



## **SPEAK OUT ON STAGE (SOOS)**

**Incoming Ensemble: 2017-2018**

**Grades 4-6**

Thank you for your interest in the **Speak Out on Stage Ensemble** at Imagination Stage!

Speak Out on Stage (SOOS) develops new musicals for young performers! The actors in this program are given the opportunity to share their experiences and ideas to help create fun, dramatic, and insightful new works. This is your chance to “Speak Out” about what’s important to you!

Ensemble members, selected by audition, spend the year working with a professional Director, Music Composer, and Playwright. During their first semester, they work to build their acting and musical theatre performance skills while also collaborating on script and music ideas for their show. Sundays are spent working with their artistic staff in a variety of mediums (improvisational activities, discussions, research, character exercises, etc.) to build inspiration for their play. Thursdays are dedicated to acting technique class building skills and vocabulary to help them in rehearsal later in the year. While the actors are on break from December to February, the Playwright and Music Composer complete the original script and score while the Director works with our professional design team on production elements for the show. When the actors return in February, Thursdays and Sundays are spent rehearsing for their final performance.

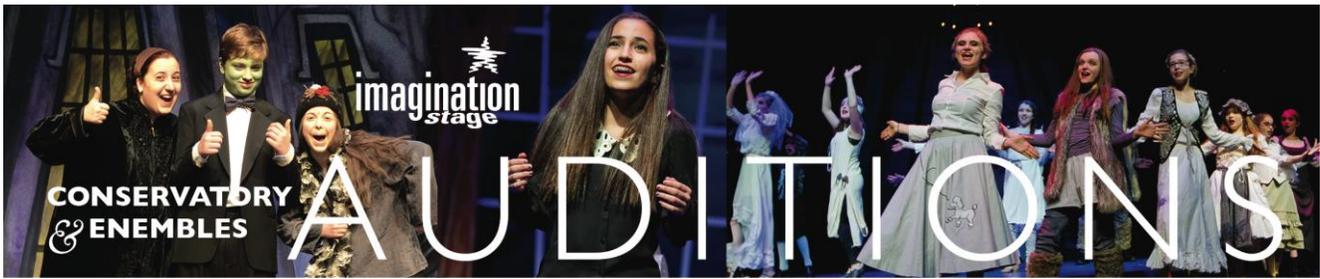
**AUDITIONS:** While year-round classes and summer productions are open to all students, SOOS spots are open only to students selected through an audition process. Auditions are designed to be fun and assess acting and collaboration skills, mostly through activities and exercises.

**COMMITMENT:** Due to the intensive and ensemble nature of the program, actors must commit to being at all rehearsals. Actors must have consistent and dependable attendance, and participate in the rehearsal process with focus and dedication, missing no more than 3 rehearsals per semester.

### **UPON ACCEPTANCE:**

- **Tuition:** \$750 per semester (\$1500 for the year)
- **Schedule:** All students participate in the following twice-a-week schedule:
  - Fall Semester: September 17 – December 21
    - Sundays: 4:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
    - Thursdays: 5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m. **OR** 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
    - (families request their preferred time slot *after* auditions)
  - Spring Semester: February 8 – Performance Weekend
    - Sundays: 4:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
    - Thursdays: 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
- **Performances:** Friday - Saturday, June 1-2 @ 7:30 p.m., Sunday, June 3 @ 3:00 p.m.

*(continued)*



- **Casting:** The ensemble is selected in early September. Once the script is finalized, each actor will be assigned a role in their show. The roles in the play will range in size and scope. Our mission is to create a well-crafted performance and our directors commit the same amount of thought and attention to every role. Actors (and parents) need to approach casting with an open mind and an understanding that a play consists of differing sized roles and that the actor's work develops throughout the rehearsal process.
- **Tech Week:** The week prior to the performances (Friday, May 25, Tuesday-Thursday, May 29-31) is referred to as Tech Week during which students attend rehearsals weeknights from 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. **(no absences are permitted during this week)**. The dates of tech week straddle **Memorial Day** weekend. If accepted, any vacation plans must start on Saturday, May 26. No actor is allowed to be absent on Friday, May 25.

### **AUDITION PROCESS:**

The SOOS artistic staff is looking for actors with basic acting instincts, singing skills, and the ability and desire to share their creativity with the group (or some combination of the above). Risk taking and the ability to work well in an ensemble is a huge factor in selecting ensemble members, so take chances during your audition, have fun, make creative choices, and be respectful of others.

Students are asked to prepare **32 bars** of a musical theatre song selection of your choice. You will be provided with suggestions when your audition is scheduled, but you are also welcome to choose a piece you are more familiar with. Actors also participate in acting exercises and guided activities. No preparation for this portion is necessary. Upon scheduling your audition, you will receive further guidance in preparing your song.

Please note: While we endeavor to make this audition as supportive and low-stress as possible for our student actors, risk is very much an inherent part of the process. We have a lot of interest each year and cannot accept everyone who auditions. Actors who have been part of previous ensembles have to re-audition each year. Each Director casts at their discretion. Parents and students should discuss and be prepared for either outcome of this audition. We provide feedback and class recommendations to those not accepted into this program.

**Audition Dates Summer 2017:** Auditions are held in a group setting, in 1.5-hour timeslots. Students participate during the entire timeslot. Auditions will take place on the following days:

**Thursday, August 31** (5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.)

**Thursday, August 31** (6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.)

**Wednesday, September 6** (5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.)

**Wednesday, September 6** (6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.)

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