



## **AUDITION GUIDELINES: SCHOOL OF THEATRE**

These guidelines apply to auditions for students who will be starting in Fall 2017.

### **Middle School**

Students auditioning and who would be entering the 6th, 7th, or 8th grades will prepare and perform a monologue from a published play not to exceed two minutes in length.

### **High School**

Students will audition for enrollment into one of three majors. They may audition for as many majors as they like and are encouraged to do so if they have multiple interests. Here are the requirements by major.

ACTING: One monologue not to exceed 2 minutes total of any genre or period from a published play (not a film, musical, television show, or from the internet).

MUSICAL THEATRE: Students will prepare a monologue not to exceed 1 minute and prepare 32 bars of musical theatre song that contrasts with the monologue. Students will sing *a capella*.

PLAYWRITING & PRODUCTION: Students will read any play by one 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, Luis Valdez, Naomi Iizuka, or William Shakespeare. In addition, students must submit for consideration a piece of their writing which can include any of the following: a short play or monologue, original poetry or fiction, a screenplay, or an adaptation for the stage of an existing text. Students can also submit original literary criticism or blog postings about a play. Academic writing from English or history classes does not qualify.

## **SUMMARY OF AUDITION REQUIREMENTS**

*Acting*: One monologue

*Musical Theatre*: 32 bars of a musical theatre song + contrasting monologue

*Playwriting & Production*: Read and prepare to answer questions for one play + writing sample

## Playwriting & Production: Discussion Questions

Here is a list of questions (in no particular order) that a student auditioning for the Playwriting & Production area of concentration should be able to address. 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.

*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, production (stage management, arts management).*