**Acting and Musical Theater Admission**

**Overview:**
- **Many Different Programs**
  - **BFA:** Spend about 75% of time in art discipline (audition-based)
  - **BA:** More traditional college, but can be focused (sometimes audition)
  - **Conservatories:** Conservatories within universities, strong programs within more traditional colleges
- **Musical Theater vs. Acting**
  - Most BFA/specialized programs require you to specify which department (MT or Acting) you are applying to
  - Some allow you to audition for both (or audition for MT and still be considered for Acting), but every school is different

**Things to Consider:**
- Most conservatory-style programs are more competitive than the Ivies
  - 1% at Julliard, 2% at Carnegie Mellon, 15% at NYU
  - Apply to a range of schools and also non-audition school
- Many schools have early deadlines and/or pre-screenings
  - Some require you to apply to the college and the program
    - This requires a lot more organization to keep track
  - Some schools do an academic review before allowing for an audition
- Do your research! Consider things like:
  - Structure and size of program
    - How rigid is the program?
    - What is their primary emphasis within acting and MT?
      - Classical, Dance, Singing, Experimental, etc.
  - What are the opportunities for performance
    - Some don’t allow students to audition right away
  - What are the opportunities for study abroad (especially summer)
  - Connections to the industry?
    - Do they have a showcase? Does this matter?
  - Where are the alumni working?
  - Can you double major or minor?
- Perhaps do a summer intensive before senior year
- Fancy headshots are not necessary – a picture suffices
- A resume is helpful, but admission is pretty much all about the audition

**Auditions:**

*Every school is different – ALWAYS check requirements*
- **Acting**
  - Usually, 2 contrasting monologues
    - Usually contemporary, but sometimes one classical
  - Almost always an interview component at the end
- **Musical Theater**
(Auditions cont.)

- Usually, 2 contrasting songs, one up-tempo and one ballad
- Usually, 2 contrasting monologues
  - Typically contemporary, but sometimes 2 classical
- Usually a movement/dance component
- Sometimes a sight reading and/or piano component
- Almost always an interview component at the end

- General Things to Keep in Mind
  - Pay close attention to requirements and expectations
    - Time limits
    - Monologue and song choices and recommendations
    - Additional supplements to bring (recs, picture, resume)
  - Try to audition on campus or at Unified Auditions if applicable, and always in person (versus video)
  - Have more in your arsenal
    - Prepare another song and monologue
  - Dress casually, but nicely
    - Be ready to move
    - Don’t test out a new outfit on that day
  - Select pieces that are appropriate to you
    - Shy away from playing someone much older or younger
    - Shy away from accents (unless you are very proficient)
    - Work with a teacher if possible
**Strong Musical Theater Programs**

New York University  
Carnegie Mellon University  
University of Michigan  
University of Cincinnati, College Conservatory of Music  
Syracuse University  
Ithaca College  
University of Texas, Austin  
Texas State University  
Elon University  
Oklahoma City University  
Rider University  
Emerson College  
Temple University  
Boston Conservatory  
Pace University  
University of the Arts  
Hartt School  
Ball State University  
Baldwin-Wallace University  
Milliken University  
Indiana University  
Purdue University  
University of Miami  
Roosevelt University  
UMass Amherst  
Dean College  
University of Florida  
Florida State University  
Penn State University  
Muhlenberg University  
Point Park University  
North Carolina School for the Arts  
Shenandoah University  
Columbia College Chicago

**Abroad**

London Academy of music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA)  
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

**Strong Acting Programs**

The Julliard School  
New York University  
Carnegie Mellon University  
University of Michigan  
University of Cincinnati, College Conservatory of Music  
Marymount Manhattan College  
Emerson College  
Elon University  
University of Southern California  
California Institute of the Arts  
California College of the Arts  
Chapman University  
North Carolina School for the Arts  
Pace University  
Fordham University  
Syracuse University  
Ithaca University  
DePaul University  
University of Illinois, U-C  
University of Illinois, Chicago  
University of Minnesota/Guthrie  
Salem State University  
University of New Hampshire  
Skidmore College  
Vassar College  
Connecticut College  
American University  
Sarah Lawrence College  
University of Richmond  
Muhlenberg College  
The College of William and Mary  
Most of the NESCAC schools  
Most of the Ivies  
CAP21

**Abroad**

Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA)  
London Academy of music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA)  
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland  
Central School of Speech and Drama