



ISTAGE PERFORMANCE ENSEMBLE (ISPE)

Program and Audition Information

Winter/Spring 2022 Ensemble

Grades 7-12

Auditions:

Monday, December 13 4:30-5:30 | 5:30-6:30

Wednesday, December 15 4:30-5:30 | 5:30-6:30

Wednesday, January 5 5:00-6:00

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

Artistic Team members Nikki Kaplan and Alison Gee return to helm this exciting performance opportunity for teens. The Winter/Spring IStage Performance Ensemble is looking for skilled actors to create this year's non-musical theatrical production of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, to be performed on Imagination Stage's Lerner Family Theatre and supported with professional costumes, lights, scenery, and props.

Romeo and Juliet
By William Shakespeare

A city, two households, and a hatred so old that no one remembers its cause. Defying the barriers forged from their families' enmity, Romeo and Juliet risk everything for love. Shakespeare sets his immortal tale against a community uprooted by conflict—as resonant today as it was 400 years ago. Armed only with their extraordinary capacity for love and imagination, Romeo and Juliet dare to inhabit a world where hearts are not ruled by hatred.

This production will be set in a time and place that somewhat resembles the post-punk rock aesthetic of the 1980s but exists in its own unique timeline. We will put aside traditional gender casting and collaborate to develop a world for this play that is completely unique to this production.

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 and movement skills and be familiar with the actor's role during the rehearsal process. This is a non-musical so there is no singing element to the 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.

UPON ACCEPTANCE:

- **Tuition:** \$995.00
- **Rehearsals** begin Wednesday January 12, 2022 All students participate in the following schedule:
 - Wednesdays 6:30-9:00 p.m.
 - Sundays 2:30-7:00 p.m.
 - Friday evening rehearsals from 5:00-9:00 p.m. on: 2/4, 2/25, 3/4, 3/11
- **Tech Week Schedule:** The week before the performances is referred to as Tech Week. **There are no absences permitted during this week.** Tech Week runs March 14-20 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. each evening.
- **Performances:** Friday - Saturday, March 18-19 @ 7:30 p.m., Sunday, March 20 @ 6:30 p.m.



AUDITION PROCESS:

Audition Dates:

Upon signing up to audition, you will be provided scene selections from the play. During the audition, you will be paired and grouped with other audition candidates to perform these selections. In addition, there will be a movement audition. No preparation for this portion is necessary. Actors should dress in comfortable, movable clothing.

Requirements for selection into ISPE may include the following:

- Previous acting course work or production experience
- Demonstration of clear acting and character choices
- Physical flexibility, dexterity, strength, and coordination
- Demonstration of risk-taking in audition
- Ability to interpret direction
- High level of focus, concentration, and personal discipline

Casting at Imagination Stage:

Imagination Stage actors are cast in a variety of roles that range in size and scope. Our mission is to create a well-crafted piece of theatre, and while all roles will differ in size and scope, we treat all parts with the same amount of care and dedication - instructing the way we approach character, the degree in which we flesh out characteristics, and the commitment we bring to the show as performers. If you are not willing to accept any role offered, you should not audition.

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. Actors should be prepared for either outcome of this audition. We provide feedback and class recommendations to those not accepted into this program.

A cast list will be determined after the first round of auditions. If after coming to our auditions you decide that you cannot accept a role in the production, we ask that you let us know right away; prior to the cast list coming out.

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

COVID-19 Notes: All students (ages 5 and up) and staff must provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination in order to participate in Imagination Stage programming. The IStage Performance Ensemble will aim for un-masked performances which will include a regimen of COVID testing. More info on this to come as indoor mask ordinances change.