



Theatre:

Launch & Release

Dr. Jackie deMontmollin
Director of Fine Arts
Denton ISD



The Puzzle of Auditioning

- 1) Why is it so important to be **intentional** about my search?
- 2) What is unique about a theatre program search?
- 3) What steps do I take?

What to consider...



**Worry about the parts of the
process you CAN control!**



VOCABULARY TO KNOW

Pre-Screen Early Admission Portfolio

Call Back Early Action Head Shot

Unifieds Rolling Admission Conservatory

Common Application BA/BFA/BM Liberal Arts

DELEGATE YOUR TEAM

Monologue Selection Helpers

Monologue Coach

Vocal Coach (MT only)

Song selection

Accompanist (MT only)

Choreographer (MT only)

Videographer

Headshot Photographer

Resume Reviewer-Theatre

Technical Theatre

Portfolio Assembly Guidance

Review of Portfolio

Digital Portfolio Design

Presentation Practice Guide

Photographer (can be you)

Resume Reviewer-Technical Theatre

NOTE: YOUR THEATRE & CHOIR TEACHERS CAN PLAY SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT ROLES IN THIS PREPARATION!

Everyone needs:

Three References (Trusted adults, not family)

Essay Feedback *your favorite English Teacher

Guidance Counselor

IMPORTANT RESOURCE-HOW TO PREPARE A MONOLOGUE AUDITION

<https://art-and-audition.com/>

TRUSTED RESOURCES

<https://getacceptd.com/>

<https://www.mycollegeaudition.com/>

TECHNICAL THEATRE PORTFOLIO

<http://utahtheatreassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Portfolio.pdf>

<https://www.schooltheatre.org/HigherLogic/System/DownloadDocumentFile.ashx?DocumentFileKey=593a7d95-e8eb-4a1b-afd5-8375047e39a2>

- Should look like you.
- Do not try to look sultry.
- The eyes are important.
- Head Shot-not full body or $\frac{3}{4}$.

Headshots

- What to wear
- Select great literature
 - Have at least 4-60 second monologues ready to go by August of Senior year (Have a 45 second and a 30 second cut of each).
 - Have 4 16-32 bar cuts of songs learned if MT
 - Aim to be ready to tape your pre-screen by August

How do I prepare

Making your list for potential programs...

Know Thyself!

Ask: How do I respond to competition?

- In what type of environment would you be comfortable spending four years?
 - Climate
 - Values
 - Pace
 - Challenge level

Know Thyself.

The List

- Ten REACH Schools (Very competitive audition entry)
- Five Academically attainable schools
- 1-3 Sure Thing Schools

**Create a List of Potential
Schools!**

- Parents and Teachers: Empower students to be organized in their approach to finding the right fit.
- Students: Realize you have choices (it is like buying a house)
- Prepare yourself to make informed choices
- Cost matters.

Empower your search: You have choices.

Sophomore Year

Begin reviewing College websites

- Look at entrance requirements; this can be very motivating for raising GPA's
- Begin researching Scholarship Requirements (This can also be motivating for GPA's)
- Attend college fairs (NACAC Performing Arts College Fair <https://www.nacacfairs.org/attend/pva/>).

Helpful Videos from NACAC:

<https://www.nacacfairs.org/learn/search/virtual-college-fairs/workshops-for-arts-students/>

Sophomore Year

Sophomore & on going

- Begin compiling resume
- Visit Golden Triangle Mall College Fair in Sept. for practice talking to University Representatives.
- Keep a file of examples of your work
 - Actors: Keep Monologue book
 - Technicians: Process work for portfolio
 - Look for summer opportunities such as camps and conservatories
 - Register on College Board and begin your research
 - Take Practice PSAT this year

Sophomore year

- Junior Year

- Take PSAT again in October (counts for National Merit Scholarships)
- Prepare Portfolio
- Explore what area of theatre you might want to major in
- Visit MCA's website (MyCollegeAudition.com) attend webinars.

