



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

**Incoming Ensembles: 2020-2021**

**Grades 4-6**

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

Speak Out on Stage (SOOS) gives young performers the opportunity to share their experiences and ideas to help create fun, dramatic, and insightful new works for the stage. This is your chance to “Speak Out” about what’s important to you!

Speak Out on Stage will audition ensemble members to be part of two separate companies – one working towards an original play and the other an original musical. [We will begin our 2020-2021 year online and return to in-person classes and rehearsals later in the year.](#)

Ensemble members meet twice weekly throughout the year with a professional Director, Playwright, and a Music Composer (for the musical ensemble only). During their first semester, they build their performance skills while also collaborating on the script 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 building skills and vocabulary to help them in rehearsal later in the year. While the actors are on break from December to February, the adult artistic team complete the original script production designs. When the actors return in February, they rehearse twice a week in preparation 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. Students can select which of the two ensembles they’d like to audition for (musical, non-musical, or either!). Auditions are designed to be fun and are conducted 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:**

- **Schedule:** SOOS is a two semester program beginning on September 15 and running through May 31, 2020. All students participate in the following twice-a-week schedule:
  - Fall Semester: September 20 – December 20, 2020
    - Sundays: 4:00-6:00 p.m.
    - Thursdays: 5:00-6:30 p.m. **OR\*\*** 6:30-8:00 p.m. (*\*\*families are able to request a preferred timeslot*)
  - Spring Semester: February 4, 2021 – Performance Weekend (May 22-23)
    - Sundays: 4:30-7:00 p.m.
    - Thursdays: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

*(continued)*



- **Tuition:** \$700 Fall Semester, \$750 Winter/Spring Semester (\$1450 for the year)
- **Casting:** The ensemble is selected in early September. Once the script is finalized, each actor will be assigned a role in their show. Roles 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 roles and that the actor's work develops throughout the rehearsal process.
- **Tech Week:** The following times are set aside for Tech, and are mandatory for all actors; no absences are permitted. Actors only need to attend Tech rehearsals for their assigned company (schedules are solidified at the time of auditions):
  - **Company A PLAY:** Friday, May 14, Tuesday, May 18, Thursday, May 20 (6:00-9:00 p.m.)
  - **Company B MUSICAL:** Monday, May 17, Wednesday, May 19, Friday, May 21 (6:00-9:00 p.m.)
- **Performances:**
  - **Company A PLAY:** Saturday May 22 at 3:00 p.m., Sunday, May 23 at 6:00 p.m.
  - **Company B MUSICAL:** Saturday May 22 at 6:00 p.m., Sunday, May 23 at 3:00 p.m.

### **AUDITION PROCESS:**

Students will participate in a video audition process. Upon emailing [Nikki Kaplan](mailto:Nikki.Kaplan), you will receive the activities and instructions. Memorize, rehearse, and then perform your activities on camera. Actors submit their videos through a google form portal. **Audition submissions are due by September 11. *\*\*If students need through Sunday evening to submit their videos, just email Nikki to let her know they're on their way.***

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

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 as we may not be able to accept every student who auditions. 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.