



## THEATRE GATEWAY REQUIREMENTS

We are 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. An audition or interview application is required for admission to the Theatre Major.

### What to Do?

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1. Apply to JMU

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2. Register for Virtual Interview or Audition

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3. Apply to School of Theatre and Dance on SlideRoom

# SLIDEROOM

All applications to the School of Theatre and Dance will be submitted through Slideroom. If you are auditioning for both the Theatre and Musical Theatre Major please be sure to review the Musical Theatre Major Gateway Requirements, as they are different than those for the Theatre Major, although you only need to submit one Slideroom application.

Theatre applicants are also invited (and encouraged) to audition and/or interview live over Zoom. This appointment will supplement the materials submitted as a part of your application. To do so, please indicate your preference on your Slideroom application.

However, participating in a live video appointment is not required for admission. If you can't attend, your digital materials will be reviewed as a completed application.

Regardless of whether or not you are able to join us virtually, all applicants must submit their Slideroom application 10 days before your virtual audition 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 also provide two references (name and contact info) on their resume
- **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 better understand who you are. Applicants for both Theatre and Musical Theatre programs only need to complete one statement. Responses between 500 – 1000 words.
- **Creative Work Format (See Below)** – digital assets such as your recorded monologues, portfolio, theatre education statement (required as part of the theatre education interview), or writing samples as described below.

# INTERVIEW OR AUDITION

Please choose from one of the four gateway formats listed below for sharing your creative work. 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

On Slideroom, please upload:

1. Two pre-recorded contrasting monologues (1 min per monologue)
2. Pre-recorded video interview (3 min): talk about yourself, your background, long-range goals, passions, and why you're interested in our program at JMU

Each monologue and the interview should be uploaded as separate files. If you are also attending a live Zoom audition you may use the same monologues as those you pre-record. 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, TV, film, 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

On Slideroom, please upload:

1. 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)
2. Theatre education statement that describes your beliefs about teaching
3. Pre-recorded video interview (6 min); talk about yourself and the theatre education materials you've uploaded, your background, long-range goals, passions, and why you're interested in our program at JMU

# VISUAL PORTFOLIO

On Slideroom, please upload:

1. Visual portfolio as a single PDF file
2. Pre-recorded video interview (6 min); talk about yourself and the portfolio you've uploaded, your artistic process and point of view, and why you're interested in our program at JMU

The visual portfolio format can be used for students interested in design and technology, management, directing, and dramaturgy. 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. 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

On Slideroom, please upload:

1. 2 – 5 writing samples as a single PDF file
2. Pre-recorded video interview (6 min); talk about yourself and the writing samples you've uploaded, your artistic point of view, your current interests, and why you're interested in our program at JMU

This writing sample format can be used for students interested in playwriting, directing, dramaturgy, performance studies, theatre history, and dramatic criticism. 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). 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