

2020-2021 THEATRE AUDITION INFORMATION

The Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts Theatre Mission Statement:
The mission of the Charter Arts Theatre Department is to expose young artists to the multitude of works, theories and practices essential to an understanding and appreciation for Theatre Arts, as well as to foster the inherent talents of our students and to encourage them to confidently share their creativity with the world at large.

Before making the decision to audition for Charter Arts theatre department, please review our mission and course descriptions with your parents to make sure this will be the right fit for your high school experience. If after careful consideration, you decide that you would like to audition for a space in our program, please refer to the guidelines below to help you prepare.

Prior to Auditions...

- Choose one of the monologues provided by the Charter Arts theatre department (which can be found on our website). Be sure to select the piece that interests you most and best suits your casting type.
- You are also free to prepare a piece that is not on our list, but be sure to choose a character that is within your age range from a contemporary play. If you are unsure of material, ask for recommendations from English teachers, Drama teachers, parents, mentors or friends who have an appreciation for theatrical literature. We **highly recommend** that you contact the department at dwagner@charterarts.org for final approval.
- Whether preparing one of our pieces or preparing a piece that is not on our list, find a copy of the play and read it thoroughly to be sure that you fully understand the circumstances.
- Be sure that your prepared monologue does not exceed two minutes in length.
- Write a 1 – 2 page essay explaining why you would like to attend Charter Arts to study Theatre. We want to know how you became interested in this art form, what about theatre continues to interest and excite you, and how you intend to use the training you will get here toward your future goals. Please include any other information you feel would be helpful to us in making our decision.

When selecting a monologue on your own....

- Find material that reflects clarity and unity. If you cut a piece from a scene, make sure it makes sense to the listener outside of the context of the play.
- **A good monologue is one that causes the actor to do something.** Look for active pieces as opposed to narrative.
- Do **not** use self-written material or material from film or television; it generally provides less dramatic impact in the theatre space than a proven play.
- Avoid excessive strong language or profanity.
- Use standard stage English. **NO DIALECTS.**

Audition Expectations...

- You will have roughly 5 minutes to perform a monologue and engage in an interview with the theatre faculty. (Specific times will be assigned by Charter Arts registrar.)
- **After the monologue portion of your audition, you will be asked to remain in the commons, as students will be brought back into the theatre in groups of 10 to participate in a 20 – 30 minute class with members of the theatre faculty. This class will consist of improvisation and character development exercises.**
- In both the monologue portion of the audition and the group exercises, challenge yourself to make active choices based on the given circumstances of the play or the circumstances provided by the instructor. Try to define your character's objective - what does he or she want in the course of the work, then actively pursue that goal.
- All monologues should be **MEMORIZED** and extremely well rehearsed.
- All prepared pieces should allow for vocal and emotional variety. Make sure your voice is accurately reflecting the emotional life of the character in the moment.
- Allow for natural movement. Avoid false or "manufactured" gestures. Make physical choices that are motivated by the character's circumstances.
- Performance energy and stage presence are important. Be sure that you are fully engaged at all times. Do not break character for any reason.
- **MAKE SURE THAT YOU CAN BE HEARD AND UNDERSTOOD AT ALL TIMES.** There is nothing more frustrating than watching what appears to be a brilliant performance and not being able to hear or understand it. Keep the voice supported and be sure to enunciate.

Dress and Appearance...

- Avoid bulky, loose clothing that might interfere with your movement.
- Wear comfortable, lightweight shoes rather than boots or athletic shoes.
- If you have long hair, make sure it's held back away from your face.
- Dress professionally. No need to be overly formal, but present yourself as you would for an important occasion or a job interview.

If you have questions or require any assistance as you prepare for your audition, please feel free to contact the Charter Arts Theatre Department at 610-867-2971 ext. 2447 or email dwagner@charterarts.org.

Break a leg!

~Mrs. Wagner