MUSICAL THEATRE DEPARTMENT AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

Welcome to the Musical Theatre audition process! We are so glad that you are interested in joining us at the Academy.

There will be two phases of the audition process. The first is the Preliminary Audition, which will allow you to prepare your materials and send your best work for us to review; you will upload your videos to the online application portal. The second is the Live Musical Theatre Audition Day in December or January; this will allow us to get to know you, and work with you interactively on some of the material you already submitted in video. At any point in the process, contact the Admissions Team and we can offer you advice or help.

Musical Theatre comprises three disciplines: voice, acting, and dance. The voice audition includes preparing two songs. The acting audition asks you to present both a monologue from our list of best monologues and a piece of your choice with an “elevated” style of text. Finally, please submit a resume or list of your performance experience and training and answer the questions in the “interview” video.

Tips on making your videos:

- You can use your phone to record the videos.
- Each piece must be a separate video.
- At the beginning of each video, introduce yourself and the piece you will be performing.
- You are welcome to sing or speak to the camera like it is your audience.

PRELIMINARY AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

1. Student Introduction Video (30 seconds - 1 minute)
   - Name, Grade, Current School
   - Why are you applying to The Chicago Academy for the Arts?
   - Brief explanation of your previous artistic experience. Tell us who you are. What kind of artist are you? Tell us briefly about your life and when you first became interested in Musical Theatre. What have been your favorite experiences in theatre? What else do you like to do? We are open to what you want to share with us that distinguishes you as an artist and as a person!

2. Resume with Headshot (List of your performance experience and training in PDF or Word format)

3. Voice Video Requirements
   Applicants should prepare two songs from the musical theatre canon. About your song selections:
   - The songs should be from before 1970.
• One should be up-tempo.
• One should be a ballad. If you have studied classical voice, an aria or an art song is fine, too.
• You will sing 32 bars (or about a minute) of each song, or the verse and chorus.
• Musicnotes.com can provide you with sheet music in the key you might need.
• You may find your accompaniment on youtube. For the song you are looking for, type in the song name and “karaoke.” (For example, “Somewhere” karaoke.”)
• If you have any questions about whether a song you want to use will work, or if you’re having trouble finding a song, sheet music, or accompaniment track, just let us know.
• Consider songs by the following: Rodgers and Hammerstein, Lerner and Loewe, Comden and Green, Jerry Herman, Frank Loesser, Mary Rodgers, Duke Ellington, the Gershwins, Eubie Blake, Harold Arlen.

4. Acting Video Requirements

Applicants should prepare and memorize one contemporary monologue and a short piece of verse or “elevated” text. It’s essential that both pieces be memorized.

1. Acting Piece #1: Contemporary Monologue
   • We recommend you choose a monologue from the list we have selected here.
   • Read the entire play, if at all possible.
   • If you prefer to use another monologue, please clear it with the head of our Musical Theatre Department, Andrew Robinson (arobinson@chicagoartsacademy.org).

2. Acting Piece #2: The “Elevated” Text
   • We would like to see you work with a piece of poetry, verse, or elevated text, where the language of the piece is extraordinary.
   • The could be a sonnet or other speech of Shakespeare’s, another poem of your choice, or even lyrics from a song.

LIVE MUSICAL THEATRE AUDITION DAY

1. We look forward to meeting, getting to know, and working with you interactively on the materials you submitted via your application portal.

2. At the Live Audition Day, we will do a dance audition. If dance is a strength of yours, please feel free to submit an optional short video demonstrating your training with the rest of your video auditions.