



Most Frequently Asked Questions About Auditions and Classes!

HOW DO I CHOOSE IF I WANT TO BE IN A MUSICAL OR NON-MUSICAL?

Before you arrive at camp **YOU** (the camper) will fill out a **VIP FORM** as part of your CampMinder profile & application. On this form, **you** get to choose if you want to perform in **MUSICALS, NON-MUSICALS, or EITHER**. The most important thing to remember is to do what **you really** want to do. Some people do musicals all the time at home and look forward to the chance to try something different at Stagedoor; some dance constantly at home and want to concentrate on their acting. Many come from school programs that don't offer musicals and are eager to try one. Choosing **EITHER** means you can't decide between musicals and non-musicals and that you would be truly happy to be in either a Musical or Non-Musical. **Please think about this decision!** Many people who really want to do musicals put **EITHER** because they are afraid or feel unprepared to sing or dance. Remember you are here to do what **YOU** dream of doing. **Please follow your heart. We honor your choice and put you in the type of show you request.**

WHAT HAPPENS AT AUDITIONS?

The first thing to remember is that **EVERYONE IS CAST IN A SHOW!** Auditions happen the first two days of each session. They are fun and informal. They are an opportunity for us to meet each other, and for us to find out more about you and your preferences. When you first get to camp, there will be an all-camp meeting to say hello, then people will separate into audition workshop groups. At these workshops, directors and musical directors will introduce you to the audition scenes and give you a chance to practice your music.

The same musical director who helps you at this workshop will be the one who plays at your actual audition. You will already know each other and have had a chance to chat about your music and the best choices for you. Forgot your music? We find copies for you! Audition groups are separated by age and residence area. At the workshop, you choose a scene partner with whom to read. If you haven't already met a friend or roommate, the directors will help you meet someone and go over the scene with you and your partner. Everyone reads the same scene. It is short and easy...a scene between two people your own age in a common situation. There's lots of practice time. You will also fill out an "audition sheet" (which will already have your genre choice from your VIP Form on it). Then...it's **TIME TO AUDITION!**

We request no platform or flip flop shoes, no hats, no sunglasses, no acting "accents" please! Be Yourself!

First, you will walk on stage with your partner and **read** the scene together. **READ, DO NOT MEMORIZE.** Then, if you have chosen **Musicals or Either** on your VIP Form, you and your partner will take turns singing the 16 bars (**with the piano**) that you have rehearsed with the musical director during your workshop. *If you have chosen to do a Non-Musical and have opted (purely your choice) to prepare a :30 second monologue you would perform it after you read the scene.* Your partner is always with you. It's fun! You're on stage, in a theater. There are adult stage managers with you to help. If you need to, you start over. Only the casting committee is watching (no other kids) and they are excited to meet you and discover your talent.

WHAT IF I CAN'T SING (OR DANCE)?

Everyone is at Stagedoor to learn. This is your chance to try things you've never done before, with others who are doing the same thing! For those who don't **WANT** to sing and dance, there are non-Musical productions that don't require either. But if you want to do a musical, but feel inexperienced, Stagedoor is the place to **GO FOR IT!** Dancers, especially, are often reluctant to sing. **If you want to do a musical, you MUST sing at the auditions, even if it is "Happy Birthday."** Talk to the musical director at the workshop. They are there to help. This is **YOUR** chance to follow a dream. Many non-dancers choose musicals and pick up skills during the rehearsals. Remember there are **ALL** levels of talent and experience at Stagedoor. No one is judging you! We will **ALL** grow together, helping each other.

WHAT SONG SHOULD I SING?

There is no right or wrong answer to this question. **We do request that you choose a song from musical theater or a movie musical. No opera or radio pop songs.** After that, everyone is on their own. Choose a song that shows off your voice, is appropriate to your age, and suits your personality. You should **LOVE** your song and feel good singing it. It is important that you understand the song you are singing and tell the story as you sing. **You may choose 16 bars to show us your voice; if the cutting you bring is longer than 16 bars, your workshop musical director will help you trim it to the 16 bars that best show off your voice.** If you can't hit the big note at the end, don't go there. If you can, be sure your 16 bars take you that far. **BRING SHEET MUSIC WITH YOU IN THE CORRECT KEY, if possible.** If you don't have it, we have a large music library on camp and can help you find what you need. If you come unprepared, but decide to sing anyway, it's **OK!** We will help you choose something. We want you to have every opportunity to follow your dream.

