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**AUDITIONS (6/21): FREE SUMMER MUSICAL THEATRE PROGRAM  
FOR QUEENS KIDS, AGES 8-13**

**The Astoria Performing Arts Center (APAC)'S Summer Stars Program is back for the sixth year, this time in collaboration with Manhattan's renowned TADA! Youth Theater.**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 3, 2008**

For the sixth year in a row, the Astoria Performing Arts Center (APAC) will be offering Summer Stars, a free musical theatre program for children ages 8-13 years old who are residents of Queens. Auditions will be on **SATURDAY, JUNE 21<sup>st</sup>**.

In past years, Summer Stars have been showcased in musical revues, or starred in short musicals. This Year, the Stars will work with a director/choreographer and musical director to develop two original musicals. "I am very excited to be collaborating with the TADA! Theater this year. Although Summer Stars is now in its sixth year, each summer we challenge ourselves to make the program even more creative and memorable for the kids who participate. Our Summer Stars have always acted, sang and danced. By working with TADA! this year, we're giving the Stars an opportunity to be playwrights as well. I can't wait to see what they come up with!" says APAC Executive Director Taryn Drongowski.

The program includes seven "Saturdays" (afternoon rehearsals) from June 28-August 16<sup>th</sup> and will culminate in two public performances of the original works on Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Summer Stars is supported by Port Authority of NY & NJ, the Aviation Development Council, Con Edison, and the Variety Boys & Girls Club of Queens as well as Council Member Peter Vallone Jr., Assembly Member Margaret Markey, Assembly Member Michael Gianaris and Senator George Onorato.

**Audition information:** Kids auditioning will sing a song of their choice (music is not needed) and should be prepared to dance. Past performance or training experience is not required.

**When:** Auditions will be on Saturday, June 21st starting at 10:00 a.m. To schedule an appointment, please call 718-393-7505 or e-mail [taryn@apacny.org](mailto:taryn@apacny.org)

**Where:** Variety Boys & Girls Club of Queens, 21-12 30<sup>th</sup> Rd. @ 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Astoria, Queens.

**Press contact:** Taryn Drongowski, Executive Director of APAC, at 917/566-0969 or e-mail [taryn@apacny.org](mailto:taryn@apacny.org).

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**About APAC:** Founded in 2001, the Astoria Performing Arts Center is an Off-Off Broadway theater company that complements mainstage productions with community programming, including writing and performance programs for Queens youth (Summer Stars, Astoria Playmaking Program) and senior citizens (Senior Stars). APAC's 2004 production of *Is There Life After High School?* was recognized with an Off-Off Broadway Review Award. APAC's 2006 production of *Forever Plaid* was honored with three New York Innovative Theatre Award nominations, in the categories of Production, Direction, and Choreography. Most recently our production of *A New Brain* received a nomination for Outstanding Set Design. For more information about APAC, including a downloadable media kit, visit [www.apacny.org](http://www.apacny.org).