



PEACE ON YOUR WINGS
A new musical inspired by the life of Sadako Sasaki.

Ohana Arts Youth Theatre Company
“PEACE ON YOUR WINGS”
2017 West Coast Tour & Audition Information

The Ohana Arts Youth Theatre Company is one of the country’s only theatre companies dedicated to producing and touring new works written for all-youth casts based on literary works and historical events, and which promote important messages relevant to today’s youth. The company launched in 2014, with the premiere of Ohana Arts’ first original musical inspired by the life of Sadako Sasaki, “Peace On Your Wings”, which soon after embarked on a statewide tour, as well as tours to New York City and Los Angeles in 2015 and 2016. Ohana Arts recently formed a partnership with Stanford University to create an accompanying curriculum and teachers’ guide to “Peace On Your Wings”, and plans to launch this curriculum on a west coast school tour to San Jose and Seattle in partnership with the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, and the Japanese Cultural and Community Centers of Northern California and Washington, and with support from the Buddhist Churches of America in the fall of 2017. Future plans for the Ohana Arts Youth Theatre Company is to continue producing and touring new works written for all-youth casts based on literary and historical works, accompanied by a curriculum and teacher’s guide that can be implemented by schools that participate in all educational and outreach performances. These curriculums will be made available on the Ohana Arts website for schools, youth theater groups, community groups, and teachers to have as a resource, along with the option to license and perform “Peace On Your Wings” and future original works in their community. This will provide educators, artists, and community groups a complete stage-to-classroom educational resource for years to come.

In addition to providing resources for schools, Ohana Arts Youth Theatre Company provides talented youth the extremely rare opportunity to experience being a part of a pre-professional touring theatre company, which includes getting mentored by members of the professional community, getting a taste for the demands of a professional touring schedule and working with a professional staff. As actors, students will be challenged to often times originate roles that have never been performed before. Throughout the program, Ohana Arts emphasizes the importance of developing good time management, being accountable, learning to think on their feet, work as a team, and be flexible in a changing environment. Students also learn hands on though this real-world opportunity skills such as interviewing with the media, recording in a studio, performing and speaking at events, traveling, and more.

About Peace On Your Wings:

Peace On Your Wings is an original musical inspired by the life of Sadako Sasaki which juxtaposes her story and the events leading up to her death in November 1955 with a fictional story about a group of her friends who rallied support from around Japan to have a monument built in Sadako's memory to honor the children victims of the atomic bomb. The fictional elements of the musical provide an opportunity to weave in issues such as bullying that affect children in middle school today. This groundbreaking show premiered on Oahu in November 2014 to a sold-out crowd. The cast then embarked on a sold-out statewide tour in 2015. The overwhelmingly positive response has led to an encore performance in Honolulu, as well as continuous plans for US and Japan tours. In September of 2015, the cast and crew of *Peace On Your Wings* traveled to Los Angeles, California for its exciting North American premiere, co-presented by the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center at their 880-seat Aratani Theatre. The show was incredibly well received by audiences, as the cast received standing ovations at every performance. Most recently, the cast and crew traveled to New York City for the debut of *Peace On Your Wings* at the Gerald W. Lynch Theater in September of 2016. In just a short time, *Peace On Your Wings* has already received many awards and recognitions, including a Certificate of Commendation from the City Council of Honolulu, an award from the United Nations Association of Hawaii, and a proclamation from Mayor Caldwell, who announced August 6th, 2015 as "Peace On Your Wings Day" prior to the opening night performance at Hawaii Theatre. *Peace On Your Wings* has also been the subject of [two mini-documentaries by NHK](#) (Japan's largest news network), and has been featured on [KTLA news](#), [Broadway World](#), [Huffington Post](#), and [MidWeek \(cover story\)](#) amongst others.

Peace On Your Wings is more than a musical theater play. It is part of a continual movement to educate children and adults alike about the important global message of peace. It is a way to get people to connect with an under recognized piece of history more than any textbook could convey. Music is a universal language everyone understands which touches people's deepest vulnerability and emotions. Music has been utilized for centuries as the most visceral way to personally connect people with current events and past atrocities so that history will not repeat itself. Responses to the world premiere of "Peace On Your Wings" have been overwhelmingly touching and positive. Audience members who were not familiar with Sadako's story have now taken her message to heart. Other audience members were victims of the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki themselves, and were moved deeply by our cast of children, saying that they truly paid homage to Sadako and others like her who suffered the after effects. Many audience members were children, and we were told by their parents that the musical both entertained and moved them. The goal of *Peace On Your Wings* is to bring Sadako's story to many more audiences, to show how it is the little gestures that make a big difference, and to teach the lesson of "Ichigo Ichie." It is a show that will educate audiences of American children and adults alike about a piece of history which greatly affected those in Hiroshima.

