Add a little magic to your classroom through Disney Musicals in Schools!

Disney Musicals in Schools presented by Dee and Jimmy Haslam is a **FREE** professional development program and outreach initiative for grades 3–5, that develops sustainable musical theater programs for eligible Cuyahoga, Lake, and Lorain County elementary schools.

Four schools will be selected to participate in the 2025-2026 program, **FREE of charge**. Any Cuyahoga, Lake, or Lorain County public elementary school, including public charter schools, with a student poverty level of 50% or higher (according to the [Ohio Department of Education’s 2013 Typology Report](https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Data/Frequently-Requested-Data/Typology-of-Ohio-School-Districts)) is eligible to apply. **Additionally, if your school was an active member of the Disney Musicals in Schools program prior to the 2019-2020 school year, and you have not restarted your program since that time, you are eligible to apply as a new year-one school.** If you have questions about your school’s eligibility, contact Youth Outreach Programs Supervisor, Katelyn Merold at [Katelyn.Merold@playhousesquare.org](mailto:Katelyn.Merold@playhousesquare.org).

Disney Musicals in Schools presents a special opportunity to introduce the collaborative art of musical theater to your school, strengthen your arts programming, and develop partnerships among students, faculty, staff and the greater community.

**Applications open on FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2025!**

**The goals of Disney Musicals in Schools are to:**

# Create sustainable musical theatre programs in public elementary schools.

# Provide school faculty with the training and tools necessary to support student performance and production, and to empower them to do so.

# Develop a critical awareness and appreciation of the arts within the school.

# Develop a strong community, including students, parents, faculty, staff, and neighbors.

# Expose students and school faculty to the wide spectrum of skills that are developed when producing a piece of musical theatre, including critical thinking, problem solving, ensemble building, communication, self-confidence, and interpersonal skills.

Please complete the enclosed application (typed and signed) as soon as possible, and submit via email to [Katelyn.Merold@playhousesquare.org](mailto:Katelyn.Merold@playhousesquare.org) or via USPS at:

Playhouse Square

ATTN: Katelyn Merold

1501 Euclid Avenue, Suite 200

Cleveland, Ohio 44115

**What is Disney Musicals in Schools?**

Disney Musicals in Schools is an after-school professional development and outreach program, designed to help underserved schools produce a 30-minute Disney musical at your school with students in grades 3 – 5 with the help of weekly Playhouse Square’s Disney-trained teaching artist visits and materials, at no cost to your school.

The program began at Disney Theatrical Group in New York City in 2009 and was established to create sustainable theater programs in under-resourced public elementary schools. Over 500 schools across the US and the UK have participated in this program since its inception, 31 of those schools in the Greater Cleveland Area through Playhouse Square. Playhouse Square has been a proud producer of Disney Musicals in Schools since 2015.

By providing free performance materials and free professional development to participating teachers, Disney Musicals in Schools has helped schools inspire the next generation of diverse storytellers, artists and audiences.

**Selected schools will receive:**

* **Free** performance rights (valid for one year) to a 30-minute Disney KIDS musical of your choice! Available titles include:
  + *101 Dalmatians*
  + *Aladdin*
  + *The Aristocats*
  + *Finding Nemo*
  + *Frozen*
  + *The Jungle Book*
  + *The Lion King*
  + *Winnie the Pooh*
* **Free** “ShowKit” materials, including a director’s handbook guide, student scripts, online links to all choreography and music videos and tracks, and cross-curricular activities.
* **Free** in-school support from a team of two Playhouse Square Disney-Trained Teaching Artists
  + Two, 90-minute afterschool rehearsals are required every week for 19 weeks. Playhouse Square Teaching Artists attend one of these two rehearsals per week, while your team of teachers run the second rehearsal each week.
  + The Teaching Artists will serve as production and creative advisors who during this time will train and empower your School Team to run the program independently by the end of the 19-weeks.
  + The Playhouse Square Teaching Artists will guide your School Team through both production management (developing a rehearsal schedule, running auditions, and addressing technical and physical production requirements) and the creative execution of the show (direction, choreography, acting, and design). They will also advise your School Team on school and community engagement opportunities to support your production.
  + Disney KIDS Musicals are designed to be produced on any budget. Playhouse Square Teaching Artists will work with your School Team to create a production within the budget your school is able to allocate to this project.
* Finally, our four selected Disney schools will present one musical number from their respective productions in a culminating “Student Share Celebration” at Playhouse Square. This year’s Student Share will take place on **March 10, 2025**,and we encourage new applicants to join us! Please contact Katelyn Merold ([Katelyn.Merold@playhousesquare.org](mailto:Katelyn.Merold@playhousesquare.org)) for details on how to RSVP!

**Selected schools will be expected to:**

* Identify a School Team comprising **at least four** teachers and staff members who will partner with the Playhouse Square Teaching Artists and oversee and manage the program from beginning to end. **The selected School Team will receive on-site support from a team of two Playhouse Square Teaching Artists who will visit the school for a 90-minute rehearsal once each week for 19 weeks. The School Team will run a second 90-minute rehearsal once each week (those same 19 weeks) without the presence of the Teaching Artists.**
* Have the whole School Team, and Principal, available for a Show Selection and Paperwork Meeting with a Playhouse Square Administrator the week of September 22, 2025. Exact meeting date and time TBD, when all four Year 1 schools have been selected. Playhouse Square will come to you!
* Produce a 30-minute Disney “KIDS” musical of your choice from the titles listed on page 2, involving 3rd-5th graders who will participate both onstage as performers and offstage, providing backstage support.
* Commit to a full semester of rehearsal /production in an after-school setting (see timeline on following page).
* Host a site visit at your school for Playhouse Square’s “selection team,” who will visit your School Team during the application process.
* Provide space, time, materials, and resources for students and the School Team to rehearse and prepare for the musical production.
* Respond to all Playhouse Square correspondence in a timely manner.
* Provide opportunities for the whole school, parents, and larger community to be supportive of the production.
* Hold a minimum of one public performance of your musical.
* Participate in the culminating “Student Share” event at Playhouse Square on **March 9, 2026**. Playhouse Square will provide transportation reimbursement for participating schools.

