



## Minnesota Renaissance Festival 2021 Audition Information

Huzzah! The Minnesota Renaissance Festival will be celebrating our 50th season this year. Our entertainment cast includes over 400 harpists, villagers, jugglers, singers, royalty, magicians, fairies, mermaids, guitarists, sword swallows, princesses, fire handlers, dancers, and much, much more. Perhaps you can join us in our revelry as a street character, musician, or street act. Seasoned performers, Festival participants who want to try something new, former Festival patrons, and those new to the Festival are all welcome to audition.

**We'd love to see what you'd like to bring to the Festival, although we're looking for a few specifics...**

- peasant and merchant class street characters who live and work in the village
- historical characters - e.g. Galileo, Michelangelo, Bruegel, Copernicus, Kepler, Thomas Tallis, Kit Marlowe, Richard Burbage, William Kempe, John Heminges, Emilia Lanier
- characters rehearsing a Shakespearian scene
- characters from 16th century (or earlier) literature, legend, and lore - e.g. Arthurian legend
- fairies, fae characters, hobbits to host crafts and to entertain in Fairywing Forest
- stocks keepers
- hawkers to support gathering patrons for stage acts
- a small crew of entertainers who can work with theme weekend, marketing, and special events
- street acts, musicians, and entertainment that are interested in developing a show

MRF veteran performers who are considering a new character or act, or who did not work the Festival in 2019 and are considering returning should plan on attending and participating in auditions.

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**In alignment with the Minnesota Renaissance Festival's Covid-19 Preparedness Plan, all persons at auditions are expected to wear a mask covering nose and mouth and respect and maintain social distancing as appropriate.**

- Saturday, May 15, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
- Saturday, May 22, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

**Auditions will be held on the site of the Minnesota Renaissance Festival.** Follow directions to the King's Gate entrance, then look for signs to the audition venue. Directions to the Festival site are below.

Sign up for an audition time slot through [SignUpGenius](#) at the Minnesota Renaissance Festival's website ([renaissancefest.com](#) > Get Involved > Employment, scroll down to Entertainment > Entertainment Auditions).

**Expectations / What to prepare...**

- **Bring a headshot / photograph of yourself, and your resume.**
  - **Complete a [MRF 2021 Audition Form](#).**
  - **Characters - Prepare a short period appropriate reading (e.g. a poem or Shakespearian passage) of no more than one minute; some ideas about a potential character (see list above); and be prepared to interact with other auditionees.**
  - **Musicians - Prepare 2 songs that demonstrate some variety, you may not need to perform all pieces fully.**
  - **Acts - Prepare a 5 to 10 minute performance.**
  - **Dress comfortably for movement, costumes are not necessary.**
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First year entertainers are required to attend the MRF Performing Cast Academy which is held from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm on Saturdays, starting June 12, and running 7 sessions through July 31 (no Academy on July 3) on the site of the Festival in Shakopee. There is also an All Cast event on site on Sunday, August 8.

First year entertainers may not be offered a salaried contract, but will be required to work one 2-hour shift each of the 16 Festival days at the King's or Queen's gate, for which they will receive per shift pay. Gate shifts will be scheduled through either the King's Gate Manager or the Artistic & Entertainment Director.

Entertainers who are under 18 years old (minors) must be accompanied on site during Festival days by a legal guardian.

Entertainers who work the Festival are responsible for providing their own costume that meets with approval from the Entertainment Costumer.

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### **Directions:**

The US-169 and MN-41 intersection may be under construction this spring and summer.

- from Minneapolis, Minnetonka, Chaska:
  - take US-212 west to MN-41; go south on MN-41 3.4 miles and turn right before the RR tracks
  - on the paved road follow the Festival Truck Route and go 1.4 miles, past the weigh station,
  - turn right into the gravel pit, still following the Festival Truck Route; keep to the left of the 10 MPH sign, and go .2 miles to an intersection (straight goes to the campground)
    - turn left and go .5 miles up the hill to the site, past First Aid and the Costume Shop to the King's Gate
    - or turn right and go to the Queen's Gate
- from Bloomington, Burnsville, Shakopee:
  - take US-169 south 2.3 miles past MN-41 and turn right onto Red Rock Drive
  - go .5 miles to stop sign and turn left on 145th Street
  - go .1 mile over RR tracks to the 1st MRF gate or a little farther to the 2nd MRF gate and turn right into the parking lot
  - go straight ahead .3 miles and turn left
  - go .2 miles, up the hill, keeping to the right, to the King's Gate
- from Mankato, Jordan:
  - take US-169 north to mile post 104, turn right onto Co Rd 14 or 150th Street, follow the State Trail Access Louisville Swamp signs
  - turn left onto Louisville Road and go .2 miles
  - turn left on 147th street, go over US-169 to the stop sign
  - turn right on Red Rock Drive and go .2 miles to another stop sign and turn left on 145th Street
  - go .1 mile over RR tracks to the 1st MRF gate or a little farther to the 2nd MRF gate and turn right into the parking lot
  - go straight ahead .3 miles and turn left
  - go .2 miles, up the hill, keeping to the right, to the King's Gate