

Opryland Holds Auditions

By Julie Meckley

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - Representatives from Opryland, the Nashville theme park with a reputation as a stepping stone to the movies, Broadway and the recording industry, will be looking for talent in the Pittsburgh area Dec. 1.

The Pittsburgh auditions are part of a 23-city nationwide tour that concludes in Nashville Jan. 7.

Along the way, Opryland's audition team will see several thousand hopeful performers, musicians, conductors, stage managers and technicians in 19 states. Only about 400 will pass the test.

The Pittsburgh auditions will be on Thursday, Dec. 1, from 1-4 p.m. in Studio 4 of Lawrence hall at Point Park College.

These will be the only Pennsylvania auditions this year. No appointments are necessary for the open-call auditions.

John Haywood, Opryland's entertainment director, says those auditioning have only a short time to impress the scouts.

"When you audition, it is very important that you're relaxed. Do the material you feel you do well, material you are comfortable with. Most importantly, do what you do best and do it first," he said.

According to Haywood, Opryland is looking for performers proficient in virtually all styles of American music, with versatility being the key factor. Both non-country and country entertainers are being sought.

The audition team that searches for those performers consists of the park's entertainment director, a show director, a choreographer, a choral director, a pianist/accompanist and a coordinator.

Singers should be prepared to perform three numbers that show ability to handle both ballads and upbeat selections. Singers should

bring sheet music in the proper key.

Dancers will be asked to prepare a routine of no more than one minute. A record player and a cassette player will be available.

Most instrumentalists will be asked to sing read, and woodwind players must be proficient doublers. Conductor/pianists must submit a resume and references, and a piano audition will be required.

Stage managers and technicians should bring resumes. Stage managers will be interviewed at the auditions, while technicians' resumes will be forwarded to Opryland's technical director.

"Without bragging a bit, I can say that we find - - and hire - - some of the best young performers in the nation," Haywood said.

Performers who are cast will begin rehearsals as early as Feb. 1, 1989, or as late as the middle of May, 1989, depending upon the production.

Opryland is part of Opryland Hotel, the General Jackson showboat, the Grand Ole Opry and The Nashville Network, a cable television network. **THESE AUDITIONS ARE NOT FOR THE GRAND OLE OPRY.**

Pre-Thanksgiving auditions stops include Arlington (Nov. 2); Provo, Utah (Nov. 3); Los Angeles (Nov. 5); San Antonio (Nov. 7); Oklahoma City (Nov. 8); Kansas City, Mo. (Nov. 9); Orlando, Fla. (Nov. 10); Bloomington, Ind. (Nov. 14); Columbus, Ohio (Nov. 15); Decatur, Ill. (Nov. 16); and Chicago (Nov. 17).

After Thanksgiving, the audition stops include Winston-Salem, N.C. (Nov. 27); Harrisonburg, Va. (Nov. 28); Memphis (Nov. 28); Cincinnati, Ohio (Nov. 29); Birmingham, Ala. (Nov. 29); Richmond, Ky. (Nov. 30); Hattiesburg, Miss. (Nov. 30); Pittsburgh, Pa. (Dec. 1); Boston (Dec. 3); Baltimore (Dec. 5); and New York (Dec. 6 & 7).

