



ACTING CONSERVATORY

Incoming class: Fall 2017

Grades 7-10

Thank you for your interest in the Acting Conservatory program at Imagination Stage!

The Acting Conservatory is an intensive two-year acting technique training opportunity for students entering grades 7-10 (completing the program as 8-11 graders). The first three semesters are spent studying concepts such as character building, script analysis, physicality and vocal skills, and scene work. The fourth and final semester is spent applying their acquired skills towards rehearsing and performing a fully supported non-musical production with a guest team of directors and designers from the professional theatre community of Washington, DC.

AUDITIONS: While year-round classes and summer productions are open to all students, Conservatory spots are open only to students selected through an audition process. Candidates should have previous acting classes in their background in addition to experience being in productions.

COMMITMENT: Due to the intensive and ensemble nature of the program, actors who are accepted into the program are done so with the understanding that they will, to the best of their ability, remain committed to the program for its entire two-year duration. Actors must have consistent and dependable attendance and participate with focus and dedication.

UPON ACCEPTANCE:

The incoming Fall 2017 Acting Conservatory class will be taught by instructor Nikki Kaplan.

Each semester is named for a year of school:

- Freshman Semester (Fall 2017): September– December, 14 weeks
- Sophomore Semester (Winter/Spring 2018): January– May, 14 weeks
- Junior Semester (Fall 2018): September– December, 14 weeks
- Senior Production Semester (Winter/Spring 2019): January– Performance (late April 2019)

Tuition: \$695 per semester

Class Meeting Days/Times (Semesters 1-3): Mondays from 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Production Rehearsal Schedule (Semester 4): Continued Monday evenings, Saturday afternoons (3:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.), and 5 Friday evenings (TBD).

The Acting Conservatory's course of study includes:

- Rigorous physical and vocal warm-up practices.
- Exercises designed to enhance vocal and physical dexterity and flexibility.
- Activities designed to work on character development, inner monologue, motivated actions, and objectives and tactics.
- Reading and analyzing scripts.
- Scene study

Sharings/Conferences:

- Every semester culminates in an informal sharing of scene work for parents and siblings as well as individual parent-teacher-student conferences to assess each student's progress through the program.



AUDITION PROCESS:

Each candidate is required to prepare one monologue, chosen from selections provided when you schedule your audition. These selections require very clear physical and emotional character choices when performing. You should come to the audition with your monologue completely memorized. You will perform your monologue one time as you've prepared it and then work with the auditors in a rehearsal-like setting, discussing and incorporating any notes they may have. During this section, we encourage you to play, make creative choices, and have fun! After your audition, there will be a short interview.

Requirements for Selection into the Conservatory Program may include the following:

- Previous acting course work (classroom work not associated with production experiences).
- Ability to show specific character choices with the voice and body.
- Demonstration of clear acting choices and risk taking during the audition.
- Demonstration of clear motivation and intention of the character as they move and speak throughout the audition piece.
- Ability to interpret direction and make quick and appropriate adjustments to their performance.
- High level of focus, concentration, and personal discipline.
- Demonstration of not only the desire to perform but a commitment to learning and improving technique.

Please note: While we endeavor to make this audition as low-stress as possible for our student actors, risk is very much an inherent part of the process. We have a lot of interest in this program each year and cannot accept everyone who auditions. It is important for both parents and students to discuss and be prepared for either outcome of this audition. We provide feedback and class to students who are not accepted into the program.

Audition results will be communicated via email at the end of the audition period, on August 30.

Audition Dates Summer 2017: Auditions are held in individual, 30-minute timeslots and must be scheduled in advance. Auditions will take place in 30-minute time slots during the following days:

Wednesday, June 28 (3:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.)
Wednesday, July 26 (3:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.)
Thursday, August 3 (3:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.)
Tuesday, August 15 (3:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.)
Wednesday, August 23 (3:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.)
Thursday, August 24 (3:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.)

Auditions will not extend past August 24.

Please email or call Nikki Kaplan (nkaplan@imaginationstage.org/301-280-1624) to ask any questions and to schedule an audition.