DO I HAVE TO DO A PREPARED, MEMORIZED MONOLOGUE?

No, however if you have chosen to do a Non-Musical on your VIP Form then you have the option (completely the camper's choice) of presenting a prepared, memorized monologue of up to :30 seconds in length which you have brought with you to camp (having chosen, rehearsed & timed it before arriving). Choose a monologue that is appropriate for you, suits your personality and expresses who you are. If you live for modern, slapstick comedy you probably shouldn't do a monologue from Hamlet. It is important that you understand the monologue and can tell the story of it in the allotted :30 seconds. At the audition, you will be timed & cutoff at :30 seconds, so we suggest you pick, plan & prep a piece that runs closer :25 seconds to give yourself a time cushion. Choosing to NOT do a monologue will in no way affect your casting.

WHAT IS OTC or OUR TIME CABARET?

Our Time Cabaret is a **Musical** Master Class that rehearses 2 hours every day. The class creates a one-hour revue style show that performs for the entire camp, and on show weekends for parents. **It is a long-time tradition at Stagedoor and requires the ability to learn a great deal of musical and movement material in addition to your primary production (which takes first priority).** Some students perform in Non-Musicals but sing in OTC. Callbacks for OTC are pulled from the general auditions, then there is a singing and dancing audition at the call back. The list of those chosen (about 30 campers) is posted the next day. **There is no age requirement for Our Time Cabaret.**

WHAT IS PLAYERS ENSEMBLE?

Players Ensemble is the **Non-Musical** equivalent of Our Time Cabaret that rehearses 2 hours every day. This means that those who are in the group give up 2 other classes to participate. The group creates a one hour show that is performed for the entire camp and on show weekends for parents. **It requires the ability to learn challenging text in addition to your primary production (which takes first priority).** Some students perform in Musicals but choose to challenge their acting chops in Players Ensemble. Callbacks for the Players Ensemble come from the general auditions. After an improv-based callback, the list is posted the next day. **The age requirement for Players is 14 plus.**

WHEN AND HOW DO I CHOOSE MY CLASSES?

Everyone signs up for classes during the first two days of camp. You will sit down, one on one, with a member of the education department to arrange your schedule. There are many classes at the same time each day, so you might need to make choices. Stagedoor keeps classes small, so you might find another section of the same class in a different time slot. **If you feel you've made a mistake, or regret a choice, you will have the opportunity to change.** We require that you attend at least ONE time slot of the initial classes you have chosen BEFORE you drop or change. There are 3 classes each day. One set of classes meets Mon/Wed/Fri; the other meets Tues/Thurs/Sat. This means you will have 6 total classes. Classes are held the first two weeks, with the third week being technical and dress week. It may sound confusing, but remember that a member of the education department will help you understand your choices, answer your questions, and give you the chance to make changes. We encourage you to try things you've never done before!

WHAT ABOUT MASTER CLASSES?

Master Classes are for more experienced or mature students who want to be challenged. There are Master Classes offered in Acting, Dance, Voice, and Stage Combat. **ALL these classes require an additional audition.** If you hope to get into a Master Class, you sign up for it and attend the first time slot. **During the first class, there will be an additional audition.** Lists go up the next day. Those who do NOT make it into Master Classes will automatically be placed in their chosen alternate classes. **You may then try again your next session!**

HOW DO DANCE AUDITIONS WORK?

Separate Dance Auditions happen during the first two days and have two functions: Levels for classes are decided at auditions, AND dancers are looked at for placement in shows. **Those who want to take BEGINNING (level ONE) dance classes do not need to audition.** Those who feel they belong in Level Two and/or Three classes must audition for placement. The level you dance in at home may not be the same level at Stagedoor. There is no solo dancing during the audition. Groups are taught a combination in Jazz, Ballet, or Tap and have several opportunities to perform. **BRING SHOES WITH YOU FOR THE STYLES AND CLASSES YOU WANT TO AUDITION FOR.** Your level may change after the first couple of classes.

WHAT SHOWS WILL YOU BE DOING?

Part of the fun at Stagedoor is NOT knowing what shows will be produced until the cast lists go up!! We read all the VIP Forms filled out on CampMinder to see what campers are interested in – and then select a “pool” of shows matching the preferences. On the third morning at camp, you will attend a general meeting to meet the directors, announce the shows, and then cast lists go up! 15 minutes later you will be rehearsing your new show!

We hope this answers some of your questions! Get ready for the best summer of your life!