughout the story, reminding Much-Afraid of the Shepherd's promises.

Townsfolk: Inhabitants of the village of Much-Trembling where Much-Afraid and the Fearings live.

Valias Blacknose Sheep: Native to Switzerland, these sheep are known for their dog-like personalities and shaggy wool. They live in the village of Much-Trembling and are taken care of by the Chief Shepherd and the other villagers.