



Duke Ellington School of the Arts  
SY25-26 Audition Procedures – Theatre

**GUIDELINES**

**All students must complete an audition in person. All students will be required to attend callbacks if you are invited to the in-person audition/callback.**

All auditions are closed to parents/guardians, family members, or peers. If you leave for non-emergencies during your audition, you may be disqualified from completing the admissions process.

If you have any questions, conflicts and/or health concerns, please contact the Admissions Office at [admissions@ellingtonarts.org](mailto:admissions@ellingtonarts.org) for further assistance.

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**What We Are Looking For**

We are looking for students who possess a passion for acting, a desire to immerse themselves in all aspects of the theatre, and an interest in pursuing a career in the field. Students should show abilities to prioritize and remain on task, be imaginative, emotionally available, and able to express themselves physically as well as vocally. Ideal candidates listen and adapt, accept criticism, and can incorporate suggestions into their work.

**How to Prepare:**

1. Prepare and memorize a monologue no more than two-minutes in length from one of the plays listed below:

**Audition Monologue List:**

<b>Play or Musical</b>	<b>Playwright</b>	<b>Identifying Gender</b>
The Amen Corner	James Baldwin	Male
Dark at the Top of the Stairs	William Inge	Male
School Girls; or the African Mean Girls Play	Jocelyn Bioh	Female
Fences	August Wilson	Male
The Four of Us	Itamar Moses	Male
The Glass Menagerie	Tennessee Williams	Male
Our Town	Thornton Wilder	Male & Female
Reasons to be Pretty	Neil LaBute	Male & Female



Real Women Have Curves	Josefina López	Female
Sunset Baby	Dominique Morriseau	Male
Yellowman	Dael Orlandersmith	Male & Female
One Night in Miami	Kemp Powers	Male
Blood at the Root	Dominique Morriseau	Male & Female
Eleemosynary	Lee Blessing	Female
52nd to Bowery to Cobble Hill, in Brooklyn	Chiara Atik	Female
Mirror, Mirror	Sarah Treem	Female
She Kills Monsters	Qui Nguyen	Female
Daphne's Dive	Quiana Algeria Hudes	Female
You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown	Clark Gesner	Male & Female
Radium Girls	D.W. Gregory	Female
Ride the Cyclone	Brooke Maxwell and Jacob Richmond	Male & Female
Exception to the Rule	Dave Harris	Male & Female
Sleepova	Matilda Feyisayo Ibini	Female
Girl	Megan Mostyn-Brown	Female

**\*Make sure to change any profanity to appropriate alternatives.\***

- a. A monologue is a speech from a play where one character is talking to themselves or other characters for a period of time. If a character interrupts the speech, you can usually skip their interjection and continue the monologue.
- b. We will only see monologues from one of the plays listed below.
- c. Theatre Department does not provide hard or online copies of the prescribed plays. It is the auditioner's responsibility to acquire the play they choose from a library, bookstore, etc. If you need help, contact [admissions@ellingtonarts.org](mailto:admissions@ellingtonarts.org).



2. Prepare and memorize a published poem/spoken word piece that is 25 lines or less. A good source for poetry is the Poetry Out Loud website: <http://www.poetryoutloud.org/poemsand-performance/find-poems/category/25-lines-and-fewer-poems>.
  - Students may also perform a published song instead of a poem. The song will be performed acapella (without piano accompaniment).
3. The auditioner must prepare for both a monologue **AND** a poem/spoken word or song.
4. Be prepared to tell us why you want to attend the Duke Ellington School of the Arts Theatre Department and what you hope to accomplish while you are here.
5. Come to the audition on time, dressed in loose-fitting clothes, if possible (solid color clothing preferred, no logos). Please pull your hair back/away from your face, no jewelry (if you have a new piercing, please make sure to have the jewelry covered by a bandage), wear sneakers if possible and be prepared for movement and warm-up exercises. If you have questions, contact [admissions@ellingtonarts.org](mailto:admissions@ellingtonarts.org).
6. Have a water bottle and small snack close by if needed.

**The Audition Process Itself**

Preliminary Audition: Auditioning students will participate in group warm-up exercises prior to their individual audition.

- **CALLBACKS:** Rounds 1-3 will be in-person at the school (please see the audition schedule for audition and callback dates which is shared after the MSDC deadline). If you have questions or concerns regarding in-person participation, contact [admissions@ellingtonarts.org](mailto:admissions@ellingtonarts.org).
  - Students who have a successful preliminary audition will be invited to one or more callbacks, which may be required in-person on various dates/times.
  - At callbacks, students participate in acting, speech, improvisation, dance, and movement classes facilitated by our faculty.
  - Students will be asked to present their monologue and poem/spoken word or song again, for the faculty to assess the student’s ability to listen and incorporate the information they learned in the classes.
- Students will work on a group exercise and participate in an interview after the callbacks.

**About the Monologue**

- We will only accept and hear monologues from one of the plays listed below (see above).

**Audition Monologue List:**

Play or Musical	Playwright	Identifying Gender
The Amen Corner	James Baldwin	Male
Dark at the Top of the Stairs	William Inge	Male
School Girls; or the African Mean Girls Play	Jocelyn Bioh	Female



Fences	August Wilson	Male
The Four of Us	Itamar Moses	Male
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- Be sure you enjoy performing your selections and that the pieces are in the right age range for you.
- Be sure that you read the play as you may be asked questions pertaining to the play you selected.
- Students are expected to audition with a prepared monologue. That means it should be memorized and rehearsed.
- Students should understand the Character (who the person in the monologue is), the Objective (what the character wants), Actions (what the character does to get what they want), and the Given Circumstances (the information the playwright provides that affect the actions of the character).

### **The Poem/Spoken Word**

- Students should choose a poem/spoken word that they can relate to and enjoy performing – gender roles in the plays below are solely for guidance – students may choose whichever role they feel most comfortable with.
  - A good source for poetry is the Poetry Out Loud website:  
<http://www.poetryoutloud.org/poemsand-performance/find-poems/category/25-lines-and-fewer-poems>.
- Students must apply the feedback from the audition panel given above for the monologue.

### **About the Song**

- Students must choose a published song. Unpublished works will not be accepted.
- Songs will be performed in acapella, so choose something you feel comfortable with without piano accompaniment.
- Students should choose a song that they can relate to, is in their vocal range, and they enjoy singing.
- Students must apply the feedback from the audition panel given above for the monologue.

### **Have a Successful Audition**

- We suggest students attend one of the audition workshops provided by the Theatre Department.
  - Please find our workshop flyer on our school's website.
    - During this workshop, prospective students will learn more about the department, learn more about the audition process, and receive coaching from current students and faculty on their audition monologue and song or poem/spoken word.
- We want to make sure that you can be heard and understood at all times.
- Memorize and practice your monologue, song, and poetry recitation to ensure that you can keep your voice audible, strong, and supported and to speak or sing clearly.

Please note 504 and IEP accommodation is available. Please contact [admissions@ellingtonarts.org](mailto:admissions@ellingtonarts.org) with any questions or concerns.