



Adapted by Eric Coble from the
Newbery Award-winning book by Lois Lowry

November 29-December 1
& December 6-8, 2019

Past Present
& Future
SEASON 88



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Hello!

Thank you for your interest in auditioning for *The Giver*! Please carefully review the information included in this packet and let me know if you have any questions! *The Giver* is one of my favorite novels from childhood, and I'm learning that I am not alone! Whenever I tell someone I'm directing it, their eyes light up, and their jaws drop-- Saginaw is excited about this story coming to the stage! The story is timeless... and just as important as ever. I'm so glad that you want to be a part of it!

~Angie Noah, Director

Important Dates

September 23	6:00-9:00 pm	Auditions
September 24	6:00-9:00 pm	Auditions
September 28	10:00am-1:00 pm	Read Through
November 16	10:00am-8:00 pm	All Day Tech
*November 18-24	TBD	Tech Week
*November 25,26,27	6:00-?	Dress Rehearsals

**Tech and dress rehearsals may go later than regular rehearsals. Consideration for youth in the cast will be given when the final schedule is being made.*

PERFORMANCES;

November 29, 30 and December 6,7 at 7:30 pm
December 1, 8 at 3:00 pm

Synopsis

THE GIVER

Adapted by Eric Coble from the Newbery Award-winning book by Lois Lowry

Jonas' world is perfect. Everything is under control and safe. There is no war or fear or pain. There are also no choices. Every person is assigned a role in the community. But when Jonas turns 12, he is chosen for special training from The Giver - to receive and keep the memories of the community. The Giver is the only person who holds the memories of real pain and real joy. As everything comes into focus, Jonas will learn the truth about life - and the hypocrisy of his utopian world. Through this astonishing and moving adaptation, discover what it means to grow up, to grow wise, and to take control of your own destiny.

Characters

Jonas: An 11 year old who is about to be a 12. Curious and Courageous. About to change the world.

Mother: Jonas' good-natured mother. Pleasant and unaffecting.

Father: Jonas' good-natured father. Pleasant conformist, who might break a little rule but never a big one.

Lilly: Jonas' 7 year old sister. A vibrant storyteller in the making.

The Giver: A wise old man who keeps all the memories of the way things used to be.

Asher: Jonas' best friend. Also 11 years old. A work in progress. Friendly.

Fiona: Jonas' friend. Also 11 years old. Precise and well-mannered. Nurturing.

Larissa: an old woman at the geriatric care facility where Fiona works.

The Chief Elder: Either gender. The master of ceremony.

Rosemary: the memory of a girl from the past.

**Some roles can be doubled. Extras may be added for select scenes.*

How to Prepare

NO PREP REQUIRED!!!

However, here are some ways you can prepare if you wish:

1. Read the novel by Lois Lowry and familiarize yourself with the story!
2. Check your calendar for conflicts and be sure to include them ALL on your audition form below!
3. Peruse the sides attached at the end of this document. Practice with a friend. Bring a friend with you to audition!

Auditions will consist of a brief group activity and cold readings from the script. If you are unable to attend an audition, but wish to be cast, contact the director to set up an alternative audition.

Tentative Schedule

Rehearsals will take place within the time frames blocked out below. Please reference the calendar, and include any conflicts on your audition form. A finalized schedule will be available at the 1st read through after cast conflicts have taken into consideration.

Note: Rehearsal will be limited to no more than 4 days a week until Tech week, and will be in 3 or 3.5 hour blocks.

SEPTEMBER						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
22	23 Auditions 6-9pm	24 Auditions 6-9pm	25	26	27	28 Read Thru 10am-1pm
29	30					
OCTOBER						
		1 Rehearsal 6pm-10pm	2 Rehearsal 6pm-10pm	3 Rehearsal 6pm-10pm	4	5
6	7 Rehearsal 6pm-10pm	8 Rehearsal 6pm-10pm	9 Rehearsal 6pm-10pm	10 Rehearsal 6pm-10pm	11	12 Rehearsal 10am-1pm
13	14 Rehearsal 6pm-10pm	15 Rehearsal 6pm-10pm	16 Rehearsal 6pm-10pm	17 Rehearsal 6pm-10pm	18	19
20	21 Rehearsal 6pm-10pm	22 Rehearsal 6pm-10pm	23 Rehearsal 6pm-10pm	24 Rehearsal 6pm-10pm	25	26 Rehearsal 10am-1pm
27	28 Rehearsal 6pm-10pm	29 Rehearsal 6pm-10pm	30 Rehearsal 6pm-10pm	31 Rehearsal 6pm-10pm		
NOVEMBER						
					1	2 Rehearsal 10am-1pm
3	4 Rehearsal 6pm-10pm	5 Rehearsal 6pm-10pm	6 Rehearsal 6pm-10pm	7 Rehearsal 6pm-10pm	8	9
10	11 Rehearsal 6pm-10pm	12 Rehearsal 6pm-10pm	13 Rehearsal 6pm-10pm	14 Rehearsal 6pm-10pm	15	16 10 hr Tech 10am-8pm
17	18 Rehearsal 6pm-10pm	19 Rehearsal 6pm-10pm	20 Rehearsal 6pm-10pm	21 Rehearsal 6pm-10pm	22	23

