

BLACKPOOL Gang Show

Newsletter



Welcome

Welcome to the first Gang Show Newsletter – this issue provides updates on this year's show, sign on and feedback from comments from review meeting back in November 2018.

2019 Cast Sign On

9th or 16th April 2019

Junior Gang: 6:30pm - 7:30pm
(6 years old by 1st June 2019)

Senior Gang: 7:30pm - 8:30pm
(11 years old by 31st August 2019)



At St. Mary's Catholic Academy,
St. Walburgas Road, Blackpool, FY3
7EQ

At sign on, you will be given a cast handbook, have your photo taken and be measured for costumes.

There will be a registration fee of £10 per cast member to be paid at sign on. This fee is to assist with the running costs of Gang Show.

If you have any questions, please contact us.

AGM

This year's Annual General Meeting will take place on 30th April at Blackpool & Fylde College commencing at 19:15.

Theatre Update

The dates of this year's show are 30th October – 2nd November 2019 at the Grand Theatre, Blackpool.

The 'Get In' including technical rehearsal confirmed with the theatre as Sunday 27th October.

This year there is no rehearsal on 28th October and the dress rehearsal will be on 29th October.

Tickets are to be on sale from 1st May 2019 so plenty of time to plan and book early.



This year the Grand Theatre is celebrating 125 years and we are proud to be performing and helping the Grand celebrate this momentous anniversary.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals will start on 30th April at Blackpool & Fylde College.

Rehearsal venues will be both Blackpool & Fylde College and St. Mary's School, the same as in 2018.

They will be on Tuesdays up to the summer break and from September, rehearsals will be on both Tuesdays and Sundays.

blackpoolgangshow.org.uk

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You Said. We Are Doing.

We always love reading and hearing suggestions from our cast, crew, parents and audience to improve our show. The comments below are from the review meeting on 13/11/18. Here is what you said and what we have done or going to do this year to improve.

Rehearsals

Start routines earlier

The plan this year is to set the show by summer

Start on time

Quite right, producers have been informed and Director will keep on top of this

Wasted rehearsal time

This has been discussed and producers have been asked to maximise rehearsal time but also the cast need to switch on and arrive on time to be ready to start and be responsive to the rehearsal producer

Stressful

Setting the Show by Summer will give us more time to fine tune and polish the performance and hence reduce the stress

People overlooked/ignored

Not acceptable, but at all times cast asked if they wanted to sing solos, be in sketches and any other numbers of the show

Too many difficult routines, leaving some under rehearsed

More thought to be given to two different routines for those that can/ like the challenge and those dancers on the periphery, we did it a couple of times this year

St. Mary's too far/difficult to get to on a Sunday

Sorry for that, it is quite central for all, any big difficulties with transport, please ask, someone may be able to give a lift

Not have a schedule that changes

Some numbers needed a bit more practice at short notice. Rehearsals will be more structured this year

Rehearse 'The Welcome', help them understand who the VIPs are

Point taken, may have two young'ish cast members by audition to do the welcome and go through the names with them each night

General Comments

All the Production team have been made aware of the comments made during the review meeting and been asked to use these to help them understand the cast point of view and plan for 2019.

Online Resources

Not all songs on website

They will be this year and hopefully a video of all the routines

Cast Handbook

Include stage picture

We will do

Include show order

Order of the show already included and will be for 2019

Content Ideas for 2019

Thank you to everyone who suggested ideas – all great!

Bring back Explorer number, everyone else has their own

Something we are looking into

Too many dark costumes

Taken onboard for 2019

Recognise those who attend every rehearsal

100% attendance award under consideration

Show

Fill the theatre a bit more

Looking to arrange a publicity event in Houndshill nearer the Show, with a small number of cast singing a few songs. Looking to see if we could utilise any unused/empty shop windows space within Houndshill to put up posters etc. Visit County Rally and Camps with a "small" stall to advertise the Show. Perform at the District AGM and the Lifeboat Open day. Mail shot all West Lancashire County Groups

Needs directing further to guide rehearsals and numbers

Darrell will take a more active/ intrusive role to ensure music, lyrics and routines are finalised early enough and don't change unless a valid reason

Dressing rooms a bit far

We can't change that, cast need to familiarise themselves with the time to travel to stage and consider costuming and time to change

Less quick changes

We will take this into consideration, sometimes difficult with the casting; if an individual is not happy with numbers they are in please speak to Darrell

Have a backup list/reserve for all roles/parts

Good idea will give this consideration, have done in previous years but was never seen through!

In connection with tickets

Details of when the Grand Box office to be included in the cast handbook. This will confirm methods of booking, i.e. on-line, in person via telephone and payment/collection methods etc. Tickets for show will be on sale earlier, from 01/05/19, to allow advanced planning

Thank you.

We hope you have found this Newsletter informative and helpful. Any feedback/new ideas of topics to be included please e-mail Darrell or Steve.

Steve Smith
Business Manager
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Darrell Shuck
Director
gangshowdirector@blackpoolscouts.org.uk

Communication

Could we set up FB event? Sometimes the posts were a bit late

We will try and give more notice this year. FB event used in 2018, will use again in 2019. A FB group will be used this year for cast and crew notices

Need more promotion in groups

This is an ongoing topic. For 2019 we are planning some workshops to be run as part of a Group night to recruit more cast members and raise the awareness of GS to the wider Scout & Guides. Watch this space

One point of contact for each Gang, my children struggled to know who was in charge

Darrell is in charge of the overall show. Any questions re show content and rehearsals come go to him. JG is slightly different, Emma passes information out and takes a more day to day "being in charge" role but I am still in charge. All email questions are best sent via email, FB, or Messenger they will be answered