**Disney Musicals in Schools Timeline of REQUIRED Events:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Friday, January 24, 2025** | Applications open and reviewed on a first come, first served basis |
| **Monday, August 18, 2025** | Final application due date |
| **August 25 – September 5, 2025** | Finalist schools receive on-site visits at their respective schools |
| **Week of September 8, 2025** | All applicants notified of status, and four selected schools announced |
| **Week of September 15, 2025** | PSQ Admin to meet with all Year 1 schools, at their location, for show selection/paperwork |
| **Thursday, September 25, 2025** | Selected school orientation (evening) at Playhouse Square |
| **October 6, 2025 – March 3, 2026** | Two 90-minute after school rehearsals each week, with Playhouse Square Teaching Artists attending one of the two rehearsals |
| **Week of March 2, 2025\*** | In-school performances of your school’s selected show  *\*Alternate performance week requires Playhouse Square written approval* |
| **March 9, 2026, 7:00 p.m.** | Disney Musicals in Schools Student Share Celebration, at Playhouse Square’s Mimi Ohio Theatre! |

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Primary Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Principal Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Number of students who would participate in the program: \_\_

Grade(s) of students who would participate in the program: \_\_

Please list the names of your school’s arts teaching staff:

*(If your school does not have any arts faculty, please leave blank)*

Theater: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Full time or part time: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Dance: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Full time or part time: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Music: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Full time or part time: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Visual art: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Full time or part time: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Does your school have an auditorium or similar space that can safely and consistently accommodate students and staff during rehearsals as well as audience members during the performance? Would this space be dedicated solely to the program during designated hours? (*Please share all necessary information* *pertinent to this question)*

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**SCHOOL TEAM INFORMATION**

**Please commit 4-5 teachers who will be present at all rehearsals**. We understand illness and emergencies happen, but it is imperative the entire team be available and engaged for the duration of the program. This is crucial to the success of the program and a key criterion in our selection process. One member of your team will need to act as the primary contact for Playhouse Square. Please identify which member of your team will take that role and share why that individual has been selected. *Please note, the content areas required to be covered are: Director, Stage Manager*

*Choreographer and Music Director*.

**Teacher 1 (Primary Contact):** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Content Area: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Why Selected as Primary Contact: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Qualifications for Content Area: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher 2:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Content Area: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Qualifications for Content Area: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher 3:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Content Area: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Qualifications for Content Area: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher 4:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Content Area: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Qualifications for Content Area: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher 5:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Content Area: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Qualifications for Content Area: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTIONNAIRE**

Please provide a detailed answer to each of the following questions. If you require more space, feel free to use additional paper. In addition, if you have media files that would allow our team to have a better understanding of the how the arts are at work in your school, please send those along with your application. (Examples would include short videos, photos, music clips or student artwork).

Can you commit to the minimum rehearsal requirements? *We require a minimum of two 90-minute after-school rehearsals every week for 19 weeks. One of these two weekly rehearsals will be with the Playhouse Square Teaching Artists, the other will be run independently by your School Team*.

Yes, our school can commit the full School Team to the rehearsal requirements

No, our school cannot meet this requirement (please explain below)

Our school can hold \*more\* than the minimum required rehearsals (please explain below)

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Which days and times could be used for rehearsals? Please indicate two days with their start and end time. Remember to factor dismissal and end-of-day needs into your planning. Each suggested day must have a full 90-minute allotment.

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How will your school ensure that students, teachers, and space will be consistently available, and follow internal protocol, at the same time for 90-minutes twice a week? Again, please remember to factor dismissal into your adjustments.

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Do you currently offer any after-school programming in your school? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please describe:

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Do you produce a formal piece of musical theater every year? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please describe:

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How would you use Disney Musicals in Schools to develop an ongoing tradition of

musical theater at your school?

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Why is it important for your students to have access to the performing arts?

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Disney Musicals in Schools requires time, effort, and collaboration from the school faculty participating in the program, and from the school’s leadership team. What steps will your School Team take to ensure the continued success of the program beyond year one?

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How will the school’s administration support the program?

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How does your school faculty work to resolve conflict and how could this translate to the Disney Musicals in Schools process?

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Describe the culture of communication and collaboration in your school. Is this a team that has worked together in the past? How timely is your communication?

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How would you use Disney Musicals in Schools to fulfill the learning goals in your school? How would you use the program to support your current arts programs or enhance your non-arts curriculum?

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What is unique about your school, your students, or your community that makes Disney Musicals in Schools the right program for you?

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Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

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**SIGNATURE PAGE**

*(An interview will not be scheduled without this completed signature page)*

* **My principal has reviewed and approved this application:**

Principal Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Principal Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**School Team member signatures:**

Please have all School Team members review the application and sign below.

**Teacher 1 Name**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher 2 Name**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher 3 Name**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher 4 Name**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher 5 Name**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_