

How to Prepare for an Iowa Thespian College Scholarship Audition

General Information

Your audition will consist of either a performance audition or technical portfolio review in front of college representatives and the Iowa Thespian Scholarship adjudicators. Please plan to arrive 10 minutes before your audition. Please read through the information below to help you prepare for your audition.

What to Wear

For your audition/portfolio review/theatre educator presentation, please wear professional but comfortable clothes. Do not dress in a costume or wear jeans, flip flops, sneakers or sweats. Do not wear what you would wear to rehearsals or to work crew for a show.

PERFORMANCE AUDITION GUIDELINES

- Applicants will be given a two-minute time limit for performance auditions.
- All performances must be solo presentations.
- You will be asked to begin with an introduction (name; school; name of selections) and then your two minutes will begin.
- The introduction is not included in your time limit. Time will be called if you exceed the two-minute time limit.
- You will not receive written or oral critiques from the college representatives or the Thespian Scholarship Selection Committee.

Students should showcase their best two-minutes of performance. This could be one monologue or song, two contrasting monologues or songs, or one song and one monologue. The performance area will be approximately 5'x5'. No special lighting will be available. One straight back chair will be provided. You may not use additional set pieces or hand props. Costumes are not permitted.

Musical auditions must include pre-recorded accompaniment (NO LIVE INSTRUMENTATION WILL BE ALLOWED). You may have one person (student or adult) play the music for your performance. Please bring your own device/speakers for your music! This will help ensure your accompaniment will work!

There will NOT be a question and answer session during the initial performance audition. However, if you receive a callback for the Iowa Thespian Scholarship, each performer will re-perform AND have a brief question/answer session with the Selection Committee.

- If doing two pieces, they should be of a contrasting nature.
- Any musical pieces should show range and vocal quality and may be from contemporary or standard musical theatre literature.
- Obtain help from your high school theatre teacher or coach to prepare for your audition.
- Do not do original (unpublished) work
- Do not do a stand-up comedy routine or a piece that sounds like one
- Do not do material from screenplays
- Choose pieces similar to your own age and experience. Read the entire play and understand your character in the context of the play.
- Avoid using materials specifically written for monologue books or songs contained in musical theatre anthologies.

- Look for pieces that speak to you, to which you deeply connect and which you love and can't wait to perform.
- Know what the piece means, what all the words mean and how to pronounce them.
- Vocalists should warm up prior to their audition times
- Musical selections must be presented with recorded accompaniment. You will need to provide your own playback device.

TECHNICAL PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

- Applicants will be given a five-minute time limit on technical auditions.
- Begin with an introduction (name and school). Time begins when the introduction ends.
- Please prepare a presentation showcasing your technical expertise and portfolio
- Students must provide their own presentation aides and/or laptop. Power outlets are available.
- Poster boards, photos, or other exhibition materials are encouraged.

Portfolio content may include renderings, sketches, models, and/or illustrations of scenic or costume designs, light plots, drafting, blueprints, and or photographs of design work. If you are interested in stage management, publicity, or theatre administration, include production journals, prompt books, or marketing materials in your portfolio. The portfolio might consist of the following:

- Elevations, ground plans, and renderings created by you.
- Photographs of your ongoing process and the final product (costumes, scenery and props). This includes the research used during the design process.
- Stage manager's prompt book, if relevant.
- Materials may be from realized productions or classroom projects.

Presentation is important. Use quality photos in the best lighting. Do not use flash photography for production photos, as you want to recreate the audience's experience. One or two quality photos can be more impressive than many small photos.

Be sure to include evidence of related skills pertinent to theatre: visual, graphic design, costume building, music, recording, animation or photography.

We recognize that many students have not been able to extensively document their experience and encourage students to audition with the materials they have available. Passion, commitment, intelligence and imagination can be as important as extensive experience.

THEATRE EDUCATOR AUDITION GUIDELINES

- Applicants will be given a five-minute time limit on Theatre Educator auditions.
- Begin with an introduction (name and school). Time begins when the introduction ends.
- Please prepare a presentation showcasing your desire to become a Theatre Educator
- The presentation may include a potential lesson plan, a portfolio outlining a variety of experiences and work in theatre, including documentation such as programs and photos.
- Students must provide their own presentation aides, including laptops to show video or PowerPoint presentations. Power outlets are available in the audition room.
- Poster boards, photos, or other exhibition materials are encouraged.

Your presentation should be a concise explanation of your desire to be a Theatre Educator. The presentation may include a description of your past work and future goals. Theatre Educator candidates may share a potential lesson plan during their presentation. Time will be called if you exceed five minutes.

If you have questions about scholarship auditions, please contact Christina Myatt at center.stagepaa@gmail.com