

# **HANDBOOK**

## **Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival**

**2012**

## **Arabian Nights Musical Pageant**

*Rev. 2012*

### WELCOME STATEMENT

You have made it through the Audition process and are now a part of the Arabian Nights fantasy and tradition. This handbook will provide some background information regarding the Fair and the Pageant, and will give you an idea of what to expect over the next few months. The glossary section provides definitions for some of the terminology that you may come across in the course of your participation.

### HISTORY OF PAGEANT

The first Arabian Nights Pageant was introduced in 1948. Prior to that time, the festival grounds had a traditional western motif. Harry Oliver, a noted Hollywood film designer and resident of the valley, helped Mr. Fullenwider transform the grounds to the more exotic Arabian theme. Mr. Oliver designed the stage with minarets and stone arches to depict a street market place in Baghdad. His work is said to be quite authentic.

The first program was originally to be scripted by Louise Dardenelle. However, after she became ill and died in the preceding December, Hollywood producer and choreographer Roy Randolph of Palm Springs was brought in to continue the work. Finding his predecessor's script and costume designs to be too sketchy and preliminary, Mr. Randolph started from scratch. His Hollywood connections served him well assembling costumes, sets and props.

Roy Randolph also started the tradition of bringing in a limited number of professional singers and dancers - as is still done today. And, the pageant continues to draw Alumni who have gone on to more professional careers.

In the nature of true Community Theater, the pageant was then, as it primarily remains today, a local volunteer effort.

### PAGEANT MISSION STATEMENT

The Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival will introduce to you the annual "Arabian Nights Pageant" showing nightly on a uniquely designed pageant stage. We will provide traditional nightly entertainment and will serve as a first stepping stone to Community Theater. Our staff and cast will function with professionalism and integrity. So, come aboard and experience the fantasy.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS/COMMITMENTS:  
(if you have questions about any of these - ASK!)

- ✓ Stay in communication with the stage manager regarding any important issues (conflicts/tardiness/absences, anything affecting your ability to rehearse or perform).
- ✓ Follow all rules as may be set by the director, stage manager, department heads or other staff members (whether noted below or not).
- ✓ Professionalism, courtesy and respect towards fellow actors, staff and crew members is expected at all times.
- ✓ Maintain appropriate behavior for a family environment with small children.
- ✓ Sign in immediately each time you arrive.
- ✓ Park only in approved parking areas.
- ✓ No running or rough-housing on the pageant grounds (i.e., the backstage areas, etc.).
- ✓ Use care and caution in the backstage areas and dressing rooms. There is a lot of activity going on and no insurance coverage if you get hurt on or off stage.
- ✓ No smoking in the backstage areas.
- ✓ Practice general hygiene and make all efforts to stay healthy.
- ✓ Do not bring food or drinks into the costume or make-up areas.
- ✓ Sit only in the green room area and other areas as may be directed by the staff.
- ✓ The interior areas of the castle are OFF LIMITS unless instructed to be in there by the director or stage manager.
- ✓ Do not bring valuables - no one but you can be responsible for any lost or stolen items. There is no place to secure such items - leave them home.
- ✓ If you must have cell phones or pagers with you, turn them off.
- ✓ Family members, friends, or girlfriends/boyfriends who are not authorized volunteers are not allowed in the backstage or dressing areas during rehearsals or performances. They may stay in the grassy areas in front of the stage.
- ✓ You are responsible first and foremost for your own assignment - Actor, Singer, Dancer, Crew, Staff, etc. Assisting in other areas should not compromise your work in your assigned area and should be done only under the instruction of the appropriate department heads.

## REHEARSAL-SPECIFIC EXPECTATIONS/COMMITMENTS:

- ✓ Know your schedule - days and times may vary by character.
- ✓ Attend and be on time to all scheduled dates.
- ✓ Dress appropriately (both for outdoor weather and for family cast).
- ✓ Bring your own lunch, snacks, and drinks as necessary - breaks and lunch will be scheduled appropriately.
- ✓ Know your script and blocking by the dates requested.
- ✓ Timely bring in all personal items relating to make-up, costumes or props as may be directed by the director or appropriate department heads.

