



THE SCHOOL FOR
CREATIVE &
PERFORMING ARTS
AT THE ERICH KUNZEL CENTER
FOR ARTS AND EDUCATION

AUDITION PREPARATION PACKET
FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS
ENTERING GRADES 7-12



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(*NOTE: THIS PACKET MUST BE USED BY SCPA STUDENTS AUDITIONING FOR C.O.M.)

AUDITION PREPARATION PROCEDURES FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADES 7-12:

All incoming 7th-12th grade students interested in attending SCPA must pass an artistic audition. The audition will be scheduled and confirmed only after SCPA has received a completed application with all supporting materials. **Incomplete applications will not be processed.** Incoming students entering **7th - 12th grade** may audition in up to four areas of their choice, including technical theater, but are only required to audition in one area.



At the Erich Kunzel Center for Arts and Education

CREATIVE WRITING

Student's Name _____

Age ____ Current Grade ____

Parent Signature _____

Part 1: About YOU (Please respond to each of the following questions in 2-4 sentences.)

- 1. What subjects inspire your writing?
- 2. Do you hope to pursue writing as a career? If so, why?
- 3. Name an author you admire and explain why.
- 4. Describe what you feel when you write.

(You may continue on your own paper if you need more space.)

Part 2: Portfolio (4 pieces): Please provide at least four (4) pieces of writing demonstrating work from different genres (i.e. two poems and two stories or one poem, one script and two stories).

DANCE AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

Dance students must be appropriately dressed for the dance audition. **If you are not dressed as follows, you will not be allowed to participate in the dance portion of the audition.** (You will not have time to change clothes so plan to wear your dance attire under your normal clothes.) Girls: leotard and tights or shorts and tee shirt. Boys: tee shirt and tights or tee shirt and shorts. These should be of stretch fabric to allow a full range of movement. Students should bring ballet shoes if they have them. Students who have been on pointe should bring their pointe shoes to the audition. For beginning and entry-level students, the audition will consist of an assessment of flexibility, strength, coordination, musicality, focus and discipline. Basic ballet and modern positions will be demonstrated and the students will be asked to imitate them to show evidence of kinesthetic sensibility, awareness of space, and ability to turn, jump and move with ease. For students with dance experience, please bring a photo in first arabesque and be dressed in a leotard, tights and ballet shoes. Students will be asked to demonstrate combinations to show their level of dance technique. Students will be rated on physical ability, focus, and aesthetic sensibility. All students will be accepted on potential ability for a one-year probationary period. If, at the end of their first full year of school at SCPA, their grade in dance is a “C” or better, their acceptance will be considered permanent.

DRAMA AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

Prepare the indicated monologue for your grade level on pages 4-5 of this packet. The monologue must be performed by memory and must be memorized exactly. Be sure to speak loudly and clearly. Include appropriate gestures (hand movements) to accompany your speaking of the monologue. Remember, you are portraying the character from the monologue so it is your job to convince us that you are that character. You will be rated on diction and vocal strength, character interpretation and control and use of the body. In addition to the memorized monologue, you may be required to do a “cold” reading. This means you will read something for us that you haven’t seen before.

DRAMA MONOLOGUES:

Students Entering Grades 7-8 (from *Our Town*)

STAGE MANAGER: (*To audience*) There’s an early-afternoon calm in our town. A buzzin’ and a hummin’ from the school buildings; only a few buggies on Main Street - the horses dozing at the hitching posts; you all remember what it’s like. Doc Gibbs is in his office, tapping people and making them say “ah.” Mr. Webb’s cuttin’ his lawn over there; one man in ten thinks it’s a privilege to push his own lawnmower. No, sir. It’s later than I thought. There are children coming home from school already.

Students Entering Grades 9-12 - BOYS: (from *Lost in Yonkers*)

JAY: Don’t do it Arty, ... Leave him alone, Uncle Louie. You want the bag open, do it yourself. (*He takes the bag from Arty and tosses it at Louie’s feet.*) Maybe you don’t rob banks or grocery stores or little old women. You’re worse than that. You’re a bully. You pick on a couple of kids. Your own nephews. You make fun of my father because he cried and was afraid of Grandma. Well, everyone in Yonkers is afraid of Grandma... And let me tell you something about my father. At least he’s doing something in this war. He’s sick and he’s tired but he’s out there selling iron to make ships, and tanks and cannons, and I’m proud of him. What are *you* doing? Hiding in your mother’s apartment and scaring little kids and acting like Humphrey Bogart... Well, you’re no Humphrey Bogart... And I’ll tell you something else – No, that’s all.

Students Entering Grades 9-12 - GIRLS: (from *The Diary of Anne Frank*):

ANNE: Look, Peter, the sky. (*She looks up through the skylight*) What a lovely, lovely day! Aren’t the clouds beautiful? You know what I do when it seems as if I couldn’t stand being cooped up for one more minute? I think myself out. I think myself on a walk in the park where I used to go with Pim. Where the jonquils and the crocus and the violets grow down the slopes. You know the most wonderful part about thinking yourself out?

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:

For Band, Harp, Orchestra and Piano:

- Prepare an Etude or Solo of your choice that demonstrates your musical technique and ability. Percussionists will need to prepare both a Snare Drum and Xylophone/Marimba solo.
- Please bring 2 copies of your etude or solo for the music teachers to review. You will be rated on tone quality, technique, rhythmic accuracy, articulation accuracy, tempo, expressiveness and intonation.
- All students should be prepared to play Major Scales to their ability and may be asked to sight read.

