Duke Ellington School of the Arts
SY27-28 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 for further assistance.

What We Are Looking For

We are looking for students who possess a passion for Theatre performance (plays or musical theatre), a desire to immerse themselves in all aspects of the theatre, and an interest in pursuing a career in the field. Auditioners 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:
   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.

   The auditioner must prepare for both a monologue AND a poem/spoken word or song.
2. Be prepared to tell us why you want to attend Duke Ellington School of the Arts Theatre Department and what you hope to accomplish while you are here.
3. 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.
4. Have a water bottle and small snack close by if needed.

The Audition Process

Preliminary Audition: Auditioners will participate in group warm-up exercises and will perform their monologue and poem or song for a panel of Theatre Teachers. The teachers might ask students to make adjustments.

- Callbacks: All callbacks will take place at the school in-person. (Please view the audition schedule for audition and callback dates. This will be shared after the MSDC deadline). If you have questions or concerns regarding in-person participation, contact admissions@ellingtonarts.org.
    - Auditioners 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, auditioners participate in acting, speech, improvisation, dance, and movement classes facilitated by our faculty.
    - Auditioners will be asked to present their monologue and poem/spoken word or song again, for the faculty to access the auditioner's ability to listen and incorporate the information they learned in the classes.
    - Auditioners will do a group exercise and participate in an interview with the faculty.

The Monologue

- 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.
- Auditioners are expected to audition with a prepared monologue. That means it should be memorized and rehearsed.
- Auditioners 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).
- **Make sure to change any profanity to appropriate alternatives.**
- We will only accept and hear monologues from one of the plays listed below:

Audition Monologue List:

Play or Musical	Playwright	Gender Identity
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
Triangle	Laurie Brooks	Female
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 Morrisseau	Male
Yellowman	Dael Orlander Smith	Male & Female
One Night in Miami	Kemp Powers	Male
Blood at the Root	Dominique Morisseau	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
Blue Stockings	Jessica Swale	Female
Lost Girl	Kimberly Belflower	Male & Female

The Poem/Spoken Word

- Auditioners 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.
- Auditioners must apply the feedback from the audition panel given above for the monologue.

The Song

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

Have a Successful Audition

- We suggest auditioners attend one of the audition workshops provided by the Theatre Department.
    - Please find our workshop flyer on our school's website.
    - During this workshop, auditioners 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.
    - Memorize and practice your monologue, song, or poem to ensure that you understand the pieces you are performing, can be heard, and feel confident in what you are doing.

Please note 504 and IEP accommodation is available. Please contact admissions@ellingtonarts.org with any questions or concerns.