



## PEGASUS ENSEMBLE

### Program/Audition Information

Incoming Ensemble: 2017-2019

The Pegasus Ensemble is an opportunity within the Imagination Stage Conservatory Program designed specifically for students with cognitive and/or developmental disabilities between the ages of 14–21. Please note that students ages 18–21 must be enrolled in high school or a high school equivalency program.

Pegasus follows a two-year/four-semester model (this does not include Summer session). In the first year of training, students work to develop theatre arts technique through a variety of different entry points including movement, text, and improvisation. Beginning in the second year, students apply their acquired skills towards rehearsing and performing a fully supported production while working with a guest team of directors and designers from the professional theatre community of Washington, DC. The Pegasus Ensemble production is chosen and crafted to best fit the members of the ensemble and to support and showcase individual talents while providing artistic opportunities that are challenging and rewarding for each student. **Please note: 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.**

In addition to theatre technique skills, Pegasus Ensemble students work to further develop life-long collaborative ensemble skills including active listening, communication, cooperation, flexibility, empathy, confidence, self-advocacy, and self-esteem. Our staff is committed to supporting students of all abilities and working to help each student develop their skills, while also gently pushing them to explore past self-determined limits.

**COMMITMENT:** Pegasus Ensemble members are expected to have consistent and dependable attendance (a maximum of 2 absences per semester in the first year, and 3 total absences throughout the second year are allowed). Students are occasionally asked to do work outside of class including (but not limited to) reviewing scripts and stories, memorizing lines, creating journal entries, and attending other Conservatory and Ensemble productions at Imagination Stage. The first year culminates in an informal sharing of work for parents and siblings. Additionally, Pegasus Ensemble members will participate in individual parent-teacher-student conferences to assess their progress through the program.



- The Pegasus Ensemble meets once a week on Wednesdays from 4:30– 6:30 p.m. During the second year, there will also be up to six Friday evening rehearsals (TBD) scheduled throughout the second year (6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.).

**QUALIFICATIONS:** While our year-round classes and Summer camps are open to all students, Pegasus Ensemble members are selected through an audition process. We look for students who have some experience in classes or programs that focus on acting, dance, or singing; and who are committed and excited to learn more. Selected students must demonstrate commitment, a positive attitude, an understanding of what it means to be part of a supportive and respectful ensemble, and most importantly a willingness to try new things throughout the learning process.

**Requirements for acceptance into the Pegasus Ensemble may include the following:**

- Previous performing arts experience/course work.
- Ability to create and show specific vocal and/or physical character choices.
- Demonstration of clear choices and risk taking during the audition process.
- Consistent effort to maintain focus, attention, and a positive attitude.
- Ability to follow directions and take feedback.
- Respect for self and others throughout the audition process.
- Demonstration of not only the desire to perform but a commitment to learning and improving technique.

**Pegasus curriculum and weekly class content includes:**

- Physical and vocal warm-up exercises.
- Activities designed to develop and strengthen a working ensemble ethic.
- Exercises designed to develop and strengthen vocal and physical technique and flexibility.
- Activities designed to develop skills in character development, realistic and believable action, scene work (including objectives and tactics), and other storytelling methods.
- Specialized classes in topics that may include improvisation, physical comedy, movement, and production elements.

**AUDITIONS:** Pegasus Ensemble auditions are conducted in a group setting. Student artists will be asked to participate in a variety of activities which may include movement, improvisation, vocal work, and short scenes (text provided and/or prompted). The student should dress for the audition prepared to move. Sweatpants, shorts, or yoga pants are best, along with closed toe shoes (no crocs, platforms, or flip flops).

Additionally while not a strict requirement, we strongly encourage and invite each student to come prepared to share in front of the group a prepared and rehearsed “solo moment” of NO MORE than one minute (please note: each artist will be timed). This is an opportunity to show us your best side and

something that makes you totally unique! You can recite a poem, perform a dance\*, sing a song\*, perform a monologue, do a magic trick, share a pantomime, etc. (**\* if performing a song or dance, you are responsible for bringing a CD or iPod with your music accompaniment**). All "solo moments" should be PREPARED and PRACTICED. Remember that this is a chance to perform for an audience and show us your best self!

Please note, we endeavor to make this audition as low-stress as possible for our student actors, however, risk is still an inherent part of any audition process. We have a lot of interest in Pegasus each year, and we cannot always accept everyone who auditions. It is important for both parents and students to discuss and be prepared for either outcome of this audition. We will provide feedback and class recommendations for future classes and growth opportunities to any students who are not accepted into the program. Audition results will be communicated by email at the end of the audition period in early September.

\* includes a materials fee to support production costs

**For further information or to register for an audition slot, please contact:**

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