

Musical Theatre Audition Guidelines

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre

The audition for the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre consists of three parts – acting, singing, and dancing. Your “audience” will consist of Music, Theatre and Dance faculty (assisted by a few current students) – all of whom will be wishing you great success!

The purpose of the audition is to help the faculty identify your strengths and potential in each of the three areas. For admittance to the program, you must demonstrate the potential to develop your skills in all three areas. Please read each of the following guidelines very carefully. If you have any questions regarding the musical theatre audition, please contact Tracy Manning, trmanning@taylor.edu.

Dance Audition Guidelines:

- ✓ The dance audition will occur either before or after the acting and singing auditions:
- ✓ Please dress in dance attire that allows for total freedom of movement as outlined below:
 - Men: Any solid color fitted T-shirt, tank, with black leggings, jazz pants, or other close fitting pants.
 - Women: Any solid color leotard with tights (worn under the leotard), leggings or fitted jazz Capri or pants
 - Shoes – Ballet slippers, character shoes, and jazz shoes (no sneakers), (tap shoes if you are seeking advanced placement or wish to demonstrate skill in tap)
 - All – All should have hair neat and pulled away from the face. Please note that there should be no jewelry of any kind worn during the dance audition. Also, please note that no baggy clothing or street clothing of any kind may be worn – this includes, but is not limited to, sweatshirts, t-shirts, sweatpants, shorts.
- ✓ There will be time between dance and acting/singing auditions to change.
- ✓ The dance audition will run in the following order and be taught as a class:
 - You will be taught several ballet *barre* exercises and/or combinations.
 - You will be taught a jazz progression, sequences and a musical theatre center combination.
 - You will be taught a tap combination, but please note that this portion of the audition is optional.

Acting and Singing Audition Guidelines:

Acting: Prepare one (1) monologue that is one minute in length from a modern 20th century play that showcases your ability. Please observe the following guidelines:

- ✓ Choose monologues that are well written-this means monologues **from published plays**. Avoid monologues from movies, monologue books, musicals and the internet. Never attempt an audition monologue without reading the entire play and understanding your character in the context of the play.
- ✓ Monologues should have a beginning/middle/end with a journey/discovery/change.
- ✓ Choose characters that are within 5-10 years of your playable age range. Choose material that you connect with. Those for whom you are auditioning are looking for you to create honest relationships with clear given circumstances outlined by the playwright.
- ✓ Do not choose monologues that require accents, eccentric characterizations, props or costumes. Portray one character per monologue. Choose material that is life affirming and avoid cynical or negative subject matter. Avoid climactic material that requires great depth or intensity of emotions. There is not enough time to achieve these emotional peaks effectively and honestly.
- ✓ A chair will be provided for your use if you choose to use it.
- ✓ Monologues must be memorized!

Singing: Prepare two (2) songs contrasting in style that demonstrate your range and versatility:

- ✓ Select songs from musicals, operettas or American or English art song repertoire.
- ✓ Every attempt should be made for selections to have as much contrast in style and character as is possible to provide adjudicators a sense of your abilities.
- ✓ Songs must be memorized!
- ✓ For all songs, bring clean, **well-marked** sheet music in a binder. An accompanist will be provided.
- ✓ Songs from the following musicals/composers are considered either iconic and/or utilized too often and are no longer effective in the audition process. Please do NOT select music from the following shows:

LES MISERABLES, WICKED, RENT, AIDA, JEKYLL AND HYDE,
All musicals by Andrew Lloyd Webber

Audition Introduction /Slate:

This is our first impression of you. Practice this so you feel confident. Find out how to correctly pronounce the play/playwright and composer/lyricist/musical. Those auditioning you will be writing down your name, monologue and song titles, so speak clearly and confidently.

The Introduction/Slate should go as follows:

- State your name:
- State your song, musical, and composer/lyricist selection
- Perform song
- State your other song, musical, and composer/lyricist selection
- Perform song
- State your monologue's play and playwright
- Perform monologue

You may perform your monologue before your song selections, if that's more comfortable for you. Also, be prepared to be asked to make an adjustment and try a piece again.

Focus:

- ✓ During the audition, choose focal points slightly above and/or to the side of your audience.
- ✓ Practice transitioning from one piece into the other.

What to Wear:

- ✓ Choose clothing and shoes that are simple and comfortable. Clothes should allow us to concentrate on your work rather than your outfit.
- ✓ Both men and women should make sure hair is out of their face at all times.

If you are not able to complete an in-person audition, please send us video links containing the dance, acting and singing audition components.

