



## ISTAGE PERFORMANCE ENSEMBLE (ISPE)

Grades 8-12

Winter 2021 Ensemble

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

This semester's **ONLINE** production will be... *Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream* directed by Associate Director of Education, Nikki Kaplan, and actor/choreographer/director Amelia Nickles.

*A Midsummer Night's Dream* will be rehearsed and staged over Zoom working alongside a film editor who will put together our final product into a beautifully packaged film for actors to keep and share with friends. We also look forward to utilizing additional technical elements such as lighting tools and software to create fun and artistic transitions and effects! There will be two live performances in addition to the final film.

**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 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.

### UPON ACCEPTANCE:

- **Tuition:** \$700.00
- **Rehearsals** begin Wednesday January 13, 2021. All students participate in the following schedule:
  - Wednesdays 6:30-8:30 p.m.
  - Sundays 2:00-4:30 p.m.
- **Actor Intensive Week:** March 15-18, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
- **Performances:** March 20-21, 2021, Times TBD. Live performances will be streamed over YouTube.

### VIDEO AUDITION PROCESS:

A monologue audition will be used to assess actor skill level. Upon emailing [Nikki Kaplan](#), you will receive monologue options and instructions. Memorize, rehearse, and then perform your monologue on camera. Actors will submit their videos and optional resume through a Google Form portal. Audition submissions are **due by Wednesday January 6, 2021**.

### **Requirements for selection into ISPE may include the following:**

- Previous acting course work (classroom work not associated with production experiences).
- Ability to show specific character choices with the voice and body.
- Demonstration of clear motivation and intention of the character as they move and speak throughout the audition piece.

**Casting:** The preliminary video audition is used to select our 20-member ensemble for *Midsummer*. After the first three days of rehearsal, Nikki and Amelia will share each actor's specific role(s) in the show. During the first three rehearsals, actors read through many different scenes and characters, as well as explore music and singing skills (not necessary to get into the ensemble, but some roles will sing and/or play an instrument).

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Please note: While we endeavor to make this audition as low-stress as possible for our student actors, risk is still an inherent part of the process. We have a lot of interest in this program each year and cannot accept everyone who

auditions. It is important for both parents and students to discuss and be prepared for either outcome of this audition. We provide feedback and class recommendations to students who are not accepted into the program.

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