



SPEAK OUT ON STAGE (SOOS)

Program and Audition Information

Incoming Ensemble: 2016-2017

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

Speak Out on Stage (SOOS) aims to develop 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 to build skills and vocabulary that will 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 from Winter break 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.

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.

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