



SPEAK OUT ON STAGE (SOOS)

Incoming Ensembles: 2022-2023

Grades 4-6

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

Speak Out on Stage (SOOS) gives young performers 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**.

Ensemble members meet twice weekly throughout the year with a professional Director, Playwright, and Music Composer (for the musical ensemble only). During their first semester, they build their performance skills while also collaborating on the script for their show. Sundays are spent working with their artistic staff in a variety of mediums (improvisational activities, discussions, research, character exercises, etc.) to build inspiration for their play. Thursdays are dedicated to acting technique, building skills and vocabulary to help them in rehearsal later in the year. While the actors are on break from December to February, the adult artistic team completes the original script production designs. When the actors return in February, they rehearse twice a week in preparation for their final performance.

AUDITIONS: While year-round classes and summer productions are open to all students, SOOS spots are open only to students selected through an audition process. Students can select 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.

UPON ACCEPTANCE:

- **Schedule:** SOOS is a two-semester program beginning on September 18 and running through May 21, 2023. All students participate in the following twice-a-week schedule:
 - Fall Semester: September 18– December 18, 2022
 - 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 timeslot*)
 - Spring Semester: February 2, 2023 – Performance Weekend (May 20-21)
 - Sundays (Rehearsal – full company): 4:30-7:00 p.m.
 - Thursdays (Rehearsal – full company): 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- **Tuition:** \$750 per semester (\$1500 for the year)

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- **Casting:** The ensemble is selected in early September. Once the script is finalized, each actor will be assigned a role in their show. Roles will 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 (and parents) should approach casting with an open mind and an understanding that a play consists of differing roles and that the actor's work develops throughout the rehearsal process.
- **Tech Week:** The following times are set aside for Tech, and are mandatory for all actors; no absences are permitted. Actors only need to attend Tech rehearsals for their assigned company:
 - **Company A PLAY:** Thursday, May 11; Friday, May 12; Tuesday, May 16; Thursday, May 18 (5:00-9:00 p.m.)
 - **Company B MUSICAL:** Sunday, May 14 (3:00-7:00); Monday, May 15; Wednesday, May 17; Friday, May 19 (5:00-9:00 p.m.)
- **Performances:**
 - **Company A PLAY:** Saturday, May 20 at 3:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 21 at 6:00 p.m.
 - **Company B MUSICAL:** Saturday, May 20 at 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 21 at 3:00 p.m.

AUDITION PROCESS:

The SOOS artistic staff is looking for actors with basic acting instincts, singing skills (for the musical), and the ability and desire to share their creativity with the group. Risk taking and the ability to work well in an ensemble is a huge factor in selecting ensemble members, so take chances during your audition, have fun, make creative choices, and be respectful of others. If auditioning for the musical company, students are asked to prepare **16 bars/30 seconds** of a musical theatre song selection of your choice. Upon scheduling your audition, you will receive further guidance on preparing your song.

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 may not be able to accept every student who auditions. 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/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.