24	25 Tech 6pm-10pm	26 Dress 6pm-10pm	27 Dress 6pm-10pm	28 Dark	29 Performance Call: 6pm Show: 7:30	30 Performance Call: 6pm Show: 7:30
DECEMBER						
1 Performance Call: 1:30pm Show: 3pm	2	3	4	5 Brush Up Call: 6pm	6 Performance Call: 6pm Show: 7:30	7 Performance Call: 6pm Show: 7:30
8 Performance Call: 1:30pm Show: 3pm						

Audition Form Link

Please follow the link to fill out the audition form before the day of your audition:

[The Giver Audition Form](#)

More Questions?

Contact Director, Angie Noah:

Email: angien82@gmail.com

Phone: 989-964-1364

Thank you! We look forward to seeing you there!

Break a leg!

Asher, Fiona, Jonas

Fiona: Our family is getting a newchild tomorrow. I'm so excited.

Asher: I'm just scared.

Fiona: Are you sure "scared" is the right word?

Asher: I heard about a guy who was absolutely certain he was going to get assigned Engineer, and instead they gave him Sanitation Laborer. He went out the next day, jumped into the river, swam across, and joined the next Community he came to. Nobody ever saw him again.

Jonas: (laughs) Somebody made that story up, Ash. My father said he heard that story when he was a twelve.

Asher: (looking into the distance). I can't even swim very well. My swimming instructor said I don't have the right boyishness or something.

Fiona: Buoyance.

Asher: Whatever, Fiona. I don't have it. I sink.

Jonas: Have you ever once known of anyone--I mean really known for sure, Asher, not just heard a story about it--who joined another Community?

Asher: No. But you can. It says so in the rules. If you don't fit in, you can apply for Elsewhere and be released. My mother says that once, about ten years ago, someone applied and was gone the next day. She told me that because I was driving her crazy. She threatened to apply for Elsewhere.

Jonas and Fiona: She was just joking.

Asher: I know. But it was true, that someone did that once. Here today and gone tomorrow. Not even a Ceremony of Release.

Jonas: How can someone not fit in?

Fiona: We're all going to get just the right assignments. You'll see.

Jonas, The Giver

Jonas: It's not fair!

Giver: Explain yourself.

Jonas: It's not fair that nothing has color. If everything's the same, then there aren't any choices! I want to wake up in the morning and *decide* things! A blue tunic or a red one? But it's all the same. Always. I mean, I know it's not important what you wear, but--

Giver: It's the choosing that's important. Isn't it?

Jonas: (nods). My little brother--no, that's inaccurate--the newchild that my family takes care of--

Giver: Gabriel.

Jonas: He's grabbing toys and he's really cute and wouldn't it be great if we could hold up things that were bright red or bright yellow and he could *choose*?

Giver: He might make wrong choices.

Jonas: Oh. (*Pause*). It wouldn't matter with a newchild's toy, but it would matter later, wouldn't it?

Giver: Not safe?

Jonas: Definitely not safe. What if people were allowed to choose their own mate? And chose wrong? Or what if... (*Laughs*.) What if they chose their own *jobs*?

Giver: Frightening, isn't it?

Jonas: Very frightening. I can't even imagine it. We really have to protect people from wrong choices.

Giver: It's safer.

Jonas: Much safer.

Giver: Come. I'm going to show you something unsafe. It's called an "elephant."

The Giver, Jonas

Jonas: Hello. I'm Jonas.

Giver: I know. Welcome, Receiver of Memory.

Jonas: Sir, I apologize for my lack of understanding--

Giver: No apologies in this room. We haven't time.

Jonas: But I think you are the Receiver of Memory, I'm not anything at all--

Giver: When I became Twelve, I was selected as you have been. I was frightened as you are. I came to this very room to begin my training. The previous Receiver seemed just as old to me as I do to you. He was just as tired as I am today. Simply stated, my job is to transmit to you all the memories I have with me.

Jonas: Sir. I would be very interested to hear the story of your life and--

Giver: No. No, I'm not being clear. It's the memories of the whole world. Before you, before me, before the previous Receiver and generations before him.

Jonas: I don't understand.

Giver: What.

Jonas: I don't understand what you mean when you say "the whole world" or "generations before him". I thought there was only us. I thought there was only now.