Prepare several monologues during this year

Junior Year

Junior Year

- **Make monologue audition choices**
 - 4 Contemporary
 - 1 Pre 1965
 - 1 Classic (Shakespeare)
 - Musical Theatre 4 16-32 bar cuts of songs
 - 2 Contemporary
 - 2 Pre-1965
 - Have a pop song in your back pocket
- **Practice Auditioning. A LOT.**
 - Enter
 - Moment Before
 - Slate
 - Focus
 - Transition
 - Button moment
 - Thank you & SMILE
 - Exit

December

- Register for SAT or ACT

Junior Year

Junior Year

- January-June
 - Begin seeking out sample applications
 - Visit a University (you get two days this year for College Visits)
 - Request to observe a class
 - See a show

Junior Year

- Take your first SAT/ACT in March of your Junior year (Register in December).
- At the end of your Junior year, make an appointment with your counsellor to review your top choice school's academic admissions standards and ask the counsellor help you determine if you will get in academically.
- *Ask the counselor if they will teach you what to look for in terms of academics and admissions and thank them for their time.*

Testing!

- **How do I narrow my list?**
 - Review the website
 - Look at their seasons and what shows they produce
 - Academic admission standards-Use College Board Website & Ask your counsellor to review with you!
 - Blind Curriculum Review
 - Visit with current student or alumni if possible
 - Watch any videos of their work you can locate

Be Discerning!

- When registering for the SAT/ACT, you can choose 5 schools you want scores sent to.
- If you don't choose your schools, you pay for your scores to be sent.
- Find the codes for Universities on the College Board Website
- Note: some Universities are waiving tests. Take the test. Be strategic about sending it. Ask your counselor for guidance.

SAT TIP

Senior Year

- Apply by September 15 to your top schools
- Submit your pre-screen videos, preferably in August, if ready.
- Remember, you need to be accepted to the University AND the theatre program.

Senior Year

About community college....

- Core basic credits transfer; do not assume your major courses will transfer, especially in the arts. This approach could cost you money and time in the end.
- Consider con-current or summer enrolment if you child wants to major in theatre and the community college doesn't have a reciprocity agreement with a four-year University.

Side note...

- Visit College Board
- Explore these categories:
 - Tuition and Fees
 - Room and Board
 - Books and Supplies
 - Personal Expenses
 - Transportation
- Important: Look at Net Cost. Consider all costs and consider all financial aid available.

Cost matters.

- Federal aid
 - Grants, Scholarships, Work Study, Loans
- State aid
- College/University aid
- Private organizations

Look at all aid available

- It is best to visit a University when classes are in session. You will get a sense of the energy and environment, the student population and a better general feel for the campus. Try to visit when they are doing a show so you can see production values.
- Visiting during a summer or holidays will make it difficult to assess the campus.
- Consider attending Summer Theatre Camps offered at Universities you are interested in. This is a GREAT way to get a sneak peak, especially if faculty are teaching in the camp.

When to Visit

Goal: Have viable options and apply to your top choices by Sept 15 of your Senior Year.

Best to have one from each category:

In State Options?

Out of State Options?

10 Reach Schools (very competitive)

6 Academically & Financially Attainable Schools

1-3 Sure Thing Schools

(Consider program offerings, admissions standards, culture/climate and costs to narrow your list)

Narrowing your list

- Senior Year
 - Aim to have application files COMPLETE by Sept 15 (November 15 is the priority deadline for many universities).
 - Get letters of recommendation at least three weeks in advance
 - Provide pertinent info and **resume** with request
 - Send thank you letters to those who write a letter for you

Senior Year

- Senior Year
 - OCTOBER: Fill out your FAFSA. You will need your parent's tax returns.
 - <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>
 - Begin applying for financial aid and be aware of deadlines.

Senior Year

- **Senior Year** *Remember your acceptance is two-fold if it is an auditioned program: acceptance to the program AND the university.*
 - Submit pre-screen video in August
 - Attend auditions, register for scheduled conference auditions, be ready for virtual auditions
 - Auditions can begin as early as September so be sure to communicate plans with your rehearsal schedule and high school director.

Senior Year

- Senior Year
 - Report all scholarship offers to your High School Theatre Director. Let them know of any acceptances as they happen.
 - **April**- Fine Arts Signing Day in Denton ISD
 - May 1 is decision day for most Universities.
 - Visit any campus in March/April if your decision is not clear
 - Make a list of pro a'snd con's
 - Ask for an extension if you need one. Accept a spot only if you intend to take it.
 - May: Take AP exams.

