

Theatre

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

[If you have questions about the audition requirements or acceptable material, feel free to contact Matthew Trivisano (Chair, School of Theatre) at mtrivisano@oakarts.org]

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Students auditioning to enter the 6th, 7th, or 8th grades must prepare and perform one (1) monologue from a published play. The monologue must be two minutes long, or less (we would prefer less). We will stop the student at the two-minute point without penalty. While it won't disqualify a student, we suggest students avoid monologues from films, television series, musicals, or those found on the internet.

HIGH SCHOOL

Students in our high school program major in one of three areas of theatre study. They may audition for as many of the high school majors as they like, and they are encouraged to do so if they have multiple interests.

Here are the requirements by major.

Acting

1. Prepare one (1) monologue from a published play of any genre. The monologue should be two minutes or less (less is preferred, but not required). We will stop the monologue at the two-minute point with no penalty.

NOTE: While it won't disqualify a student, we suggest students avoid monologues from films, television series, musicals, or those found on the internet. Whatever the source of the monologue, the student must be familiar with the source material and have seen or read it before the audition.

Musical Theatre

1. Prepare one (1) monologue not to exceed one minute in length. We will stop the student at the one minute point with no penalty. The monologue must be from a play (not a musical).

2. Prepare 32 bars of one (1) musical theatre song that contrasts with the monologue in mood, style, or genre. Students will sing a *capella*. No accompaniment will be provided. Students may use pitch pipes or phone apps for establishing pitch, but they may not use the phone for accompaniment.

NOTE: See the "NOTE" just under **Acting** above.

Playwriting & Play Development

1. Students must submit for consideration a piece of original writing which can include any of the following:

- short play or monologue
- a screenplay
- an adaptation for the stage of an existing text
- original poetry or fiction
- original literary criticism or blog postings about a play

NOTE: An essay from an English class would qualify - if it's about a literary text and its themes or literary structures.

2. Students must read one (1) play by one (1) of the following playwrights and be prepared to discuss their chosen play extensively at the audition:

Lynn Nottage, Sarah Ruhl, August Wilson, Arthur Miller, Octavio Solis, David Henry Hwang, Jose Rivera, Maria Irene Fornes, Naomi Iizuka, or William Shakespeare.

Plays by these writers can be found at libraries for free, or ordered from online retailers.

Playwriting & Play Development: Discussion Questions

Here is a list of questions (in no particular order) that a student auditioning for the Playwriting & Play Development major should be able to address at the audition. There are no correct answers. The questions are meant to gauge the student's level of engagement with the play they chose. There is no guarantee that each question will be asked. The audition will be a dialogue, so students will have the opportunity to discuss items of interest to them. Students are highly encouraged to bring their copy of the play with them to the audition.

NOTE: The student is advised to conduct research into the history of their chosen play and into the playwright who wrote it. They may bring any materials to the audition that they would find helpful.

- What about the play personally resonates with you?
- What moral, thematic, social, or political statement do you think they were making? Do you think they made it successfully? Why or why not
- Describe in great detail what you imagine the set for this play looking like. What practicalities do you have to keep in mind (i.e., anything in the script that cannot be avoided)? You are welcome to bring a set drawing with you to the audition, though you will not be assessed on your ability to draw.
- If you were asked to select one piece of music of any genre or era as a companion to your chosen play, what would it be and why would it be a good match thematically or structurally?
- How would you explain the playwright's style of writing to someone who had never read or heard the play? What do you notice about how they write? If you have experience with theatre, to what other playwright could you compare the work of your chosen playwright?
- Imagine your chosen play was being adapted into a musical. When such an adaptation occurs, material from the play must usually be cut. What would cut from your chosen play and what you absolutely keep?
- Is there anything about the play that you think would make it challenging to direct or to design for? Explain the nature of the challenge and how you might wrestle with it.
- Discuss the circumstances around how your chosen play was written and first performed. How does this play fit (or not) into the playwright's work overall?
- Which of the following are you the most interested in and why: playwriting, directing, criticism and dramaturgy.