



THE SCHOOL FOR
**CREATIVE &
PERFORMING ARTS**
Cincinnati Public Schools

AUDITION PREPARATION PACKET FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS ENTERING GRADES 7-12



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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.

DANCE

In-Person Audition. After you complete the application, you will be assigned a time to come to the school for your audition. Dance students must be appropriately dressed for the dance audition. *Girls:* leotard and tights or shorts and a 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.

DRAMA

In-Person Audition. After you complete the application, you will be assigned a time to come to the school for your audition. Prepare the indicated monologue for your grade level or select a monologue of your own from a play. 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.

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

In-Person Audition. After you complete the application, you will be assigned a time to come to the school for your audition. Programs of study include Band, Harp, Orchestra, & Piano. Prepare an Etude or Solo of your choice that demonstrates your musical ability. Percussionists will need to prepare both a Snare Drum and Xylophone/Marimba solo. Bring 2 copies of your music for the music teachers to review

VISUAL ART

Step 1 of the Visual Art Audition is a digital upload. You will receive a link to upload your files after the application deadline. Gather the required documents and work samples indicated below. Upload scans, photos, or word/pdf docs of them to be considered for the program. If selected for a callback, SCPA will reach out to you with a time to come to the school for an observational hand drawing exercise.

- Portfolio: 6-8 works of art from the last two years only. No cartoons/anime are allowed for the audition. Work should demonstrate a variety of techniques and MUST include drawing/painting from observation. Additionally, design, creative work, color work, sketchbook drawings, sculpture, installation, or 3D work are also acceptable. Please submit photos of these works in the highest resolution possible.

- 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.

VOCAL MUSIC

In-Person Audition. After you complete the application, you will be assigned a time to come to the school for your audition. 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 their 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 with a defined melody- no rap
- A piece from the 24 or 26 Italian Songs and Arias
- 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)

Students may be asked to sing a round, scales, intervals, or to identify music notation symbols.

TECHNICAL THEATER

In-Person Audition. After you complete the application, you will be assigned a time to come to the school for your audition. Programs of study include Scenic, Lighting, Costuming.

What is Technical Theater?

The job of technical theater is to visually bring to life the world of a play or other productions. We set the location of the action and time period with scenic elements. We help establish and identify characters with costumes, hair and makeup. We establish mood, time of day, indoor or outdoor location with lighting. Technical theater artists create the world the play takes place in, creating fantasy and magic sometimes before a single word is even spoken. Technical theater is a crucial part of every production. Besides crafting the elements the audience sees on stage the tech crew is in charge of all of the behind the scene elements of every production. Elements such as changing the scenery, costume quick changes and anything else that insures a smooth production flow.

At SCPA we offer students in grades 6-10 the opportunity to audition for acceptance in the Technical Theater program for the following year. Through coursework as well as practical work on productions students are trained in the areas of scenic, costuming and lighting which will help them pursue a career in the technical theater field of their choice.

What are we looking for in a Technical Theater student?

While the Technical Theater Department at SCPA realizes that very few 6th-10th grade students have extensive experience in the various areas of technical theater listed above (though many of you do), during your audition we are looking for students with a passion and deep interest in this field and who want to learn more about visually telling the story of the play.

Successful candidates will have:

- At least 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 an imagination that can be used to visually tell a story from their own unique point of view as illustrated in the inspiration board you will create.
- Creative interest and maturity that allows for focus and the ability to pay attention to detail.
- While not required it is helpful if candidates have experience using materials or equipment used in the technical theater field and can discuss these skills during the audition.
- Students must be motivated, able to follow directions, work in a team, and accept constructive criticism.

What to Prepare for the Audition:

1. Complete the Technical Theater Student Questionnaire included in this packet and bring it with you to the audition.
2. Create the required Inspiration Board project as described below to present at your interview.
3. In addition to the Inspiration Board you may bring examples and/or evidence of work related to the areas of technical theater you are interested in studying (i.e. costuming, scenic or lighting) for us to briefly look at and review. See the list below for some examples of additional things to bring.*

What is an Inspiration Board?

For this audition process you are required to choose a play, musical, book/story or movie that you are familiar with and show us how you would design the sets, the props, the costumes and wigs/hair or the lighting if given the chance. This should be unique and original to you. Please familiarize yourself with the story but do not present to us print outs of what other designers and technicians have done. We are looking to evaluate your creative imagination and artistry not someone else's. Be prepared to briefly discuss what the play is about and the message the play is expressing and then defend and explain your design choices and how they fit into and enhance that message.

An Inspiration Board is a tool used to collect and visually communicate ideas and concepts that tell people what you think the visual look of a show should be. By using the elements of art (color, line, texture, shape and form, the light and dark of value and the use of space) an inspiration board not only shows people what the scenery, the costumes or the lighting effects of the show will look like it can help establish an understanding of the mood you want the audience to experience when they see the show.

An Inspiration Board is made from a collection of images found online, from old magazines or from photos you may have taken formed into a collage. These images, along with examples of color chips (the paint department of your local hardware store is a good source for these) fabric swatches and trim or other items to establish texture are compiled on a poster board (22"x28"). This poster is then used to help your audience at the audition understand your explanation of what you would create for a show if given the chance to design it. This is a collage so it should be pretty full of images and ideas. If you would like to create a digital poster board please bring a computer with you so you can share your work

Additional evidence you may want to share with us at your audition:

- Drawings or painting from recent arts class (not necessarily related to technical design) that demonstrate your skill and creativity.
- Three-dimensional works such as models, sculpture, or other small objects you have built or created on your own that speak to skills in one of the areas of technical theater.
- Sketch books with your own unique ideas created over time or Renderings and sketches based on a play you have read
- Pictures of structures you have helped build such as wiring a light at home, remodeling projects you have helped with, tree houses or other items you have built with your family or friends.
- 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 from a show at school or church. If you can't bring in the actual item bring in photographs from the production showing examples of scenic, costuming or lighting you have helped create

Please complete the Technical Theater Questionnaire on the next page and bring it with you to the audition.

TECHNICAL THEATER STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE (Bring to your Audition)

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 using complete sentences.

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 that outside activities have placed on your schedule?
