



ISTAGE PERFORMANCE ENSEMBLE (ISPE)

Program and Audition Information

Fall 2016 Ensemble

Thank you for your interest in the **IStage Performance Ensemble** at Imagination Stage!

The IStage Performance Ensemble (ISPE) gives teen performers with intermediate to advanced level performance skills the opportunity to apply their technique toward a performance. ISPE stages a popular musical on Imagination Stage's Lerner Family Theatre stage and is supported with professional costumes, lights, scenery, and props.

Our Fall show will be *Beauty and the Beast!* This student production will share the same set with our professional company, who will perform this same show as part of our Lerner Family Theatre season.

Disney's Beauty and the Beast is a fantastic adaptation of the story of transformation and tolerance. The show features some of the most popular songs ever written by Alan Menken and the late Howard Ashman, along with new songs by Mr. Menken and Tim Rice. The classic story tells of Belle, a young woman in a provincial town, and the Beast, who is really a young prince trapped under the spell of an enchantress. This "tale as old as time" has an enormous ensemble filled with fun roles and spectacular staging, choreography, and costume opportunities.

AUDITIONS: While year-round classes and summer productions are open to all students, ISPE spots are open only to students selected through an audition process. Actors should have intermediate to advanced level acting, singing, and movement skills and be familiar with the actor's role during the rehearsal process.

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: \$995.00

Rehearsals begin Wednesday September 14, 2016. All students participate in the following schedule:

Wednesdays 6:30-9:00p.m.

Sundays 4:00-7:00p.m.

5 additional Friday evening rehearsals (TBD)

Performances: Friday - Saturday, January 13-14 @ 7:30p.m., Sunday, January 15 @ 6:30p.m.

Tech Week Schedule: The week before the performances is referred to as Tech Week. **There are no absences permitted during this week.** Tech Week runs January 9-12 from 6:00-9:00p.m. each evening.

(continued)



AUDITION PROCESS:

Please come to the audition prepared with **32 bars** of a musical theatre song selection of your choice. A piano accompanist will play piano for you during your audition. Song selections need to be from book musicals (no pop songs), and performers need to bring their own sheet music. Suggestions are available upon request. The audition will also consist of choreography and scene work from the show.

Requirements for selection into ISPE may include the following:

- Solid vocal pitch, tone, and volume.
- Previous acting course work or summer production experience.
- Ability to execute choreography in the Broadway Jazz style, and demonstration of basic dance lines and coordination.
- Demonstration of clear acting and character choices.
- Demonstration of risk taking in audition.
- Ability to interpret direction.
- High level of focus, concentration, and personal discipline.

Casting: The first round of auditions determine the entire ensemble of *Beauty and the Beast*. Specific placement is assigned through further auditions taking place during the first three days of rehearsal. Actors are cast in a variety of roles that 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. If you are not willing to commit to the ensemble irrespective of your role, then you should not audition. Tuition is required prior to the first day of rehearsal and there are no refunds given if an actor is unhappy with their role.

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 2016: Auditions are held in a group setting, in 1.5 hour timeslots. Performers participate during the entire timeslot. Auditions will take place on the following days:

Thursday, August 25 5:00-6:30p.m. OR 6:30-8:00p.m.

Tuesday, August 30 5:00-6:30p.m. OR 6:30-8:00p.m.

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