TECHNICAL THEATER AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:

What we are looking for:

The Technical Theater Department at SCPA realizes that very few 7th-11th grade students have extensive experience in the various areas of technical theater. We are looking for students with a passion for their craft and wish to pursue a career in their pathway of study. Successful candidates will have a general understanding of the technical theater field as well as knowledge of the area of concentration they wish to pursue (i.e. scenic, costuming, or lighting), artistic potential and maturity and the ability to pay attention to detail and to stay focused. Students must be motivated, able to follow directions, work in a team, and accept constructive criticism.

How to prepare:

1. A completed SCPA audition packet
2. The student questionnaire found on pages 7-8 must accompany your application for consideration

For the Audition Interview Process please bring examples of your creativity. Possible options for projects to present could be one or all of the following:

- A. Students are encouraged to create an inspiration board for their field of design, as it relates to their favorite theatrical show (i.e. drama, musical, TV show, or movie). An inspiration board is a collage of images, words, and objects (i.e. fabric, trim, paint chips, etc.) placed on a poster board that a designer has collected. It is used as a reference for a show they would be designing. Your board can be digitally created and printed out in color and/or pictures taken from magazines, photographs or other sources and pasted to a poster board not to exceed 22"x28".
- B. Students, you should have an original portfolio of your work that highlights your interests and skills that relate to technical theater. Examples of work the portfolio might contain are:
 - Drawings or painting from arts classes (not necessarily related to technical design)
 - Three-dimensional work: models, sculpture, small objects you have built or created on your own
 - Sketch books
 - Pictures of structures you have built
 - Samples of clothing, knitting, crochet, jewelry making, beadwork or other textile arts you have created
 - Items created for a production you have worked on previously

- Photographs from the production showing examples of scenic, costuming or lighting you have helped create
- Production books (prompt book)
- Renderings and sketches based on a play you have read
- Sound/video recording sample

Other examples of previous experiences are also welcomed.

Students entering grades 7-12 must complete the Technical Theater Student Questionnaire on pages 7-8 of this packet. Please bring the completed questionnaire with you to the audition. It is also strongly recommended you bring the following items with you for each technical theater program you are interested in. Scenic Design: sketches or pictures of any set designs or props you have created; Costume Design: samples of clothes you have made, photos or sketches of clothes you have designed; Lighting Design: photos or drawings of lighting designs you have created. You will be rated on experience using materials or equipment in the technical theater field, your design abilities and your grasp of technical elements in theater.

TECHNICAL THEATER STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE
(This must accompany your application!)

Student's Name _____

Age _____ Current Grade _____

Which are you most interested in? Check all that apply: ___Costuming ___Lighting ___Scenic/Set Design

Please answer the following questions as best as you can. Please use complete sentences. Remember that your answers are the only opportunity you will have to let the admission committee get to know you prior to your interview. This is a chance for you to personally make a good first impression. Please submit this form with your application.

1. What sparked your interest in Technical Theater and which area are you most interested in pursuing?

2. Where do you see yourself taking these skills in the future both professionally and/or as a college option? Briefly explain your long-term goals and how being a graduate of the Technical Theater program will help you in meeting these goals?

3. Elaborate on your academic interests and how they can be used to enhance your studies in technical theater as well as how your studies in our program can enhance your academic opportunities.

4. Explain how you would be an asset to the Technical Theater program study?

5. Briefly describe the medium your inspiration board is based upon. Why did you choose this particular art form and why is this important to you? What should we be looking for when we view your inspiration board at the audition?

6. Involvement in the Technical Theater program requires a significant time commitment both after school and on weekends. In the past how have you handled the additional time requirements and pressures outside activities have placed on your schedule?

VISUAL ART AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:

Visual Arts Portfolio Requirements:

- Bring 6-8 works of art from the last two years only
- Work should demonstrate a variety of techniques that include drawing/painting from observation, design, creative work, color work and sketchbook drawings

- Small sculptures may be carefully packaged and brought in, otherwise take quality pictures from multiple vantage points
- No cartoons/anime allowed for audition.

Visual Arts Resume

- Include name, age, address, phone numbers, parent e-mail, schools attended, extra-curricular activities, classes and workshops attended, awards, exhibitions and special interests/talents. Resumes are in **outline form** and must not exceed **one page**. We will keep this copy of your resume. (***Do not include certificates, grades or other papers.**)

In-person Audition process

- Students will complete one still life drawing and one creative exercise during their in-person audition. The Visual Arts department will provide materials for this.

VOCAL MUSIC AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:

Students must prepare and perform a vocal solo with piano accompaniment. A list of some suggested repertoire is provided below. *Pop, rock, R&B, rap and similar musical styles are not appropriate for the audition and not acceptable.*

The student must sing his/her selection **from memory** and **must provide printed piano sheet music at the audition**. Sheet music may be found at the Cincinnati Public Library or can be purchased at a music store (such as Willis Music) or online, www.musicnotes.com.

Suggested repertoire:

- ❖ A song from a Broadway musical (including, but not limited to) –
 - *Annie*
 - *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*
 - *Les Miserables*
 - *My Fair Lady*
 - *Oklahoma*
 - *The Music Man*
 - *The Phantom of the Opera*
 - *The Sound of Music*
- ❖ A piece from the 24 or 26 Italian Songs and Arias Collection
- ❖ Vocal piece or art song (classical in nature, but can be from any era – i.e. Handel, Mozart, Schubert, Roger Quilter, etc.)
- ❖ Spiritual performed in a classical style (such as those arranged by Henry T. Burleigh)

Additionally, students will be asked to sing in a round for the purpose of identifying the student's ability to hold a vocal part. Students may also be asked to sing scales or intervals, or to identify music notation symbols appropriate to their grade level.