



Arts Odyssey Drama Program

Current 7th and 8th Grades / Rising 8th and 9th Grades

Performance Requirements

As a Drama applicant, you are required to submit a video recording containing a short monologue (1-2 minutes long). You may also choose to sing 16 bars, or approximately 30 seconds, of a song. (Not singing will not hurt your chances.) Finally, you will answer three interview questions. *Be sure to read the tips for preparing your monologue and the tips for a quality recording before recording!*

Application Video Requirements

The total video time, including your introductions, monologue, song (if applicable), and interview questions should not exceed five minutes.

The Recording

Without stopping the camera, you should record your introduction first, perform your monologue, and sing your song (if you have chosen to sing), all in one "take," or effort. Do not stop or edit them together. You may choose to include the interview questions in the first take, or you may record the interview questions separately.

The interview questions can be read from a card or sheet of paper but not your *answers*. We want to get a sense of who you are, your personality, and why you are interested in our program, and that's really hard to do if you read from a card. Just be yourself and talk to the camera/phone as if you are having a conversation with one of us.

Begin recording.

- Start by introducing yourself and your material: "My name is (your preferred and last name and your grade). My monologue is from (title of play or book/poem) by (writer's name), in the role of (character's name). (OPTIONAL) My song is (title) by (composer/songwriter)."
- Perform your monologue.
- (OPTIONAL) Perform your song without accompaniment, or a *capella*.
- *You may or may not wish to pause/stop the recording at this point. The choice is yours as long as the introduction, monologue and song (if applicable) are all recorded at one time.*

Continue recording, briefly answering the following interview questions (#4 is optional):

1. Talk about three (3) things you're passionate about.
2. Reveal one of the most challenging things you've done all by yourself.
3. What do you hope to gain by coming to the Odyssey Drama program?
4. (Optional) Is there anything else you'd like us to know about you related to Odyssey Drama?

End recording.

Before You Record Your Application Video

Tips for Preparing the Monologue

- Prepare one of the acting monologues that is listed on our website. It should be 1-2 minutes long and suit your age, experience, and understanding. You should connect with the material personally, because that's what will help you stand out.

- Read the entire play so that you know what's happening, where you are, who you are talking to, and why you are talking to them.
- Fully memorize your monologue well in advance of recording so that you're confident enough to engage your imagination and make the piece your own. We want to experience a character in a dramatic situation, *and not just a young person reciting*.
- Work from yourself. Avoid put on accents, funny walks or talking, and crude attempts at "character."

Tips to Ensure a Quality Recording

- Record your audition in a clearly defined interior space, making sure the acoustics in the room are strong. Hallways are not usually the best place to record, and avoid rooms with an echo or "boomy" sound, if possible. Try to choose a room with a door you can close to limit other noises on your recording.
- The back drop should be as simple as possible (a curtain, sheet, bare wall) to prevent distractions.
- Use a stationary camera/ipad, phone, or other recording device, and shoot straight on in one spot. Do not move the camera while recording. The camera/phone should be set at a distance and frame your entire body. If we only see your face and shoulders, it's a little too close. If we see the entire stage/room, but not your eyes and expressions, it's too far away.
- Be sure your image is clear in the recording. The application committee wants to see your eyes and facial expressions to properly judge your work. Lighting should illuminate you simply so that we can see your face clearly.
- Wear clothing that is simple and sharp. Avoid torn jeans, flip flops, high heels, stripes and patterns, or advertisements. Avoid eye catching jewelry and distracting make-up.
- Props are limited to one chair.
- Rehearse your piece in front of the camera before recording and check the framing, lights, and sound one last time.

After Recording Your Application Video

1. Watch your video! Make sure the image is upright (not sideways!) and plays like you want it to be seen.
2. Save and name your file with your last name, preferred name, grade, and art area. Ex. Smith.Jane.7.Drama.
3. For directions on how to submit your video, download and read *How to Submit the Application Video* (available on our website).
4. Submit your video and application by December 13

Contact Information

For information or assistance, contact the Mandy Oglesby in the Office of Admissions at mandyoglesby@scgsah.org or call 864.546.1698.