Musical Theatre Audition REQUIREMENTS

An audition and interview are required for admission to the Musical Theatre Major in the School of Theatre and Dance. In the 2021-2022 Admissions Cycle we will offer both in-person and virtual options. Students should apply both to JMU and the School of Theatre and Dance separately and register for an audition/interview.
Musical 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 9-days before your audition/interview along with the following materials:

- **Photo of yourself**
- **Resume**: including any relevant artistic experience.
- **Unofficial Transcript**: from high school or, in the case of transfer students, BOTH college and high school.
- **Personal Statement**: Please describe 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 to understand through your writing who you are, your life experience, and how it may relate to your interest in Musical Theatre and/or Theatre. Please limit your response to 1000 words or less.
- **Supplementary Materials**: Please upload the requested supplementary videos to Slideroom. This is not a prescreen, and does not need to be the same material you will present at a live/virtual audition. We use these videos as a supplement to your live/virtual audition for those attending in-person and virtual auditions. These are used as the audition for those requesting a video audition without a virtual or in-person component.

Please submit your Slideroom application at least 9-days prior to your audition.
AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

Please Prepare the following for your audition for the Musical Theatre major at James Madison University:

SONGS
Students should prepare two contrasting songs, each 60-90 seconds in length.

- One song should be a ballad and one song should be an uptempo
- 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.
  - Please note: for on-campus auditions an accompanist will be provided.
  - When filming your videos you may use live or recorded accompaniment.
  - For off-campus auditions, please bring your own recorded accompaniment and a speaker.

MONOLOGUES
Students should prepare one contemporary (written after 1900) monologue 60-90 seconds in length.

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

DANCE
- At in-person auditions students will participate in a short jazz dance combination which will be taught on the day of the audition.
- For virtual and video auditions the dance media that you upload to Slideroom will be used as the dance component.
While James Madison University does not require a prescreen as part of the application process, we follow the Musical Theatre Common Prescreen Criteria for the submission of video content in Slideroom. Please remember that ALL auditionees (in-person, virtual, or video) are asked to upload songs, monologue, and dance as part of the Slideroom application.

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 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
- 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.

MONOLOGUE
- Your 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)
- The 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.

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 which 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.
- HELPFUL HINT: Applicants are encouraged to keep a full-length mirror behind the filming device so as to see themselves as they execute choreography.
- 30-60 seconds of dance, in whatever dance discipline you are most comfortable with: jazz, ballet, modern, African, hip hop, lyrical, or contemporary. You may upload 30-60 seconds of your choice, or learn, film, and upload one of the JMU provided dance combinations available HERE*
- 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 so long as you are clearly featured on your own.
- All choreography must be performed to music; no “a cappella” dance media please.

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?”.

*(the JMU provided dance option videos can also be accessed at: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9DEcVFbSQJa6ixfZ-0BP_QJbP9af49Df)
AUDITION PREPARATION

• **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.

• **You may want to avoid songs from shows that are currently running or recently closed on Broadway.** These songs are frequently performed in auditions, and may not work to your advantage.

• **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 like a long time, but you would be surprised how much you can communicate. Quality, not quantity is the key. **Please time your material.** If you find a monologue in a monologue book, make-sure to still read the entire play and know the context. **All material must be memorized.**

• **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 up-tempo will each take approximately 60 seconds. Please keeps each song selection in the 60-90 second time-frame.

• **You may not perform a cappella.** All singing must be accompanied by music.

   Be yourself and have fun. Remember that we want you to do your best!

Questions?
Contact Jacob Brent, Musical Theatre Coordinator at brentjx@jmu.edu

Twelfth Night production photos by Hunter Carrico
American Idiot, Guys and Dolls, Sweet Charity, Side Show, and Wild Party production photos by Richard Finkelstein