Giver: There's much more. There's all that goes beyond--all that is Elsewhere--and all that goes back and back and back. I received all that and here in this room, all alone, I re-experience them again and again. It is how wisdom comes. And how we shape our future. I am so weighted with them. It's as if... it's like going downhill through deep snow on a sled. At first it's exhilarating--the speed, the sharp clear air--but then the snow accumulates, builds up on the runners, and you slow, you have to push hard just to keep going and... (Looks at Jonas.) That means nothing to you, does it?

Jonas: ...I don't understand, sir.

Giver: Of course you don't. You don't know what snow is. Do you? (Jonas shakes his head). Or a sled? Runners?

Jonas: No, sir.

Giver: Downhill? The term means nothing to you?

Jonas: Nothing, sir.

Giver: Move to the bed and lie face down.

(Jonas lies on the bed of books.)

Giver (*cont'd*). Close your eyes. Relax. This will not be painful.

Jonas: What... what are you going to do, sir?

Giver: I am going to transmit the memory of snow.

Mother, Lily, Father (pg 7)

Father: Who wants to be the first tonight for feelings?

Lily: I felt very angry this afternoon. My Childcare group was at the play area and we had a visiting group of Sevens, and they didn't obey the rules *at all*. I was so angry at one male, I made my hand into a fist, like this. (*She demonstrates.*)

Father: Where were the visitors from?

Lily: Some other Community. I don't remember.

Mother: How did you feel when your group of Sixes visited another Community last year?

Lily: Strange. They were learning usages my group hadn't learned yet, so we felt stupid.

Father: Do you think that the boy today felt strange and stupid, being in a new place with rules he didn't know about?

Lily: ...yes.

Mother: I feel a little sorry for him.

Lily: Me too. And sorry I made a fist. Thank you.

Father, Mother, Jonas, Lily (pg 65)

Mother: Did you have a pleasant day in the extra training, Jonas?

Jonas: Yes. And busy.

Father: Me too! Yesterday was just a pleasant busy day for all of us, wasn't it?

Jonas: It seems like it. Hi, Gabe. I missed you.

Father: Enjoy him, Jonas-bonus. This is his last night as visitor.

Jonas: What do you mean?

Father: Well, with you gone, we had him stay overnight at the Nurturing Center--he'd been sleeping so soundly--

Mother: Didn't go well?

Father: (*laughs*). It was a disaster. He cried all night apparently. The night crew were *really* frazzled by the time I got to work.

Lily: Gabe, you naughty thing.

Father: So we obviously had to make the decision. When we met this afternoon even I voted for Gabriel's release.

(*Joans stops dead.*)

Jonas: Release?

Father: We certainly gave it our best try, didn't we?

Mother. Yes, we did.

(*Lily nods*)

Jonas: ...when. When will he be released?

Father: First thing tomorrow morning. We have to start our preparations for the Naming Ceremony, so we thought we'd get this taken care of right away. (*To Gabriel, sing-song.*) It's bye-bye to you in the morning, Gabe! Bye-bye! Bye-bye!

Fiona, Jonas (pg 36)

Fiona: I looked for you yesterday. So we could ride home together. Your bike was there, and I waited a while, but then I went home.

Jonas: I apologize for making you wait.

Fiona: I accept your apology.

Jonas: I stayed a little longer than I expected.

(She smiles and waits for him to go on. He looks away.)

Jonas: *(cont'd.)* You've been doing so many volunteers hours with the Old, there won't be much you don't already know.

Fiona: Oh, there's lots to learn. There's dietary rules and medication, punishment for disobedience--did you know they use a discipline wand on the Old, the same as for small children?

(FLASH. Just for a moment. Fiona's hair flashes red. Jonas stares at her.)

Fiona: *(cont'd.)* What?

Jonas: Nothing.

Fiona: I really think I'll like it better than school.

Jonas: Me too.

(She waits, watching him. He nods.)

Fiona: Well. I have to go.

Jonas: Me too.

Larissa, Jonas (pg 17)

Larissa: (*Eyes closed.*) This morning we celebrated the release of Roberto. It was wonderful.

Jonas: I knew Roberto! I helped with his feeding last time I was here, just a few weeks ago--

Larissa: (*opening her eyes.*) They told his whole life before they released him. They always do, but to be honest--(*Whispers.*) Some of the tellings are a little boring. I've even seen some of the Old fall asleep during tellings. Like when they released Edna--did you know Edna?

Jonas: No

Larissa: Well, they tried to make her life sound meaningful--and of course all lives are meaningful--but Edna. My goodness. She was a Birthmother and then worked in food preparation for years, she never even had a family unit--(*Confidentially.*) I don't think Edna was very smart.

(*Jonas laughs and begins washing her feet.*)

Larissa; (*cont'd*). But Robert's life was wonderful. He had been an Instructor of Elevens, he'd been on the Planning Committee, raised two very successful children *and* did the landscaping design for the Central Plaza. Not the labor, of course, but the design!