



FALL 2020

ISTAGE ZOOM PLAY FESTIVAL

Program and Audition Information

Grades 6-12

Imagination Stage is delighted to launch our **IStage Zoom Play Festival** for the Fall semester – a coming together of student artists to present advanced works that speak to young person’s community and experience.

Building off our popular Winter IStage Performance Ensemble program, our premier Zoom Play Festival will showcase a lineup of fully realized magnificent plays from award winning playwrights that will be live streamed on YouTube! Student actors audition for the festival and then are assigned to a specific [non-musical] play. Over the course of 12 weeks, each cast works with a professional director to create their zoom production; enjoying deep discussion of the play, crafting sophisticated characters, costume, hair, and make-up designs, and expertly staging their play for online performance. The zoom rehearsal process helps students connect with others while continuing to hone their performance technique skills of script analysis, advanced vocal training, film acting, and objective/tactic scene work. The plays in our festival will stream live December 18-20, 2020.

After an audition process, actors are assigned to one of the following (non-musical) plays (see play descriptions on page 2):

The Wrestling Season by Laurie Brooks
The Outsiders Adapted by Christopher Sergel from the book by S.E. Hinton
She Kills Monsters by Qui Nguyen

AUDITIONS: While year-round classes and summer productions are open to all students, Performance Ensemble candidates first participate in a short audition process. Candidates should have previous acting classes in their background in addition to experience being in productions. Students new to Imagination Stage are encouraged to audition!

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:** \$600.00
- **Rehearsals** begin Wednesday, September 20, 2020. All students participate in the following schedule:
 - Wednesdays 6:30-8:30 p.m.
 - Sundays 2:00-4:00 p.m.
- **Performances:** The final performance schedule will be solidified after the casts are determined. The plays will be streamed live over YouTube during the weekend of December 18-20, 2020.

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VIDEO AUDITION PROCESS:

A monologue audition will be used to assess actor skill level. Upon emailing [Nikki Kaplan](mailto:Nikki.Kaplan@imaginationstage.org), you will receive monologue options. Memorize, rehearse, and then perform your monologue on camera. Actors submit their videos and optional resume 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.***

Requirements for selection into the Zoom Play Festival may include the following:

- Previous acting course work or summer production experience.
- Demonstration of clear acting and character choices.

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 in our ensembles each year, and may not be able to accept everyone who auditions. Actors who have been part of previous ensembles have to re-audition each year. Once in a Festival play, 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) with any questions!

PLAY DESCRIPTIONS:

The Wrestling Season Using only the setting of a wrestling mat, eight young people struggle with the destructive power of rumors and how others see them. This is Matt's year to excel on his high-school wrestling team, but innuendo about his friendship with Luke causes Matt to question himself and his priorities. The action is overseen by The Referee, who comments on the action from inside and outside the drama with hand signals and commands. Using images, movement and sound, cast members function as a chorus and as individual characters whose stories are interwoven to create a theatrical event that challenges and reveals their search for identity.

The Outsiders A teen gang in rural Oklahoma, the Greasers are perpetually at odds with the Socials, a rival group. When Greasers Ponyboy and Johnny get into a brawl that ends in the death of a Social member, the boys are forced to go into hiding. Soon Ponyboy and Johnny, along with the intense and their other Greaser buddies, must contend with the consequences of their violent lives. While some Greasers try to achieve redemption, others meet tragic ends.

She Kills Monsters tells the story of Agnes Evans as she leaves her childhood home in Ohio following the death of her teenage sister, Tilly. When Agnes finds Tilly's Dungeons & Dragons notebook, however, she finds herself catapulted into a journey of discovery and action-packed adventure in the imaginary world that was her sister's refuge. In this high-octane dramatic comedy laden with homicidal fairies, nasty ogres, and '90s pop culture, acclaimed playwright Qui Nguyen offers a heart-pounding homage to the geek and warrior within us all.