

# Deciding What's Right for You

## Some Tips How to Think about Applying for Theatre and Musical Theatre Programs

### RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Ask yourself the following questions:

What kind of education do I want? What kind of curriculum do I want?  
What is the balance I want between academics and the arts?  
What do I want in a school?  
What am I most interested in learning at this time?  
Where do I think my future interests lie? Don't limit yourself.

Ask the school the following questions:

What characteristics is the school looking for in its applicants?  
What is the educational philosophy of the school?  
Is the curriculum flexible? Are students encouraged to pursue their individual strengths?

Explore the school's official website. What's required? What courses are offered? Use the official website to investigate opportunities on stage and off, faculty or student produced. Use caution with unofficial/anonymous internet sources. Instead seek personal connections. Speak with graduates and current students. Try to visit schools, but realize that is not always possible and find other ways to gather information. Talk to your teachers or professionals in the business for recommendations. MANY GOOD CHOICES EXIST!

### PREPARATION

What are the school's academic standards, test requirements, recommended curriculum? Work to meet them.

Start learning your craft. Get involved at school. Audition for school and community productions. If possible take classes or workshops in dance, voice, acting. Develop music reading skills.

Become a theatre fan. See as many stage productions as you can. Watch films and videos of a wide range of styles and from different decades. Listen to recordings. Become an active and engaged listener and viewer.

In your classes and rehearsals, observe actively. Learn from others even when it's not your turn up in front of the class or on stage.

Read plays. Listen to musicals. Start thinking about plays you love, then look for monologues appropriate to your age. Start practicing songs that fit your voice and range and personality. Even if you do not want to attend a school that requires auditions, it good to have material at the ready for when you get to school!

Find pleasure in the learning process.

## APPLICATION AND AUDITIONS

Make a detailed calendar! Know all the deadlines for the process and realize that many performing arts programs have different, earlier, deadlines than the college or university.

Some but not all programs require a “pre-screen” video of some combination of monologues, songs, dance and personal statements. Based on academic acceptance and the pre-screen, those programs offer certain applicants auditions.

Each school that has pre-screens has different requirements.

Many programs require auditions but do not require a pre-screen. Audition requirements vary.

Other programs don't have any auditions but base admission on your application.

BA and BFA programs often want resumes—prepare 2 types

1. A school resume with all experience—academics, service, work, extracurriculars.
2. A one-page theatre resume

Remember you are auditioning for a school not a role. Share your work, use your imagination. Schools are looking for potential, not a finished product. That said, **prepare!**

Look carefully at the pre-screen and audition requirements for each school so that you can “re-use” audition songs and monologues.

Tips:

For monologues consider context, taste and appropriateness. Prepare. Don't wing it.

An audition is like a business interview—dress appropriately.

Know and prepare your music. That means find the right key—don't sing too high or too low.

Be prepared to introduce the piece: know the playwright or composer and lyricist. Read the play.

Make clear copies of the music, marked for your accompanist.

If you are preparing a pre-screen video for songs, find a skilled accompanist and make sure the piano is in tune.

**Don't compare yourself to others.  
You cannot move forward if you are  
always looking sideways!**