

Performance Ensembles

Grades 7-12



ISTAGE PERFORMANCE ENSEMBLE (ISPE)

Winter/Spring 2024 Ensemble

Auditions:

Wednesday, January 3 4:30-5:30 | 5:30-6:30

Thursday, January 4 4:30-5:30 | 5:30-6:30

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

The winter play is *Crush* by Stephen Gregg:

Crush tells the story of Bark, a high school student who is navigating the typical ups and downs of a teenager with the added stress of being the only person who can see an alien among his peers. Set in a small town of the California desert falling on hard times (Pin Cushion, CA, population: 719), this hilarious and touching play features a high school theatre group staging *Our Town*, love in its many flavors, and an alien invasion led by a being with six bodies, five of which are invisible to almost everyone. By the end, the Pin Cushion community comes together to save the world, revitalize their town, and Bark in particular earns the love he deserves and gets a reward that no one could have anticipated. *Crush* is hilarious, heartbreaking, and full of unforgettable characters. It's a play about experiencing the inevitable spectrum of feelings between love and sadness because ultimately, that's what it means to be human.

OVERVIEW: The IStage Performance Ensemble (ISPE) gives teen performers in grades 7-12 with intermediate to advanced level performance skills the opportunity to apply their technique toward a performance. In the winter semester, ISPE stages a play on Imagination Stage's Lerner Family Theatre stage, directed by Director of Education, Nikki Kaplan and Senior Faculty Alison Gee.

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.

- **Rehearsal Schedule:**
 - Wednesdays, beginning January 10 from 6:30-9:00
 - Sundays, beginning January 14 from 2:30-7:00
 - Friday evening rehearsals from 5:00-9:00 p.m. on: 1/26, 2/2, 2/23, and 3/8
- **Tech Week:**
 - March 11-14 from 5:00-9:00 (No absences permitted)
- **Performances:**
 - March 15-17, 2024
- **Tuition:** \$1250

AUDITIONS: Ensemble spots are open only to students selected through an audition process. Actors should have intermediate to advanced level acting and character/movement skills and be familiar with the actor's role during the rehearsal process. 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. There may also be activities to assess movement (no preparation for this portion is necessary). Actors should dress in comfortable, movable clothing.

CASTING:

Directors look for:

- 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

The casting process is as follows:

- **Round 1.** The auditions on January 3-4 determine the 20-21 member ensemble of the show, but not the actual roles.
- **Round 2.** Specific roles are determined after an additional casting period during the first three rehearsals. 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. Our directors work towards high quality performances, committing the same amount of thought and attention to every 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 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.

DISCLOSURES: Some characters in this play have close relationships with others. Staging of these moments is done in a consent-based model upholding the highest and best practices of theatrical intimacy choreography. Young actors are given many opportunities to privately share personal boundaries with the directors and the show will be staged with those boundaries in mind. Boundaries can also change during the process.

TO SCHEDULE AN AUDITION: Please fill out the [Crush Audition Form](#) to secure your slot. And do not hesitate to email or call Nikki Kaplan (nkaplan@imaginationstage.org/301-280-1624) to ask any questions.