

Geva Theatre Center Summer Academy 2022 F.A.Q.

I. Audition Logistics

How do I schedule a Summer Academy audition?

Beginning on Monday, March 21, 2022, 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, April 8 from 4pm-6pm, Saturday, April 9 from 10am-6pm, and Sunday, April 10 from 10am-4pm. The focus of this summer is Musical Theatre. In the event that a student who intends to audition does not live in the Rochester region, is out of town during the audition weekend, or falls ill during the audition weekend, the submission of a video audition and virtual interview may be considered and arranged with the Academy staff.

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 time slot, 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 a recent picture of yourself if you have one, and a list of possible conflicts with the dates of the Academy program, if you have any. A brief interview will follow the audition. You may be asked to make an acting adjustment to your monologue or song, or asked questions about the piece(s) you've chosen, or why you think this program is a good fit for you. We strive to make Summer Academy auditions a casual and fun experience!

For the day of the audition, there is metered street parking around the park that's located directly across Woodbury Blvd. from Geva. It's free after 6pm on weekdays, and free all day on Saturday and Sunday. There is also parking available in the Washington Square Parking Garage across Clinton Ave. from Geva, and they accept cash or credit card payments. You'll want to plan to arrive about 20 minutes prior to the start of your audition you can get into the building, find your way upstairs, check in, have a quick photo taken, fill out some paperwork, ask any questions you may have, and prepare to share your song and monologue with us. If the front doors of the building are locked because your audition time slot is outside of our public business hours, there is an orange door on the Clinton Ave. side of our building with a silver buzzer and speaker box located to the right of the door. Please ring the buzzer and someone will unlock the door for you. From there, you will enter the lobby and use the elevator to proceed upstairs to the library room on the second floor.

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. 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 do not fit well (i.e., too baggy, too tight, too short, etc.) or that will otherwise make you feel uncomfortable in some way, inhibit your range of movement, that don't speak truthfully to who you are as a person would be a good idea. Come as you are! That's the person we're excited to meet.

II. Audition Materials

How do I choose a monologue and a song?

Use resources at your school; a director, teacher, or other students may be able to steer you toward great ideas – never be shy about asking for advice. There are also many collections of monologues and songs at the library, and a large number of resources - including free monologues and sheet music – easily searchable and available online as well. Monologues that come from a play or musical 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

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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. Monologues may also come from films or books, but it's a good idea to examine these pieces with the stage in mind and speak them out loud first before committing to them to make sure they are active and make sense outside of the context of a book or film. 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 my resume?

Your resume can include any of your experiences that you think might be useful to your success in this program. We value a diversity of skills and experiences, whether they are theatrical, theatre-adjacent, or completely un-related to theatre! 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, designing costumes, 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 enjoy and participate in) is also greatly appreciated so we can get to know you, and what inspires you, a little better. If you have a printed version of a headshot or recent photo to attach to your resume and share with us, that would be wonderful. However, there's no need to worry if you don't – we'll take a quick photo of you at the audition, too.

III. About the Program

What are the criteria for acceptance into the program?

This is a wonderful question because so many different qualities combine in a strong candidate for the Summer Academy. We're looking for curious young artists who want to explore, investigate, stretch themselves, learn, grow, 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 are confident in and really care about. We're looking for people who are motivated, eager, kind, have a generous spirit, and are willing to dedicate the time, effort, and collaboration necessary to create compelling theatre. You're on your way if you are well-prepared, focused, and enthusiastic in your audition, and if you believe in yourself. We don't care too much about auditions that make the actor look cool or important; we look for young artists who want to engage in working together toward a shared goal, and who use the words of a play and the lyrics and musicality of a song to show us something honest. We look for actors who care about the work they do and the stories they tell, and have a solid understanding of the pieces they've chosen, why they've chosen them, and how those characters and stories are relevant in our world today. We ask about your experiences because it can help us to learn about all the wonderful things that interest and inspire 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, opportunities for growth, personalities, passions, and skills that will complement each other.