About Ohana Arts:

Ohana Arts is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and producer of *Peace On Your Wings*. Founded in 2010, Ohana Arts has a mission to inspire and engage people through high caliber educational and professional arts programs, and to cultivate an international family (Ohana) in the Pacific by promoting world friendship and peace through the universal language of the arts. In addition to producing the world premiere and tour of *Peace On Your Wings*, Ohana Arts offers an intensive performing arts camp with world-class faculty serving children and young adults ages 6-21 in musical theater and songwriting in Honolulu, Hawaii. Future plans include opening its doors to mainland and international students in the summer of 2018, as well as the opening of Hawaii's only specialized "high school for the performing arts".

AUDITION & TOUR INFORMATION

Auditions: Ohana Arts invites talented youth between the ages of 6 and 18 from the SF bay area to audition for the 2017 Ohana Arts Youth Theater Company cast of "Peace On Your Wings". Younger students ages 6-9 are required to be accompanied by a parent or guardian on the Seattle tour. Prior musical theatre experience and background in Ballet, Jazz, contemporary and/or acro is a plus but not required.

Important information:

- General auditions will take place on March 4th in San Francisco and March 5th in San Jose. Please sign up for an audition time and location at [https://
ohanaarts.wufoo.com/forms/r10j4vfulidvc1u/](https://ohanaarts.wufoo.com/forms/r10j4vfulidvc1u/) by MARCH 1st, 2017.
- Call-back auditions will take place on March 6th in Palo Alto from 4-8pm.

GENERAL AUDITIONS:

Sat. March 4th - SAN FRANCISCO

Individual auditions: 9am-3pm

Dance auditions: 3pm-5pm

Kanbar Performing Arts Center (home of the San Francisco Girls Chorus)
44 Page Street, San Francisco, CA.

Sun. March 5th - SAN JOSE

Location & Time TBA

CALL BACKS:

Mon. March 6th - 3-8 PM

Palo Alto Buddhist Church

2751 Louis Rd., Palo Alto, CA

SCHEDULE AN AUDITION: To audition, please review the audition requirements and cast descriptions below and fill out an online audition form: <https://ohanaarts.wufoo.com/forms/r10j4vfulidvc1u/> by **March 1st, 2017**. Applicants will receive an individual audition time and dance audition time after submitting a completed audition form.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:

1. Two 16-bar excerpts from two different songs from standard musical theatre repertoire. One excerpt should be from an up-tempo song, and one should come from a ballad or slow song. Please bring piano accompaniment sheet music with 16-bar excerpt clearly marked for the pianist.
2. One short monologue (under 1 minute) from a play or musical which shows the variety or his or her acting ability.
3. Please come warmed up and prepared to dance in proper dance attire. Jazz or lyrical shoes preferred. Some may be asked to dance in sneakers for the callback.

CHARACTER LIST:

Sadako

Sadako Sasaki was 11 years old when she was diagnosed with Leukemia resulting from radiation caused by the atomic bomb that was dropped on her home town, Hiroshima. The fastest runner in her class with a vivacious personality, Sadako is well liked by all her classmates who unknowingly rely on her to keep their bond of friendship strong.

Gender: Female

Age: 11-16

Vocal range: Alto belt with strong head voice.

Shizuka

Sadako's most loyal and closest friend who struggles with Sadako's terminal illness after having lost almost all her family members to the atomic bomb. Often labeled the class nerd and the smartest kid in her class, Shizuka displays a wide emotional range.

Gender: Female

Age: 11-16

Vocal range: Alto belt with a strong head voice.

Aiko

The most optimistic and friendly of Sadako's classmates, Aiko is often ridiculed for her quirky nature and positive attitude, and her slightly chubby physique. When Sadako is admitted into the hospital, Aiko is betrayed by her best friend who succumbs to peer pressure.

Gender: Female

Age: 11-14

Vocal range: Alto belt

Kenji

Small for his age, Kenji is eager to prove himself to the cool boys in his class. In so doing, he jeopardizes his close friendship with Aiko.

Gender: Male

Age: 11-14

Vocal Range: Alto belt

Kazuko

Perky, pretty, and popular, Kazuko is jealous of Sadako's charisma and likability. She attempts to win the affection of the coolest boy in their class who has his sights set on Sadako.

Gender: Female

Age: 11-16

Vocal range: Alto belt

Isamu

The ringleader of the middle school boys, Isamu is tortured by the emotional absence of his father who suffers post traumatic stress syndrome from the War. he is often mean to the girls in his class, and gets his minions to help him execute his plans, no matter what the cost.

Gender: Male

Age: 11-15

Vocal range: Tenor

Kiyoshi

The most popular boy in their class and a fast runner, Kiyoshi is well liked by his classmates, and shares a mutual and unspoken crush on Sadako.

Gender: Male

Age: 11-15

Vocal range: Tenor

Minoru

Comic and blundering, Minoru is Isamu's sidekick.

