



# Musical Theatre Audition REQUIREMENTS



James Madison University School of Theatre and Dance is excited to exclusively host virtual auditions for the 2020/2021 season. We wish we could meet everyone in person; however, the health and safety of you and the members of the JMU community are our first priority. There are many benefits of connecting virtually and we are excited by the possibilities.

## What to Do?

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1. Apply to JMU

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2. Apply to School of Theatre and Dance on Slideroom

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3. Register for a Musical Theatre Audition



An audition is required for admission to the Musical Theatre Major in the School of Theatre and Dance. **Please apply to both JMU and the School of Theatre and Dance separately** and register for an audition. Please review these requirements for more information.

# AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

While James Madison University does not require a Prescreen submission as part of the application process, JMU uses the following criteria for digital audition submissions.

## OVERALL

Each piece should be filmed/uploaded as a separate piece of media. No continuous videos.

## SLATE

There should not be a separate "slate" video. Instead slates are to appear at the beginning of each piece. The proper slate for a song is to share **your name**, the **song title**, and the **show** in which it appears. The proper slate for a monologue is to share **your name**, the **title of the play**, and the **playwright**.

## SONGS

Students should prepare 2 contrasting pieces:

- One song should be a **ballad** and one song should be an **uptempo**
- Each song file should be 60-90 seconds. *(this time limit includes the slate at the beginning of the piece and is strictly adhered to; please do not upload media files longer than 90 seconds)*
- Songs should be filmed in a ¾ shot which means the top of the head to the knees should be visible in the frame.
- One song should be written prior to 1970. This song can be either the uptempo or the ballad (student's choice).
- One song should be written after 1970 and contrast the style of the first.



## MONOLOGUES

- Monologues must be from a published play.
- Monologues cannot be from musicals, television shows, or movies.



- Each monologue file should be 60-90 seconds in length. *(this time limit includes the slate at the beginning of the piece and is strictly adhered to; please do not upload media files longer than 90 seconds)*

*For Musical Theatre Only Auditions*

- One 60-90 second contemporary monologue (written during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century-present) from a published play. This time limit includes the slate at the beginning of the piece and is strictly adhered to; please do not upload media files longer than 90 seconds.

- The contemporary monologue should be filmed in a “close-up” shot which means the top of the head to the chest should be visible in the frame.

*For Theatre AND Musical Theatre Auditions*

- Two 60 second contrasting monologues.
- “Contrasting” means each monologue is different in tone (serious or comic) or style (contemporary, early realism, Shakespeare, and so forth).
- Please refer to the Theatre audition requirements for more information on monologues if auditioning for both Musical Theatre and Theatre.

**DANCE**

- All dance media should be filmed in a “full body” shot taking care to keep the student's entire body in the frame at all times.
- Applicants do not need to slate in any dance media.
- Regardless of the style of dance you execute, the choreography and the movement should be story-driven and connected to the music where the applicant is dancing with a sense of purpose.
- 30-60 seconds of dance, in whatever dance discipline you are most comfortable with: jazz, ballet, modern, African, hip hop, lyrical or contemporary.
- No barre work. A ballet solo is acceptable.
- No tap. For applicants that tap, consider showcasing that skill as part of your wild card submission.
- Please use steps, movement and physical vocabulary that you are familiar with and can execute well.
- Dance media can be self-choreographed, but must be a solo video of you. This can include a show, competition, or other performance as long as you are clearly featured on your own.
- All choreography must be performed to music; no “a cappella” dance media.



Need Help with a dance submission?

Click here for a link for [JMU's 2021's dance audition combos](#). Feel free to learn one of these to use as your submission. You are more than welcome to also use your own dance submission.

**WILD CARD**

- Submissions should be no more than 60 seconds.
- This media can be ANYTHING you want: a special skill, an interesting story about yourself, a passion speech, an instrument that you play, etc. “What do you want us to know about you?” and “What makes you unique?”.

# SLIDEROOM

Musical Theatre Major applications to the School of Theatre and Dance will be submitted through [Slideroom](#). Applicants who wish to be considered for majors in both Theatre and Musical Theatre only need to submit one Slideroom application.

## Slideroom Audition Checklist:

- Slate**
- Songs**
- Monologue(s)**
- Dance**
- Wild Card**
- Photo of yourself**
- Resume** – including any relevant artistic experience. (click [HERE](#) to download a sample resume template)
- Unofficial Transcript** – from high school or, in the case of transfer students, BOTH college and high school.
- One Letter of Recommendation** – from a director or teacher familiar with your work in theatre, dance, or music.
- Personal Statement** – describing a creative experience you've had that was particularly meaningful, engaging or transformative. You might, for example, discuss a production you worked on, a play you wrote, a performance you saw or a creative experience not specifically connected to theatre or musical theatre. Help us understand through your writing who you are, your life experience, and how it may relate to your interest in Musical Theatre and/or Theatre. Responses should be between 500-1000 words.
- Please submit your [Slideroom application](#) at least 10 days prior to your virtual audition day.**



Please confirm your [Slideroom application](#) has been correctly submitted by visiting the Applicant Center in MyMadison under the College of Visual and Performing Arts Section and clicking on status for more details.

# AUDITION PREPARATION

- **Videos do not have to be professionally produced.** We are evaluating YOUR talents not the talents of an editor. Filming your videos in your bedroom is fine (just make sure you make your bed!).
- **Videos should be of you singing live in a continuous take.** Please do not dub your video or edit with different camera angles.
- **Choose material that will show off the full range of what you do well right now.** Avoid songs and monologues that are outside of the scope of your current level of proficiency or experience.
- **Remember that the material you choose is a reflection of you.** Choose material that you LOVE. Your material is one of the ways we can learn something about you, your interests and your taste.
- **With both the song and the monologue, we are looking to see how you work with your imaginary scene partner.** We suggest that you rehearse your song as a monologue to get at the core of the text. Avoid dance choreography or rigid blocking in your pieces. We are looking for grounded, truthful work.
- **Keep the monologue short and to the point.** 60-90 seconds may not seem long but you can communicate a lot in a short period of time. Quality, not quantity is the key.
- **When cutting music it generally works best if you begin at the end of the song and count backwards.** 16-bars of a ballad or 32-bars of an uptempo will each take approximately 60 seconds. Please keep each song selection in the 60-90 second timeframe.
- **You may not perform a cappella.** All singing must be accompanied by music.

***Remember that we want you to do your best!***



## Questions?

Contact Jacob Brent, Musical Theatre Coordinator at [brentjx@jmu.edu](mailto:brentjx@jmu.edu)