THEATRE GATEWAY REQUIREMENTS

A gateway interview or audition is required for admission to the Theatre Major in the School of Theatre and Dance. To do so, students must apply to both JMU and the School of Theatre and Dance separately and register for an on-campus interview or audition. (Students unable to attend in person may contact the Theatre Coordinator to make other arrangements.)
SLIDEROOM

Theatre Major applications to the School of Theatre and Dance will be submitted through SlideRoom. Applicants who wish to be considered for both Theatre and Musical Theatre only need to submit one SlideRoom application. SlideRoom applications should be submitted 10 days before your audition/interview along with the following materials:

- **Photo of yourself**
- **Resume** – including any relevant artistic experience. For instance, an actor will, of course, include roles in past productions, but we are also interested in experience in other areas such as design, playwriting, education, and so forth.
- **Unofficial Transcript** – from high school or, in the case of transfer students, college and high school.
- **Letter of Recommendation** – one letter of recommendation from a director or teacher familiar with your work in the arts. Students interested in theatre education should provide two references (name and contact info) on their resume in addition to the letter of recommendation (further details provided in the theatre education format requirements).
- **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. Help us to understand through your writing who you are, your life experience, and how it may relate to your interest in Theatre and/or Musical Theatre. Applicants who wish to be considered for both Theatre and Musical Theatre programs only need to complete one statement. Responses between 500 – 1000 words.
- **Supplementary Materials** – other digital assets such as your portfolio, theatre education statement (required as part of the theatre education interview), or other materials such as writing samples or other artistic work. Please upload as a single PDF document.

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 (info populates within 3 days of submission).
INTERVIEW OR AUDITION

Prospective students must choose how they want to interview or audition from one of the four gateway formats listed below. Students with multiple interests may choose two formats. Unfortunately, we won’t have time for more than two, but you are welcome to address additional interests in your personal statement or during your interview. Please remember: demonstrated ability within a particular area of theatre such as acting, design, or playwriting is wonderful, but we are more interested in learning about who you are, what you feel, and how you think. Please review the requirements for each of the following interview or audition formats before choosing how you’d like to share yourself:

- Monologue Format
- Theatre Education Format
- Visual Portfolio Format
- Writing Sample Format

MONOLOGUE

The monologue format is comprised of two contrasting monologues no more than one minute per monologue. Please bring a hard copy of your headshot and resume with you to the audition. Here are some helpful tips for preparing your audition:

- Choice of material helps us to understand what you are passionate about. Choose material that you LOVE. Your material is one of the ways we can learn something about you, your interests, and your taste.
- All material must be memorized.
- “Contrasting” means each monologue is different in tone (serious or comic) or style (contemporary, early realism, Shakespeare, and so forth).
- Choose characters fairly close to your own age.
- Avoid dialects and accents.
- Do not share work from a musical, an unpublished play, or a monologue written for audition purposes for which no play exists.
- Introduce your pieces with play title, author, and character name. Background on scene or plot is unnecessary.
• Read the play and be able to answer questions about your character.
• Wear clothing that is neat, comfortable, and flattering. Avoid extremely high heels that may hinder movement.
• Please time your material; your entire package should not exceed two minutes.
• Remember: monologues are one person talking to another person. Even though the other person isn’t there, we are interested in whether or not you can create the simple illusion of conversation. Find the honesty.
• Focus on what your character needs.

THEATRE EDUCATION

If interviewing for theatre education, please submit a one-page statement that describes your beliefs about teaching and a resume that includes at least two references (i.e. the names and phone numbers of arts educators or teaching artists with whom you have worked) on SlideRoom. In addition, bring a hard copy of your resume to your interview. Please be prepared to discuss and answer questions regarding your beliefs about teaching, specifically in a theatre classroom.

VISUAL PORTFOLIO

The visual portfolio format can be used for students interested in design and technology, management, directing, and dramaturgy. Please submit a 2 – 5 page sampling of your portfolio on SlideRoom as a single PDF document. In addition, bring a more extensive hard copy of your resume and portfolio to your interview (which will be returned back to you.) If you are presenting work from a particular production, include not only performance photographs, but also images and documents that were part of the process of making the work, such as concept images, design drawings, process photos, and dramaturgical research. Be prepared to talk about your process and point of view. Portfolios may include examples of theatrical and/or non-theatrical work such as:

• Photographs of productions
• Three-dimensional work, models, sculpture
• Production books, sketchbooks, and director’s notebooks
• Production draftings or mechanical drawings
• Scene, costume or lighting examples, renderings and sketches
• Drawings or paintings from art classes (not necessarily related to theatrical design)
• Visual examples showing your highest level of achievement and training, graphic abilities and artistic vision
• Recorded audio which can be shared during your presentation
• Examples of masks, puppets or craft projects
• Dramaturgical research: conceptual, creative, and/or historical
• Blocking scripts with blocking notation (stage managers and directors only)
• “Calling Scripts” with lighting/sound cues (stage managers only)
• Schedules, pre-show/post-show checklists, shift schedules, scene breakdowns, important/necessary emails and communications (stage managers only)

WRITING SAMPLES

This writing sample format can be used for students interested in playwriting, directing, dramaturgy, performance studies, theatre history, and dramatic criticism and should be comprised of 2 – 5 writing samples. Please submit your writing samples on SlideRoom as a single PDF document. In addition, bring a hard copy of your writing samples in a bound format to your interview. Please present your work in a clear, easily readable, and organized manner and clarify the context in which the work was done (i.e. class, assignment, show, and so forth). Be prepared to talk about your writing process and point of view. Samples might include:

• Playwriting such as monologues, scenes, or plays
• Short stories
• Poems
• Essays (not necessarily related to theatre)
• Dramatic criticism
• Journalism (not necessarily related to theatre)
• Dramaturgical research: conceptual, creative, and/or historical