

Geva Theatre Center Summer Academy 2020 F.A.Q.

How do I schedule a Summer Academy audition?

Beginning on Monday, February 17, 2020, you may call 585-232-1366 to speak with our Administrative Assistant to schedule your audition. Auditions will be held at Geva Theatre Center on Friday, March 27 from 4pm-6pm, Saturday, March 28 from 10am-6pm, and Sunday, March 29 from 10am-4pm. The focus of this summer is Musical Theatre.

What happens at the audition? What should I bring with me?

You'll have the chance to meet a couple members of the Summer Academy staff during your audition, and they'll have the chance to meet you! During your 10-minute audition, you will be expected to share a 1-minute monologue (memorized) and 32-bars of a song (please be sure to bring sheet music, in the correct key, for the accompanist). You'll also want to bring two copies of your resume, a headshot (or recent picture), and a list of possible conflicts with the date of the Academy program, if you have any. A brief interview will follow the audition. You may be asked to make an adjustment to your monologue or song, or asked questions about the piece you've chosen, or why you think this program is a good fit for you. Summer Academy auditions are a casual and fun experience!

How do I choose a monologue and a song?

Use resources at your school; a director, a teacher, or other students who are involved in theatre may be able to steer you toward great ideas – never be shy about asking for advice. There are many collections of monologues and songs at the library and online as well. Monologues that come from a play are preferred over stand-alone pieces. When a monologue is pulled from a play, you have access to the full story and can, therefore, explore the character and story on a deeper level as you prepare your piece. Once you have found some pieces that seem like possibilities, then your challenge is to narrow down your choices. Look for pieces that you feel you really understand, a character you can connect with, or a piece that makes you curious about the rest of that person's life. Look for a story you feel compelled to share. Please be sure to read the entire play that your monologue comes from. A good piece will usually grab you because you know you can express something honest of yourself through that character. Consider the age of the character in the monologue; you want to choose a character who is within, or close to, your general age range. For your song, gravitate toward a piece that features your vocal range and allows you to act and tell a story through song.

What should be included on the resume?

Your resume can include any of your experiences that you think might be useful to your success in this program. If you have performed in a play, that's a good place to start: please tell us the title of the piece, your role, and where and when the play was produced. If you have worked in other areas of the theatre (running lights, painting sets, volunteering as an usher, playing in the orchestra, etc.), you can include that information as well. You might also include other performance experience besides theatre, such as voice or dance training, or playing a musical instrument. Any activity, sport, or hobby that can show how you are motivated and prepared to participate in this program is appropriate for your resume. A special skills section (or a list of hobbies or other activities you participate in) is also greatly appreciated so we can get to know you a little better!

What should I wear to my audition?

While we do not have a required dress code for auditions, they are often the first opportunity we have to meet you and see your work: they create a first impression. Please wear something that shows us who you are as a person, and clothing that you can move well in. You do not have to dress up formally or wear special dance clothes or shoes, but avoiding outfits that are too casual, too baggy, too tight, too short, or will otherwise make you uncomfortable, inhibit your range of movement, or that don't speak truthfully to who you are as a person would be a good idea.

Geva Theatre Center Summer Academy 2020 F.A.Q.

What if I am outside the age range?

All Summer Academy participants must be twelve years old by the first day of the program on June 29, 2020. Students may audition at age eleven, provided that they will turn twelve before the Academy begins. No exceptions will be made. The maximum age to audition is eighteen. However, a student who will turn nineteen before the end of the Academy is still eligible to participate in the program.

How many students are accepted into the program?

30 students are selected to participate in the Academy. Geva will also select several alternate candidates. If a student is accepted, but unable to participate, then an alternate will be invited to join the program.

Can a student attend for more than one summer?

Yes; students can attend a maximum of three Academy sessions. If you have already participated in a Musical Theatre summer, you can still attend another Musical summer for the second time. Up to ten returnees may be accepted per summer.

What are the criteria for acceptance into the program?

This is a hard question to answer because so many different qualities combine in a good candidate for the Summer Academy. We're looking for curious young actors who really want to explore, stretch themselves, and who are willing to try new things. We're looking for students who want to express themselves through theatre, and who do the work to choose and prepare audition pieces they really care about. We're looking for students who are willing to work hard. You're on your way if you have a strong voice and can use your body expressively, and if you are well-prepared and focused in your audition. We don't care too much about auditions that make the actor look really cool or important; we look for young actors who use the words of a play to show us something honest. We look for actors who care about the work they do, the stories they tell, and how those characters and stories fit into the world at large. We ask about your experience because it can help us to learn what interests and inspires you, but it is not necessary to have previous theatre experience to succeed in this program. Choosing a Summer Academy class is very much like casting any play. We select a company of individuals who all have different abilities, experiences, strengths, personalities, and qualities that will complement each other.

When will we be notified if I have been selected?

All applicants will be notified of their acceptance status on or before Wednesday, April 8, 2020.

What if I have been accepted into a program that conflicts with the Summer Academy?

Many Summer Academy students audition for multiple opportunities, and candidates are often faced with difficult decisions if they are accepted to more than one program. Interest in other programs should not prevent a student from auditioning. If you are accepted into the program, Summer Academy will require a full commitment. Because absence from classes and rehearsals impacts the entire group, it is not possible to accommodate other activities which conflict with the class hours. We strongly suggest that participants avoid scheduling additional activities, shows, or employment opportunities during the five weeks of the program. Please feel free to discuss any questions or concerns you may have with us before making the decision to enroll.

Are scholarships available?

Yes! Full and partial need-based scholarships are available. Scholarship applications are not completed until after the audition process, and have absolutely no bearing on a student's acceptance. Families should never let concerns about tuition or payments prevent a student from auditioning.