

Gan Izzy Players

Introduction Letter

Hello Gan Israel Families!

I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself as Director for the Lion King Kids Theatre program this season at Gan Israel. Let me start by saying how excited we are to be part of this program and bringing the magic of theatre to the campers.

My name is Laura Feist-Roche (but the kids all call me 'Miss Laura'). I have been involved with theatre for over 20 years, wearing every hat from Stage Manager to Costumer to Director. In addition, I was the youth program director for the JCC New Haven, where I ran arts programs, including (my personal favorite) Intro to Drama: A weekly workshop for children 3-5 years old. In my career I have worked on a lot A LOT of Shakespeare, (Henry V, King Lear and most recently MacBeth) and Musical Theatre (The Wiz, Grease, You're a Good Man Charlie Brown and most recently Mamma Mia).

Currently, I work for Hartford Arts Magnet, West Haven High School and Hopkins School.

I am so honored to be part of the Gan Israel Players' Lion King Kids. We have a fast paced but fun rehearsal schedule planned. I believe that the most important part of putting on a show with young children is the experience leading up to the 'big night'. Live theatre is amazing and gives them tools that can be translated into many other places in their lives. (Team work, focus, creativity, deadlines and flexibility to name a few)

I have two children who have been very involved in Theatre since they were little. Madelyn (18) is a high school senior, Halo Award winning performer and heading to College in the Fall (Pace University, NYC) to study film. Isobel is a competitive swimmer, a rising high school freshman and is at home both on stage and off (most recently running lights for a middle school production of Frozen Jr.)

While I am very much looking forward to seeing all the audition videos, I want everyone to know that this show is a heavy 'ensemble' show. So every child will have an opportunity to shine. While we have to cast roles (and we have a big job ahead) but please know that our goal is to ensure each child knows the importance of their role however it is perceived as 'big or small (speaking, ensemble or chorus) and plays an integral part in this production.

As they say in theatre 'there are no small roles' because without the ensemble, there is no show. I can't stress that enough!

We will be sending out a costume request form once the show has been cast. I am currently working on some items for the cast and ensemble that will be paired with items they can easily bring from home.

I want to just close with a personal note for the young actors.

We have so many fun things planned for this show and having you be a part of it makes it EVEN BETTER! Because we haven't met yet, I wanted to tell you a little about me! I love to sing, play the guitar and am a terrible dancer (which is why you are going to meet Miss Kim, our choreographer). My favorite color is Teal Blue, my favorite treat is Icy Pops, and my most favorite thing is being creative, learning new things and meeting new people! And I can't wait to meet you!

Thank you so much for choosing to be a part of this wonderful adventure!

-Laura