

Performance Ensembles

Grades 4-6



SPEAK OUT ON STAGE

Incoming Ensembles: School Year 2023-2024

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, 2024.

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 17– December 17, 2023
 - Sundays (Playbuilding): 4:30-7:00
 - Thursdays (Acting Technique Class): 5:00-6:30 **OR**** 6:30-8:00
 - (**families are able to request a preferred Thursday timeslot)
- Winter/Spring Semester: February 1, 2024 – Performance Weekend (May 9-12, 2024)
 - Sundays (Rehearsal – full company): 4:30-7:00
 - Thursdays (Rehearsal – full company): 6:30-8:30

- **Tech Week:**

- **Company A PLAY:** April 30, May 1, May 5, May 7 (5:00-8:30 on weekdays, 3:30-7:00 on Sunday)
- **Company B MUSICAL:** May 2, May 3, May 6, May 8 (5:00-8:30)

- **Performances:**

- **Company A PLAY:** Thursday, May 9 at 7:30, Saturday, May 11 at 7:30, Sunday, May 12 at 2:00.

- **Company B MUSICAL:** Friday, May 10 at 7:30, Saturday, May 11 at 3:00, Sunday, May 12 at 6:00.
- **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 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 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, 2023: Auditions are held in a group setting, in 1.5-hour timeslots. Performers participate during the entire timeslot:

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

Tuesday, September 5 (6:30 - 8:00)

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

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

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