

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