



MUSICAL THEATRE CONSERVATORY (MTC)

Incoming class: Fall 2021

Grades 7-10

Thank you for your interest in the Musical Theatre Conservatory (MTC) program at Imagination Stage!

MTC is an intensive two-year performance technique training opportunity for students entering grades 7-10 (completing the program as 8-11 graders). Students spend 3 semesters in the classroom participating in advanced level classroom work in acting, singing, and movement. The fourth and final semester is spent applying their acquired skills towards rehearsing and performing a fully supported musical production.

AUDITIONS: While year-round classes and summer productions are open to all students, Conservatory spots are open only to students selected through an audition process. Candidates should have previous experience in acting and singing classes in addition to experiences being in productions (dance is not assessed during the audition process).

COMMITMENT: Due to the intensive and ensemble nature of the program, actors who are accepted 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. Actors must have consistent and dependable attendance, and participate with focus and dedication.

UPON ACCEPTANCE:

The incoming Fall 2021 MTC class will be taught by Jeanne Hisle and Jonathan Kirby.

Each semester is named for a year of school:

- Freshman Semester (Fall 2021): September– December, 14 weeks
- Sophomore Semester (Winter/Spring 2022): January– May, 14 weeks
- Junior Semester (Fall 2022): September– December, 14 weeks
- Senior Production Semester (Winter/Spring 2023): January– Performance (mid May 2023)

Tuition: \$750 per semester

Class Meeting Days/Times (Semesters 1-3): Tuesdays from 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Production Rehearsal Schedule (Semester 4): Continued Tuesday evenings, Saturday afternoons (3:00-6:00 p.m.), and 5 Friday evenings (TBD).

The Musical Theatre Conservatory's course of study includes:

- Rigorous physical and vocal warm-up practices.
- Approach to healthy singing technique including proper mouth shapes, vocal placement and resonance, breath support, and range building.
- Acting technique focused on character development, inner monologue, motivated actions, and objectives and tactics.
- Basic movement/dance awareness, grounded in the Broadway jazz style.
- Scene work from musicals spanning genres, styles, and time periods.

Sharings/Conferences:

- Every semester culminates in an informal sharing of scene work for parents and siblings as well as individual parent-teacher-student conferences to assess each student's progress through the program.



VIDEO AUDITION PROCESS:

Each candidate is required to prepare one monologue and one song for their audition, as well as preparing some responses to interview questions that will help us get to know you. Upon emailing [Nikki Kaplan](mailto:NikkiKaplan), you will receive monologue suggestions, song directions, and interview questions. Memorize, rehearse, and then perform your pieces on camera. Actors will submit their videos and optional resume through a Google Form portal. The interview questions can be submitted either by video or in writing; whichever way works best for you.

We may contact you to schedule a brief 15 minute follow up to your audition, either in person or via Zoom.

Requirements for Selection into the Conservatory Program may include the following:

- Previous acting course work (classroom work not associated with production experiences).
- Solid vocal pitch, tone, and volume.
- Demonstration of clear motivation and intention of the character in both monologue and song work.
- Demonstration of story interpretation in song.

Please note: While we endeavor to make this audition as 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 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.

Audition results will be communicated via email at the end of the audition period, on August 27.

Please email or call Nikki Kaplan (nkaplan@imaginationstage.org/301-280-1624) to ask any questions and to begin the scheduling process.

Covid Notes: Conservatory programs will endeavor to have un-masked conservatory classroom performances during the year. All IStage teaching artists are fully vaccinated and we encourage all students to get the Covid vaccine, so they may safely perform without wearing a mask. We continue to stay updated on local, state, and CDC recommendations.