



## Frequently Asked Questions about the ACL Performers' Showcase

**When will the 2007 Showcase take place?** Watch this space! You will know as soon as the decision has been made!

**Where will the 2007 Showcase take place?:** Watch this space! You will know as soon as the decision has been made!

**What is the schedule for performers who are accepted into the Showcase?** The performances will be scheduled in 4 sessions, 2 sessions in the morning (9:30-noon) and 2 sessions in the afternoon (1:30-4:00)

**How many performers are assigned to each of the 4 sessions?** There are 32 spaces available (8 in each of the 4 sessions).

**What is the audition process like?**

Each performer is allotted **8 minutes** only! The 8-minute limit is strictly and fairly enforced according to the best efforts of the MC. You may choose to simply perform an 8-minute segment of your routine or you may also provide some kind of introduction that describes it, the audience you are aiming for, and variations of presentation. (Do you give workshops as well as performances? do you allow opportunities for volunteers to join you up front? do you encourage audience interaction? do you have different approaches for different ages?) What can you do that most effectively represents your show?

**Can I expect librarians to book me that very day?**

There will be a coffee break in both the morning and afternoon sessions, and a longer lunch break, when you can meet with the audience members. Bring your calendar so that you may confirm a schedule on the spot. While some folks may come prepared to line you up for a specific date, others will take more time to decide and call you later. Remember that while the immediate focus of the Performers' Showcase is on the selection of performers for summer, librarians are often interested in performers throughout the year. You may not be scheduled for that summer, but be contacted for a fall program, or later.

**Who will be selected to appear in the 2007 Showcase?**

Performers will be selected from performers who could not be included in the 2006 Showcase as well as all those who contacted Elizabeth Overmyer before the registration date (watch this space!). This is not an amateur show. All applicants are expected to have previous experience performing for young audiences in schools, libraries or other similar locations. All applications received before the mid-September application date will be considered, with preference as explained below.

**If more people apply than there is room for, how are decisions made on who will be included?** Anyone who completes and mails in the attached registration form will be considered. Up until the mid-September registration date (watch this space!) all qualified applicants will be considered. Priorities will be set in this order:

- performers who were not included in the 2006 Showcase for reasons of space
- performers who have never appeared at an ACL Performers' Showcase
- returning performers who have not appeared in the last three years

**What if I am applying after the mid-September registration date?**

If there is any room and you meet the qualifications, performers will be added until the roster is full.

**Who will be in the audience?**

While most of the audience will be children's librarians from public libraries throughout the nine Bay Area counties, you will also see people from schools and recreation departments who need performers for their children's programs. While the group will be looking particularly for summer programming, many libraries schedule special events all year round and a successful appearance at the Performers' Showcase may result in contacts over the next few years.

**How do I apply to be in the 2007 Showcase?**

Complete and return the attached form if you are interested in being part of the 2007 Performers' Showcase. Return to:

Elizabeth Overmyer  
Children's Library  
Berkeley Public Library  
2090 Kittredge Street  
Berkeley, CA 94704-1491

**What is the selection timeline?**

Preference is given to those performers who have never appeared at a Performers' Showcase; the remaining spaces go to performers who have not appeared in the last two years. Slots will be assigned and mailed out to you as soon as the roster is full, or by October 15 at the latest. Those for whom there is no room will be notified at the same time. If there is not room for you in this year's Showcase, you will be contacted about next year's and you may also send brochures for distribution at the 2007 Showcase.

**My show is very interactive. Can I count on any audience participation at the Showcase?**

The Showcase audience that day should provide plenty of willing audience volunteers, and children are allowed free admission, so that there will be some kids in the mostly-adult audience. Audience members will be interested in whatever you can do to bring your program to life and help them envision it through the eyes of a young audience. Library audiences are usually well-behaved and enthusiastic; one of the challenges in working with a library audience is that the crowd is often mixed in age, with parents, grandparents and other caretakers attending along with kids from 3 to 14, or older. Performers who have worked with a specific age group, e.g. middle school, teens, or the very young are urged to share that experience, either in person or in the brochures.

**Logistics:**

We will post more details here when the decision about the location has been made. We anticipate that, like most libraries, there will be no stage. We will have a basic tape player and microphones available; if you prefer to bring your own equipment, you may do so. As always, there is no charge to the performer.

**LAST BUT NOT LEAST! – The brochure challenge!**

**Prior to the actual Showcase, you must also send in advance: 150 brochures** that provide the following information:

- Your name
- Phone number
- Contact address
- Email
- Description of your program, including suggested age range of audience

You do not have to list prices, which can vary greatly depending on distance traveled, etc. In general the audience will be looking for programs at no more than \$300 per show. You **must** send these flyers in advance, so they can be collated into the audience packets. Your follow-up letter will include additional information about sending these brochures and the deadline.

**And what if I am late in sending the brochures? YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE AND YOUR SLOT WILL BE GIVEN TO SOMEONE ELSE.**

**Please return the [attached form](#) to the address below:**

Elizabeth Overmyer, Senior Librarian, Children's Services  
Berkeley Public Library  
2090 Kittredge Street, Berkeley, CA 94704-1491

**For further information:**

(510) 981-6224 / [eovermyer@ci.berkeley.ca.us](mailto:eovermyer@ci.berkeley.ca.us)