



## ISTAGE PERFORMANCE ENSEMBLE (ISPE)

### Program and Audition Information

#### Fall, 2022 Ensemble

#### Grades 7-12

Thank you for your interest in the **IStage Performance Ensemble** at Imagination Stage! Back and in person!

The IStage Performance Ensemble (ISPE) gives teen performers with intermediate to advanced level performance skills the opportunity to apply their technique toward a performance. ISPE stages a popular musical on Imagination Stage's Lerner Family Theatre stage and is supported with professional costumes, lights, scenery, and props.

ISPE 2022 will perform ***Bat Boy: The Musical***

***Bat Boy*** an American rock musical with a book by Keythe Farley and Brian Flemming and music and lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe (*Heathers*, *Legally Blonde*) based on a June 23, 1992 Weekly World News story about a half-boy, half-bat, dubbed "Bat Boy", who grew up living in a cave. The book deals with serious themes (such as hypocrisy, acceptance, forgiveness, racism, revenge and scapegoating) but often punctures the most serious moments with slapstick, surrealism, camp-horror and irony.

For lack of a better solution, the local sheriff brings the found Bat Boy to the home of the town veterinarian, Dr. Parker, where he is eventually accepted as a member of the family and taught to act like a "normal" boy by the veterinarian's wife, Meredith, and teenage daughter, Shelley. Bat Boy is happy with his new life, but when he naively tries to fit in with the narrow-minded people of Hope Falls, they turn on him, prodded by the machinations of Dr. Parker, who secretly despises Bat Boy. Shelley and Bat Boy, who have fallen in love, run away together from the ignorant townfolk and have a blissful coupling in the woods, but their happiness is shattered when Meredith arrives and reveals a secret. Soon the entire town arrives and hears the shocking story of Bat Boy's origin.

**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, singing, and movement 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 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:** \$995.00
- **Rehearsals** begin Sunday, September 18, 2022. All students participate in the following schedule:
  - Wednesdays 6:30-9:00 p.m.
  - Sundays 4:00-7:00 p.m.
  - 5 additional Friday evening rehearsals (5:00-9:00pm-Dates TBD)
  - No rehearsals on 10/5, 11/23, and 11/27.

(continued)



- **Tech Week Schedule:** Monday-Thursday, December 5-8, 2022 from 5:00-9:00 p.m.
  - There are no absences permitted during this week.
- **Performances:** December 9-10, 2022 @ 7:30 p.m., December 11, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m.

## **AUDITION PROCESS:**

Please come to the audition prepared with **32 bars/45 seconds** of a musical theatre song selection of your choice. A piano accompanist will play for you during your audition. Song selections need to be from book musicals (no pop songs), and performers need to bring their own sheet music. Suggestions are available upon request. The audition will also consist of choreography and scene work from the show.

Requirements for selection into ISPE may include the following:

- Solid vocal pitch, tone, and volume.
- Previous acting coursework or summer production experience.
- Ability to execute choreography in the Broadway Jazz style, and demonstration of basic dance lines and coordination.
- Demonstration of clear acting and character choices.
- Demonstration of risk-taking during the audition.
- Ability to interpret direction.
- High level of focus, concentration, and personal discipline.

**Casting:** The auditions on August 31 and September 1 determine the overall ensemble of the ISPE show, but not the actual roles. Specific roles are assigned through further auditions taking place during the first three days of the rehearsal period. Everyone selected after the first round is in the show. Actors are then cast in a variety of roles that 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 interested in this program should be willing to commit to the ensemble irrespective of their eventual casting. Tuition is required prior to the first day of rehearsal and there are no refunds given if an actor is unhappy with their role.

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 each year, and cannot accept everyone who auditions. Actors who have been part of previous ensembles have to re-audition each year. 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.

**Audition Dates Summer 2022:** Auditions are held in a group setting, in 1.5-hour timeslots. Performers participate during the entire timeslot. Auditions will take place on the following days:

**Wednesday, August 31** (5:00 - 6:30)

**Wednesday, August 31** (6:30 - 8:00)

**Thursday, September 1** (5:00 - 6:30)

**Thursday, September 1** (6:30 - 8:00)

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

**COVID-19 Notes:** All Imagination Stage students and staff are required to show proof of vaccination against COVID-19. Mask policies are aligned with current Montgomery County guidelines and mandates. All performances endeavor to be un-masked.