

Middle-earth Studios Audition Information

Below is audition information for **Storytellers** and **Puppeteers**. You may choose to audition for one or both positions. We encourage people applying to work at Knoebel's Time Machine Theater to try both auditions. Those working at The Land of Make Believe's Rainbow Castle will not be required to audition with marionettes.

STORYTELLER AUDITION SIDE

For the Storytelling audition you will be asked to retell an excerpt from our story *The Legend of the Unicorn*. You may memorize the script and perform it from memory. You may also audition with the script in front of you for reference. Either choice is acceptable. We are looking for how well you can dramatically tell a story! We want to see how you add color to your voice to create mood and emphasize the story's action. Find moments where you can create a character voice to define the personality of the character speaking. When rehearsing, don't focus too much on memorizing the words verbatim (word for word). Instead, focus on getting the basic gist of the story and tell it dynamically. Most importantly, have fun! The excerpt begins towards the end of the story. The good people of the kingdom have just escaped from a long journey through the dangerous Enchanted Forest. The Serpent has poisoned their magic lake. Only the Unicorn can purify the water, but after weeks of searching, she is nowhere to be found.

The good people of the kingdom had been traveling for days through the forest with nothing to drink. They were dying of thirst. Their legs began to drag, their tongues hung out of their mouths, their knees began to wobble and just when they thought they could go no further, they burst from the line of trees to find the lake! But they saw that it was now nothing more than a small, polluted puddle. Weak and weary they collapsed by the water's edge and began to cry.

Everyone was miserable that day except for one creature, and that, of course, was the serpent. He actually thought this was funny. He said to his trolls, "Trolls, my wicked plan worked! Not only are they all too weak to fight, but we've got them all together at once! Now you ought to be able to dunk their heads in the poison long enough for them to drink. The whole kingdom will become trolls, just like you!"

Quietly the trolls and Serpent began to tiptoe towards the lake. They crouched behind some bushes. But the Serpent made a terrible mistake, for he had crouched behind ragweed bushes. And if there's one thing that makes a troll sneeze, it's ragweed! The Serpent and Trolls began sneezing up a storm. The King noticed he was getting sneezed on and jumped to his feet. "Do you see those bushes over there?" he said. Those bushes are sneezing! Bushes don't sneeze! I don't think that's a sneezing bush, I think that's an AM-bush! Quickly everyone! to the other side of the lake."

PUPPETRY AUDITION

The puppet audition takes place in two parts: **marionettes** and **hand puppets**.
Make sure to wear clothes that aren't restrictive.

Many people find marionettes to be intimidating – BE NOT AFRAID!
With patience and practice performers who have never worked with marionettes become skilled at bringing string puppets to life throughout the season!

For the first part of the audition you will learn about the basics of marionette movement while practicing with a simple puppet. Afterwards you will perform movement exercises with a standard human marionette from the bridge. You will learn how to make the puppet look around, raise their hands, walk, etc.

For the hand puppetry portion you can either bring your own puppet(s) or use a hand puppet we provide. That's right! If you have an idea for a short puppet piece this is your chance to try it out. Use whatever materials you need to create your puppet performance. This portion is a "choose your own adventure" from the **options** below. What matters most is that your puppet conveys story and character through movement. We are looking to see how well you bring a puppet to life with focus, character voice, movement, and lip-sync (if using a puppet with a mouth).

Chose one of the options below:

1. Create your own short puppet skit. (No more than 5 minutes.)
2. Lip-sync and dance your puppet along to a recorded song, soundtrack or to your own singing. (No more than 5 minutes.)
3. Do a simple stand up routine where your puppet enters, introduces themselves, tells a few jokes, or shares a story and dramatically exits.

Auditions for The Land of Make Believe in Hope, NJ will be held at The Rainbow Castle inside the park.

Address: 354 Great Meadows Rd, Hope, NJ 07844

Auditions for Knobels Amusement Resort in Elysburg, PA will be held at The Time Machine Theater inside the park.

Address: 391 Knoebels Blvd, Elysburg, PA 17824

To set up an audition call: 484-903-2072

OR

E-mail: middleearthstudios1@gmail.com

If you are unable to make it to an audition in person arrangements can be made to audition over Zoom or a video recording.