How can I tell if Summer Academy will be a good fit for me?

Summer Academy is distilled from the mission and intention of 25 years of Geva's original Academy program, which offers conservatory-style training to select young artists ages 12-18 who are seriously considering theatre as a possible career avenue. While fun and inspiring, Geva's conservatory program is not a summer theatre camp. Summer Academy is a place for self-motivated students to enhance their skills through perseverance and dedication, including work outside of class hours. The program carries expectations for excellence in the craft, including professionalism, commitment, maturity, self-discipline, preparedness. We also require an open mind to deeper thinking, new approaches and ideas, and differing perspectives. We seek students who are eager to

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dive in to exploring complex topics and materials, and who are ready to transform their relationships with theatre, teachers and directors, fellow actors, and with themselves. Geva's summer conservatory is appropriate for students with years of experience and students new to the art of theatre. Regardless of prior experience, students who thrive in Academy are ready to take responsibility for their own learning and truly engage. They are prepared to rise to the challenge of a rigorous theatre training program and put aside competitiveness and judgement of self and others, and actively help facilitate an environment of vulnerability, trust, and artistic risk taking. Please consider your readiness for this program carefully before enrolling to ensure commitment not only to the time and effort courses will require throughout the summer, but also to pursuing personal artistic growth, and evaluating what tools and processes you hope to come away with this summer.

What if I am outside of the 12-18 age range?

All Summer Academy participants must be twelve years old by the first day of the program on July 5, 2022. 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?

Up to 30 students are selected to participate in the Academy each year. Geva will also select several alternate candidates. If a student is accepted, but unable to participate, 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 Summer Academy sessions (not including our 2020 and 2021 hybrid summers). If you have already participated in a Musical Theatre summer, you can still attend another Musical summer for the second time. Up to ten returning students may be accepted per summer.

When will we be notified if I have been selected to participate?

All applicants will be notified of their acceptance status on or before Friday, April 15, 2022.

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. However, if you are accepted into the program, Summer Academy will require a full commitment on weekdays between the hours of 8:30am-4:30pm from Tuesday, July 5 – Friday, August 5, plus the full day on Saturday, August 6 and Sunday, August 7 (the day of the showcase performance). Because absence from classes and rehearsals impacts the entire group, it is not possible to accommodate other activities that conflict with class hours. Due to the nature of the full day schedule, plus evening and weekend hours preparing materials for classes and rehearsals, we strongly suggest that participants avoid scheduling additional activities, shows, vacations, meetings, appointments, or employment opportunities during the five weeks of the program. Please discuss any questions or concerns you may have with us before making the decision to enroll.

IV. Program Logistics

Are scholarships available?

Yes! Full and partial need-based scholarships are available. Our scholarship applications are only one page and should take less than 10 minutes to complete (via online submission) after a student is accepted into the program. A family's need for a scholarship has absolutely no bearing on a student's acceptance into the program. Families should never let concerns about tuition or payments prevent a student from auditioning or from attending the program if accepted. In addition to need-based scholarships, we will also work with families to create flexible and manageable payment plans, and we will strive to assist in helping secure carpooling options or bus transportation vouchers to and from Geva for the five weeks of the Academy program, should

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reliable and affordable transportation be a financial concern for families. Aside from flexible clothing (such as sweatpants or similar) that a student can move well in, special dance clothes or shoes are not necessary or expected for participation.

What Covid safety protocols are in place for the 2022 Summer Academy?

To facilitate a safe and healthy environment for our students, faculty, families, and staff, Geva is committed to safe Covid practices. Students accepted in the Summer Academy program must either show proof of full vaccination prior to the start of the program OR wear a mask whenever they are inside the Geva building for the full five weeks of the program OR they must have proof of a negative Covid test result taken each Monday morning prior to the start of the week for the duration of the five weeks of the program. Please note that these policies are subject to change based on the possibility of new variants of the virus, significant increases or decreases to Covid numbers in Monroe County, as well as revised recommendations from the CDC.