Senior Year

- NACAC Fine Arts
- Golden Triangle Mall-(in Denton College Fair, not audition)
- National Thespians- Lincoln, Nebraska June after Junior Year
- Greater Houston Area Auditions at KinderHSPVA
- Greater San Antonio Area Auditions
- Texas Thespians in November
- TxETA TheatreFest in September
- Unified Auditions in February <https://unifiedauditions.com/>

Multi-School Auditions

- Your audition preparation
- The quality of your research
- Your organizational efforts-Read all audition instructions and follow them. That is part of the audition. Keep a spreadsheet of what you have sent to each school.
- Your communication

What can you control?

Monologue Choice

- In your age range
- Talking to one other person
- Playing an action to the other person-CLEAR objective.
- Contrast in style and theme
- From a published play
- You will be timed
- Your real voice...no accents or affect.
- Consult overdone monologue lists and avoid them
- Consult with your theatre teachers

The Monologue



In the audition:

- Remember that everyone in the room is on your side.
- Rehearse your slate and exit. Welcome us to your party.
- Enjoy your own two-minute show.
- What you wear matters. Solid colors, modest. Professional yet comfortable.
- If singing, practice working with a live accompanist, and know what to say to help them help you.

The Monologue Performance

- Round Robin
- Be prepared
- Prepare a presentation within specified time limits and rehearse it
- Talk about PROCESS
- Talk about what you learned
- Talk about what you want to learn

The Portfolio Review

- Dress professionally but comfortably.
- No phones out (unless it's a note taking device)
- Know what you want to know.
- Organize a binder and take notes immediately following each callback.
- Save the business card of the person you talked to.
- When your brain starts to fry, take a short break.
- If a school you like didn't call you back, go talk to them.
- Know this: These reps know one another. Don't talk about another school.

The Callback-If In Person

- Review your notes.
- Arrange your binder in rank order. Determine why you ranked them that way and be able to talk about it.
- Review your binder with your parents/guardian.
- Follow up with an e-mail or a handwritten thank you card to your top 10 or 15.
- Visit websites and find more information.
- Plan your visits.

After the callback.

- Get a binder and slick sheets to organize all of the things that will be mailed to you and handed to you when you attend callbacks/college fairs.
- Select the top 3-4 questions that matter most to you and create worksheets with those questions.
- Be ready to write down your impressions, and the answers to your questions after visiting the booths of schools.

Preparing is key.

- Students, do your own communicating.
- Parents, resist the urge to communicate with the Universities on behalf of your child.
- Keep communications professional but friendly!

Communication

- Assemble a team to help you & be grateful to them.
- Dress professionally.
- Realize deadlines are important.
- Know that e-mail communications are formal correspondences. Writing counts.
- Practice interviewing.
- Make appropriate monologue and/or portfolio choices.
- Have a professional e-mail.
- Have a spreadsheet to track steps (MCA offers this as a service).
- Put your best foot forward on social media.

You can control your presentation...

- Prepare
- Research
- Enjoy the process of finding your perfect fit!

Remember...

- Bruce, M. & Bridgeland, J. (2012) *True north: Charting the course to college and career readiness*. The College Board Advocacy & Policy Center. Retrieved from: <http://media.collegeboard.com/digitalServices/pdf/nosca/true-north.pdf>
- Bruner, R.F. (2012) *The ROI on one's own higher education* Retrieved from: <http://blogs.darden.virginia.edu/brunerblog/2012/10/the-roi-on-ones-own-higher-education/>
- United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (2015) *Education rates for people 25 or older adjusted for educational attainment*. Retrieved from: <http://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2015/unemployment-rates-by-educational-attainment-in-august-2015.htm>
- Kanter, M. (2011) *American higher education: First in the world*. Change: The Magazine of Higher Learning. May/June 2011 Retrieved from: <http://www.changemag.org/archives/back%20issues/2011/may-june%202011/first-in-the-world-full.html>
- Symonds, W. C., Schwartz, R. B., & Ferguson, R. (2011). *Pathways to prosperity: Meeting the challenge of preparing young Americans for the 21st century*. Cambridge, MA: Pathways to Prosperity Project, Harvard Graduate School of Education.
- College Board
- The Art & The Audition
- MyCollegeAudition.com (MCA)

References