Gender: Male

Age: 11-15

Vocal range: Tenor

Masahiro

Masahiro is Sadako's older brother. Kind and often at Sadako's side, Masahiro has been forced to grow up quickly to help support the Sasaki family.

Gender: Male

Age 14-18

Vocal range: Tenor

Kiyo

A reclusive teenager who would rather read and write letters to her school friends than socialize with the other children in the Red Cross Hospital, Kiyo is Sadako's older roommate. Sadako pulls Kiyo out of her shell, and together, Sadako and Kiyo become the big sisters to the other children in their ward.

Gender: Female
Age: 14-18
Vocal Range: Soprano

Setsuko

Spunky and energetic, Setsuko is the most outgoing of the children in the hospital who happily shows Sadako the ropes.

Gender: Female
Age: 9-12
Vocal Range: Alto

Reiko

Vivacious child in the hospital.

Gender: Female
Age: 9-12
Vocal range: Soprano

Shigeno

Child in the hospital who is sweet and graceful.

Gender: Female
Age: 10-13
Vocal range: Soprano

Haru

Sweet and slightly rascal child in the hospital.

Gender: Male
Age: 9-12
Vocal range: Soprano

Itsue

The youngest child in the hospital with the oldest soul, Itsue steals Sadako's heart. It is Itsue's symptoms that make Sadako understand the seriousness of her own illness. Sadako and Itsue share a special bond.

Gender: Female
Age: 5-9
Vocal range: soprano

Rehearsals & Performances: Rehearsals will take place in Palo Alto (address TBA), M-F 4-7:30 PM, Sat. 9-2 from August 13th-September 25th, 2017. Rehearsal schedules will vary

week to week according to character, scenes/numbers called by the artistic staff. West coast performance and tour dates are September 27th-October 8th, 2017 in Seattle and San Jose.

Costs: No tuition or fees are required to participate in the 2017 “Peace On Your Wings” west tour. Ohana Arts, a 501(c)(3) non-profit performing arts organization is currently fundraising, in partnership with the supporting organizations such as the Japanese Cultural and Community Centers of Northern California and Washington and the Buddhist Churches of America to cover necessary costs to make this tour a reality. The cast is expected to contribute to fundraising efforts by performing in benefit concerts and dinners as requested.

Ohana Arts will cover airline travel to/from Seattle for on September 27th-October 1st, 2017. for all cast members. Ohana Arts will also arrange local travel, housing, and food for cast members while on tour, which may include homestays (in pairs) arranged with the help of partnering organizations such as the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Washington. Students between the ages of 6-9 are required to be accompanied by a parent or guardian on tour in Seattle.

Youth Cast Member Expectations: *Peace On Your Wings* is a unique opportunity for young career-focused students who are experienced performers and possess a high level of skill and talent, who are treated by Ohana Arts as young professionals. In return, Ohana Arts expects cast members to conduct themselves as young professionals throughout the rehearsal process, while traveling, and in performance. Cast members are selected by audition, and are expected to practice on their own time and come to all rehearsals on time, dressed appropriately, and prepared. In addition, students are expected to exhibit good behavior, attitude, character, and work ethic at all times.

School/homework time on tour: Ohana Arts will designate 2-3 hours of dedicated homework time each day while on tour.

Letters to school administrations: Ohana Arts will provide a packet of letters from government institutions and an official invitation to participate from Ohana Arts that can be given to your child’s school administration regarding missing school from Sept. 27th-October 6th* (See schedule below).

REHEARSAL PERIOD (Aug. 12th-Sept. 26th, 2017)

Schedule and location TBA. Rehearsals will take place in the San Jose/San Francisco areas.

WEST COAST TOUR (Sept. 27th-October 8th, 2017)

The general schedule is as follows and subject to change:

*Days missing school

Wednesday, Sept. 27th*: Depart for Seattle

Load In/Re-blocking (Cornish Playhouse)
Thursday, Sept. 28th*: Cue-to-cue/Dress Rehearsal
Friday, Sept. 29th*: School Performance, 10:00 AM
Public performance, 7:30 PM
Saturday, Sept. 30th: Family outreach performance 2:00 PM
Public performance 7:30 PM
Sunday, Oct. 1st: Travel to San Jose
Sitzprobe (location TBA)
Monday, Oct. 2nd: Load In
Re-blocking (Hammer Theatre, San Jose State University)
Tuesday, Oct. 3rd*: Cue-to-cue/Dress Rehearsals
Wednesday, Oct. 4th*: Dress Rehearsals
Thursday, Oct. 5th*: School Performance, 10:00 AM
Friday, Oct. 6th*: School Performance, 10:00 AM
Public Performance, 7:30 PM
Saturday, Oct. 7th: Family outreach performance, 2:00 PM
Public Performance, 7:30 PM
Sunday, Oct. 8th: Public Performance, 2:00 PM