Neshaminy High School Drama Program

Mrs. Gina L. Chiolan, Director

Bethel Park Falls

**Audition Packet**

**Audition Dates**

September 7 and September 8, 2022 @ 2:30

**Rehearsal Dates**

September 11 Through November 10 2:30-5:00

Rehearsals are generally held every day. Once Select Choir begins there will be no rehearsals on Mondays.

Dress Rehearsals November 13 evening TBA November 14 After School

**Performance Dates**

November 15-18 @ 7:00 p.m.

4 show run

**Audition Location**

NHS Black Box Theater

**What to Prepare**

**There are two female sides and two male sides. Please prepare for the character you think you can portray with the most believability. Be smart, be prepared and work toward natural deliveries.**

**The side you choose must be memorized but you also need to be very familiar with the other side as well.**

**About The Show**

The residents of the small town of Bethel are facing a crisis: Their beloved park has been sold out from under them and it’s sending their lives into a tailspin. As it turns out, the play is named after Bethel, Connecticut. Playwright Jason Pizzarello said he lived there as and was inspired by the town to craft the play.

In those days, Bethel was a sleepy bedroom community. It is about a 90-minute train ride from the busy streets of New York City for the many escaping commuters looking for suburban living at a reasonable price. The name has roots in ancient religious connotations as “House of God.”

Pizzarello wanted to base it in Connecticut, though, because I he envisioned the characters to be from a place in New England not far from the hustle and bustle.

Aside from his personal connection to the town, he chose to use the name…to conjure up a sacred place – leaning into the meaning as an important sanctuary that deserves protection, and even a crossroads for folks from different places.

The play is about connection — how we are all connected with nature and each other, despite our differences.

The park provides the central location, drawing community members together, who all seem to need their time there for one reason or another — to rejuvenate, physically or spiritually, to seek answers, to find their way home.

The play is about both connecting with people as well as disconnecting from the demands of work, from technology, from the pace of society. “Nature has a way of slowing us down. It’s more important than ever to stop, recharge, and refocus.”

During interconnected vignettes, 16 locals grapple with the loss of jobs, homes, and spouses. Yet, they find love, courage, and forgiveness as the park magically transforms through four seasons of the year in a single day. It ranges from a tired security guard trying get home to kids, to a young mayor coping with an overwhelming job to a nostalgic fisherman who can’t seem to catch anything. Everyone takes a fall.

And they pick themselves up again. “Bethel Park Falls” draws a group of complex, fascinating, funny people together into one poignant story about the spaces where communities connect.

# Casting

# The play can be performed with as little as 5 actors with doubling or as many as 17 actors without doubling. It can be single cast, double cast or a combination of single and double cast. The outcome will all depend on the quality of auditions, preparation and who is most appropriate for what roles.

# Please keep in mind we are committed to excellence and always working to put on the best production possible. This requires commitment and a true love of theater. It is also necessary to look at every production as being part of a team. Every player is important and we are there to support each other.

# Remember! Casting is subjective and completely based on someone else’s opinion. Sometimes casting decisions are based on age, looks, height, or how you look next to other cast members. You will not get cast in every role you want and sometimes you won’t get cast at all. If you are not cast in this show, you should still celebrate the fact that you gave it your best shot.