

Summer Academy 2023 Audition F.A.Q.

I. Audition Logistics

How do I schedule an audition?

Beginning on Monday, January 30th you can call 585-420-2052 to schedule your audition. Auditions will be held at Geva Theatre on Thursday, February 23rd and Friday, February 24th from 4:00-6:00 pm and Saturday and Sunday, February 25th and 26th from 10:30am-5:30pm. The focus of this summer is Contemporary Theatre.

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

Summer Academy auditions are a casual and fun experience! At your audition you'll have the chance to meet several members of the Summer Academy staff and they'll have the chance to meet you. Each audition will be about 10-15 minutes long. You will be expected to present a 1-minute monologue (memorized) from a contemporary play, movie, or television show. You will also want to bring 2 copies of your headshot (any recent picture featuring you only from the waist up), 2 copies of your resume, and a list of any possible summer conflicts. A brief interview will follow the audition. You may be asked questions about the piece you've chosen, or why you think this program is a good fit for you. There is a form that you will need to complete prior to your audition, so please arrive at least 20 minutes early to take care of the necessary paperwork.

What should I wear to my audition?

We do not have a required dress code for auditions. Many students who audition wear jeans and a t-shirt, while others choose to wear dress pants, a dress or a skirt, and a nice top. Please wear something that shows us who you are, and clothing that you are comfortable moving in. You do not have to wear special dance clothes or shoes, but avoiding outfits that are too baggy, too tight, too short, or will otherwise make you uncomfortable or inhibit your range of movement would be a good idea.

II. Audition Materials

What does "contemporary" mean?

Contemporary theatre is distinguished by its style and publishing date. When looking for materials, stay away from works written in classic rhythmic schemes (like Shakespeare or Greek Theatre). Instead, explore plays that have been published within the last three centuries. You are welcome to bring in very recent material – it is as exciting for us to discover new and exciting plays and stories as it is for you!

How do I choose a monologue?

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. If looking for something from a play, there are many plays at the library and online. However, monologues that come from a play are preferred over stand-alone monologues that come from a monologue book. 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. The same is true for a movie or television show – you want access to the full story (the entire movie or

the entire season). Keep in mind if you are choosing something from a movie or tv show – we want to see YOU, not the actor who plays that role on screen.

Once you have found some possibilities, look for the monologue 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 or watch the entire movie or show 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. Please consider the age of the character in monologue (you want to choose a character who is within your general age range).

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. 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, etc.), you can include that information as well. You might also include other performance experience besides theatre, such as voice or dance training. Any activity 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 activities you participate in) is also very much appreciated so we can learn more about who you are and what you enjoy doing.

III. About the Program

What are the criteria for acceptance into the program?

So many different qualities combine to make a strong candidate for Summer Academy. We are looking for curious young artists who want to explore, investigate, 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 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. We look to see that you are well-prepared, focused, and enthusiastic in your audition. 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 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. In your audition we may ask about your experiences because it can help us learn about the wonderful things that interest and inspire you. However, it is not necessary to have previous theatre experience to succeed in this program. Choosing a Summer Academy class each year is very much like casting a play: we select a company of individuals who all have different abilities, experiences, personalities, passions, and strengths that will complement each other.

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

Summer Academy comes from the mission and intention of 26 years of Geva’s original Academy program, which offers conservatory-style training to select young artists ages 12-18.

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, and preparedness. We also require an open mind to deeper thinking, new approaches and ideas, and differing perspectives. We seek students who are eager to 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. 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 (July 3rd, 2023). 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 Contemporary summer, you can still attend another Contemporary 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, March 3rd.

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 Monday, July 3rd – Friday, July 28th, plus the full day on Saturday, July 29th (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 four 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 online scholarship application form is only one page and should take less than 10 minutes to complete 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 four weeks of the Academy program, should 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.

Who can I contact if I have additional questions?

Call or email Education Assistant Olivia Spenard at 585-420-2052 or ospenard@gevatheatre.org