Nashville auditions will be

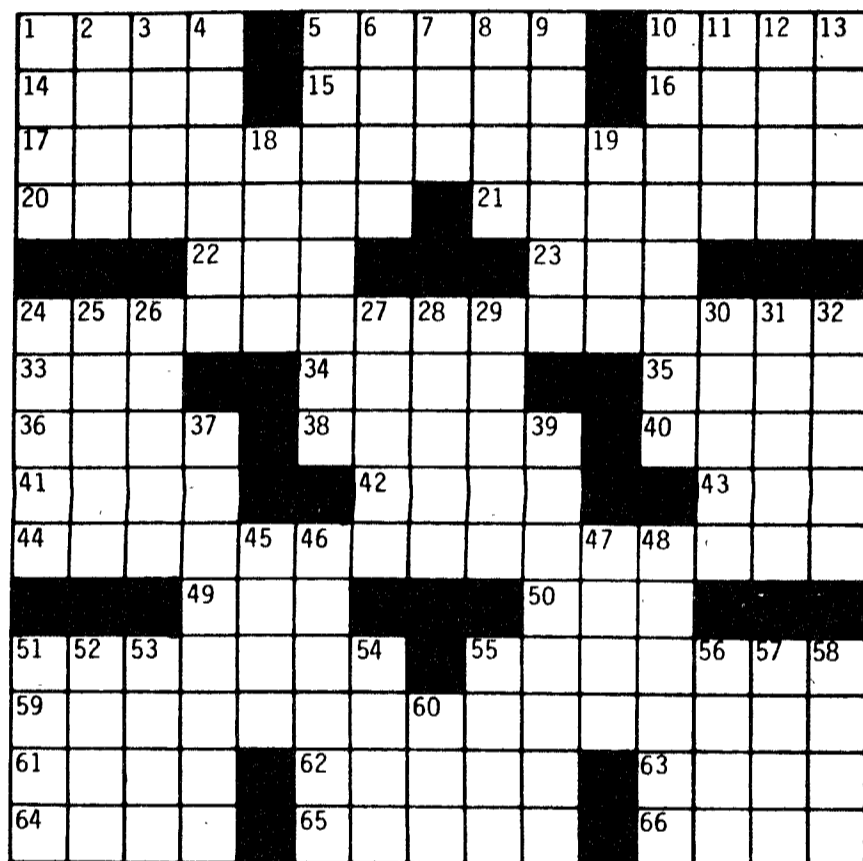
on Dec. 3, 10, 11 and Jan. 7.

For more details about the audition tour, write Opryland Entertainment Department, 2802 Opryland Dr., Nashville, Tenn. 37214; phone: 615/871-6656.



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collegiate crossword



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ACROSS

- 1 French head
- 5 Basketball move
- 10 Raise —
- 14 October's birthstone
- 15 One-celled animal
- 16 '50s song, e.g. (var.)
- 17 Republican election nightmare (2 wds.)
- 20 Tyrants
- 21 Tennis tournament favorite (2 wds.)
- 22 Mr. Whitney
- 23 Common tattoo word
- 24 House of —
- 33 Be human
- 34 Inter — (Lat.)
- 35 Mr. Waggoner
- 36 Eat —
- 38 Undeliverable mail or water sprite
- 40 Chicken —
- 41 First-rate
- 42 Word of warning
- 43 Compass point
- 44 Former Time Magazine "Man of the Year" (2 wds.)
- 49 To be announced: abbr.

- 50 Grecian —
- 51 Classroom need
- 55 Stupid
- 59 Party meeting of sorts (2 wds.)
- 61 Footnote abbreviation
- 62 Miss Comaneci
- 63 Neon —
- 64 Yield
- 65 Inexperienced
- 66 Do in, as a dragon

- 18 Mr. Porter
- 19 "Out, damned —..."
- 24 Part of some newscasts
- 25 Diamond bungle
- 26 Lying flat
- 27 Omit in pronunciation
- 28 VP in '53
- 29 Tarnish, as a reputation
- 30 Competing
- 31 Actress Verdugo
- 32 The — Sisters
- 37 " — Story"
- 39 Of ancient W. Italy
- 45 Casino words
- 46 Adventurous
- 47 Assam silkworm
- 48 Invalidates
- 51 The Odyssey, for one
- 52 Ceremonial garment
- 53 Put — on (cover up)
- 54 Dermatological mark
- 55 "I cannot tell —"
- 56 Suffix for poet
- 57 Legendary Roman king
- 58 Catch sight of
- 60 Suffix for block

DOWN

- 1 Mary — Lincoln
- 2 Fencing sword
- 3 Scottish caps
- 4 Romeo or Juliet, e.g.
- 5 Party supporter
- 6 " — corny as..."
- 7 Certain doc
- 8 Newspaper section, for short
- 9 Washington seaport
- 10 Dairy product (2 wds.)
- 11 Opposite of aweather
- 12 — fix
- 13 The Big Apple's finest (abbr.)

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