

Performance Ensembles

Grades 4-6



SPEAK OUT ON STAGE

Incoming Ensembles: School Year 2024-2025

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

Speak Out on Stage (SOOS) gives young performers in grades 4-6 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 auditions ensemble members to be part of two separate companies – one working towards an original **play** and the other an original **musical**.

OVERVIEW OF THE PROCESS: SOOS is a two-semester commitment, meeting twice weekly with a professional Director, Playwright, and Music Composer (for the musical ensemble only). Semester 1 builds performance skills while also collaborating on the script for a new play or musical. While the actors are on break from December to February, the adult artistic team completes the original scripts. When the actors return in February, they rehearse twice a week in preparation for their final performance in May, 2025.

AUDITIONS: SOOS spots are open only to students selected through an audition process. Students can indicate the ensembles for which they would like to audition (musical, non-musical, or both!). 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 have consistent and dependable attendance, and participate in the rehearsal process with focus and dedication, missing no more than 3 rehearsals per semester.

- **Class Meeting Days/Times:**

- **Fall Semester:** September 15– December 15, 2024
 - Sundays (Playbuilding): 4:30-7:00 p.m.
 - Thursdays (Acting Technique Class): 5:00-6:30 p.m. **OR**** 6:30-8:00 p.m.
*(**families are able to request a preferred time slot)*
- **Winter/Spring Semester:** January 30, 2025 – Performance Weekend
 - Sundays (Rehearsal – full company): 4:30-7:00 p.m.
 - Thursdays (Rehearsal – full company): 6:30-8:30 p.m.

- **Tech/Performance Schedule:**

- **Company A PLAY:**
 - Tech - Monday, April 28 - Thursday, May 1(5:00-8:30)
 - Performances - Friday, May 2 and Saturday, May 3 at 7:30pm, Sunday, May 4 at 3:00pm
- **Company B MUSICAL:**
 - Tech - Monday, May 5 - Thursday, May 8 (5:00-8:30)
 - Performances - Friday, May 9 and Saturday, May 10 at 7:30pm, Sunday, May 11 at 3:00pm

- **Tuition:** \$800 per semester (\$1600 for the year)

AUDITION PROCESS:

The SOOS artistic staff is looking for students who are comfortable and confident on stage, knowledgeable of basic performance technique, and enthusiastic for the opportunity to build a new piece of theatre. Auditions will consist of acting exercises, improvisation, and the opportunity to reflect on topics that challenge you to *speak up and speak out*.

If auditioning for the play, students are asked to write a short story, monologue, or any other kind of creative narrative you want (**short: 30-60 seconds!**). Rehearse either reading the story with lots of expression or performing it as a character. Use one of the following prompts:

Tell a story about or create a monologue from the perspective of

- A monster under the bed.
- An object left in the lost and found at school
- The holiday helper everyone forgot about (your version of a character like Santa/Tooth Fairy/Easter Bunny, etc.)

If auditioning for the musical company, students are asked to prepare **16 bars/30 seconds** of a musical theatre song selection of your choice. When auditioning with a song, the artistic staff hopes to hear and see storytelling and character while singing, general ability to match pitch, and healthy breathing technique. Upon scheduling your audition, you will receive further guidance on preparing your song.

If a student is interested in auditioning for both the play and musical, they should prepare a song selection.

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 are not able to accept every student who auditions. Families should discuss and be prepared for either outcome of this audition. We provide feedback and class recommendations to those not accepted into this program.

Audition Dates Summer, 2024: Auditions are held in a group setting, in 1.5-hour timeslots. Performers participate during the entire timeslot:

Tuesday, September 3 (5:00 - 6:30)

Tuesday, September 3 (6:30 - 8:00)

Wednesday, September 4 (5:00 - 6:30)

Wednesday, September 4 (6:30 - 8:00)

To schedule an audition, please use the google form found here... <https://forms.gle/jYdXqdGC6JLk4rxN7>

Please email or call Pam Freedy (pfreedy@imaginationstage.org/301-280-1663) to ask any questions.