

THEATRE AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

2024/25



WHAT TO DO?

A gateway interview or audition is required for admission to the Theatre Major or to a Concentration within the Theatre Major. In the 2024 - 2025 cycle we will offer in-person, virtual, and video options. Students should apply both to JMU and the School of Theatre and Dance separately and register for an audition/interview.

1. Apply to JMU

2. Register for a Theatre Audition

3. Apply to School of Theatre and Dance on Slideroom



1. Submit your Undergraduate Admissions Application via the JMU Admissions Office. Apply to JMU using the Common App. Once you have listed JMU as one of your schools and have listed your intended major, a portfolio section will open in the JMU portion of the Common App. That will link you directly to JMU's SlideRoom application, where you can submit your artistic application and upload your portfolio of work to be reviewed by our faculty.

2. Register for an audition day.

Nov. 2, 2024 (in-person) (recommended for those applying to JMU Early Action)

Nov. 16, 2024 (in-person) (recommended for those applying to JMU Early Action)

January 25, 2025 (in-person) in NYC, NY for those attending Unifeds

January 26, 2025 (in-person) in NYC, NY for those attending Unifeds

Feb. 1, 2025 (in-person)

Feb. 8, 2025 (in-person)

3. Submit your School of Theatre and Dance Application on Slideroom at least 9 days prior to your in-person or virtual audition. All dates are in-person. No virtual audition, although students can still audition entirely by asynchronous video.



Richard Finkelstein



SLIDEROOM

Theatre Major applications to the School of Theatre and Dance are submitted through [Slideroom](#). Applicants who wish to be considered for BOTH Theatre and Musical Theatre only need to submit one Slideroom application (but schedule separate auditions, and follow the submission guidelines for both Theatre and Musical Theatre). **Slideroom applications should be submitted 9-days before your audition/interview along with the following materials:**

- **Headshot:** 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. Help us to understand through your writing who you are, your life experience, and how it may relate to your interest in 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 inperson component.



GATEWAY PROCESS

So, what is the goal of our gateway process? An opportunity for you to share an ability within a particular area of theatre such as acting, design, or playwriting. In addition to learning about your experiences in theatre, we are just as interested in getting to know you as a person.

We aim to host inclusive and accessible auditions, portfolio reviews and interviews that allow all participants to engage and share fully. To request accommodations please contact Theatre Recruitment Coordinator Ingrid De Sanctis at desancie@jmu.edu.

INTERVIEWS AND AUDITIONS

Prospective students choose how they want to interview/audition from one of four formats listed below. Students with multiple interests may choose two formats.

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**



CONCENTRATIONS

Our Theatre major offers concentrations in Design and Technology, Performance, and Theatre Education. If you would like your interview/audition to serve as your application into a concentration, you must select that concentration in your Slideroom application. If you are already a Theatre major, you would still apply for concentrations through the same Slideroom, and audition/interview registration process as an incoming student. To be considered for a concentration, your interview/audition should match one of the following formats:

- Design and Technology Concentration - Visual Portfolio Format
- Performance Concentration - Monologue Format
- Theatre Education Concentration - Theatre Education Format



Concentrations are not required. If you are accepted into the Theatre major, but not accepted into the concentration of your choice, you may still attend JMU as a general Theatre major. Later in your first year you may choose to apply for a different concentration or re-apply for the same concentration.

Prospective students may also be admitted into multiple concentrations. Because of limitations of time, you may apply for no more than two concentrations at the time of your initial interview/audition.

If you are not interested in applying for a concentration at this time, no problem, feel free to choose whatever interview/audition format you're most excited about.

MONOLOGUE FORMAT

The monologue format is comprised of two contrasting monologues. Both monologues together should not exceed two minutes.

- 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.
- “Contrasting” means each monologue is different in tone (serious or comic) or style (contemporary, early realism, classical, and so forth).
- Memorize your material.
- Choose characters fairly close to your own age.
- Avoid dialects and character accents.
- Do not share work from a musical, an unpublished play, or a monologue written for audition purposes for which no play exists. 2024-2025 Theatre Gateway Requirements
- 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 comfortable. Avoid high heels that may hinder movement.
- Please time your material.
- 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.



VISUAL PORTFOLIO FORMAT

Please submit a 2-5 page sampling of your portfolio to Slideroom. In addition, if available, please 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)
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THEATRE EDUCATION FORMAT

If interviewing for theatre education, please submit a one-page statement in Slideroom that describes your interest in theatre education and some of the unique skills you bring to the program that would apply to teaching.

During your interview, we will ask about where you envision teaching (age group, school and/or community-based context, etc.), what you believe are the most important traits in a theatre educator, and what topics related to equity, access, and justice you find most important.

WRITING SAMPLE(S)

Another option for your audition/interview for the theatre major is a writing sample. Your writing sample may include your one act or full length play, a scene, director's notebook or program note, etc. Any sample that you'd like to discuss and share and that is somehow representative of your work and interest.

Be yourself and have fun.

Remember that we want you to do your best!

QUESTIONS?

Contact: Ingrid De Sanctis, Theatre Recruitment Coordinator at desancie@jmu.edu and/or

Emily Becher-McKeever, Theatre Coordinator, at becheree@jmu.edu

All photos by Prof. Richard Finkelstein