## SHOW DAY-SPECIFIC EXPECTATIONS/COMMITMENTS

- ✓ Do not leave the pageant grounds backstage area once you are in costume.
- ✓ Keep your assigned stall and make-up areas clean and orderly.
- ✓ Do not touch any item (set, prop, etc.) that has been pre-set.
- ✓ Designated parking will be provided during performance days (come early, though, it gets full quickly).
- ✓ During performance days, please be sure to eat before arriving in the back stage area and getting into costume and make-up.
- ✓ Be aware of cast members using microphones. Talk only when absolutely necessary and then do so in a stage whisper.
- ✓ Do not change any part of your costume or make-up unless instructed to do so by the director or appropriate department heads.
- ✓ No eating or drinking, except water, when in costumes or pageant make-up.

## GLOSSARY

<u>Blocking:</u>	Instructions describing the movement of actors in each scene.
<u>Call Time:</u>	The time you are requested to arrive for a rehearsal or performance.
<u>Cast:</u>	Those who are performing in the show.
<u>Cheat:</u>	To position yourself more toward the audience while giving the impression you are looking directly at someone else on stage.
<u>Choreographer:</u>	Designs the movements of dancers in each production number in relative to the visual conception of the director.
<u>Costume Director:</u>	Designs the many costumes worn by the characters to aid in creating the illusion of the fantasy depicted in the production and in accordance with the visual conception of the director. New costumes are made or existing costumes are re-worked to create the overall look of the show in collaboration with other department heads.
<u>Counter:</u>	To shift position to compensate for the movement of another actor and maintain an effective compositional picture.
<u>Director:</u>	The creator of the overall visual conception for a production. The director retains creative control of all artistic components and coordinates all actors, artists and technicians working on a production in order to realize the desired visual conception. He/she takes a play and brings it to life.
<u>Down Stage:</u>	A stage direction that is toward the audience and away from the castle building.
<u>Green Room Area:</u>	The area designated to sit and wait for your time to perform once you are in costume and make-up.
<u>Make-up Director:</u>	Designs the many looks of the characters with respect to hair, make-up, prosthetic effects and the like to aid in creating the illusion of the fantasy depicted in the production and in accordance with the visual conception of the director. Visual effects are designed to create the overall look of the show in collaboration with other department heads. The make-up designer also coordinates the efforts of a staff of make-up artists to realize the designs selected for the production.
<u>Off book:</u>	Having your lines, including cue lines, and blocking memorized so you no longer need to use the script.
<u>Opening Circle:</u>	The gathering of all cast members to focus before each performance begins.

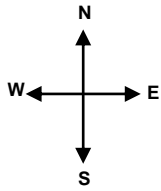
<u>Pit area:</u>	The area directly in front of and below the main stage playing area - i.e., between the stage and the hedges separating the audience.
<u>Producer:</u>	Typically the front-office entrepreneur responsible for raising money for the production and handling the non-creative, business aspects of a production. The producer often is responsible for bringing the separate artistic entities/staff together and makes sure all necessities for a production are secured.
<u>Props Master:</u>	One who assists with the design, creation, maintenance and handling of props for a production.
<u>Props:</u>	Any movable articles, objects or and other non-set-piece items that are used on the set of a performance. The most typical are hand props (i.e., hand-held items used by a character). Other types include: trim/dress props (e.g., wall hangings, etc.) or set props (e.g., furniture or set dressing items such as ashtrays that may remain unused by the characters in a play).
<u>Stage "T":</u>	The front of the stage that extends toward the audience and over the pit area.
<u>Stage Left:</u>	A stage direction that is to your left as you face the audience - i.e., toward the dressing rooms.
<u>Stage Manager:</u>	The person who coordinates the efforts of the producer, director, playwright, actors, technicians, and the like. Works directly with the director to keep record of cast members, cast blocking, script changes, sound cues, light cues, music cues, special effect cues, set change cues, and the like. The Stage Manager "runs" the production during performances and, typically, calls the various show cues.
<u>Stage Right:</u>	A stage direction that is to your right as you face the audience - i.e., toward the Arena.
<u>Stay in character:</u>	Walk, talk and act like your character would at all times.
<u>Striking:</u>	Tearing down and putting away of sets, props, make-up and costumes at the conclusion of a performance or production.
<u>Up Stage:</u>	A stage direction that is toward the castle building and away from the audience.

Welcome aboard the magic carpet!

Whether you are a seasoned performer or a new beginner, you can expect a great learning experience with a chance to be creative and to work with other creative people.

You can also expect a wonderful, tiring, marvelous, exhausting, memorable time.

Enjoy the ride!



↑  
TO SOUND/LIGHT BOOTHS & FAIR BOARD HOUSE  
↑

**GRASSY AREA  
AUDIENCE SEATING AREA**

