



HIGH SCHOOL AUDITIONS

The South Carolina Theatre Association (SCTA) announces annual **auditions for high school juniors and seniors as part of the SCTA Convention hosted by Francis Marion University, SC, November 15 – 17, 2019**

General Information:

- **Auditions are open to** High school juniors and seniors who are interested in continuing their studies in theatre at the college level
- Participating Auditionees must registered members of SCTA and attend the convention.
- Auditions are scheduled for **Sunday, November 17th at 8:00 am on the campus of FMU.** Representatives from participating colleges and universities view the auditions and provide a list of callbacks for students they are interested in for their programs.
- Auditionees must provide a completed application to participate. **This application must be received on or before October 15, 2019.**
- The cost for student participation in the SCTA High School Auditions is \$20.00 per student.
- SCTA may choose to select individuals to award a cash award for a High School Award for Individual Excellence in Theatre for educational pursuits.
- Audition forms are distributed to all participating college and university representatives.
- Please read the GUIDELINES carefully and distribute student materials accordingly.

The South Carolina Theatre Association High School Auditions should be considered most competitive. Only those juniors and seniors who seriously intend to continue their studies in theatre and those you feel have potential to do so should apply. SCTA expects these auditions to give new impetus to theatre educators to present the most outstanding talent they have discovered and trained.

HIGH SCHOOL AUDITION

General Guidelines for Nominator

- Candidates should not be submitted solely on their past service, or merely to have the school represented.
- Candidates must be acting, musical theatre, directing, theatre education, design, technical, or management students who are either juniors or seniors.
- Candidates must be the most qualified from their school.
- In order to ensure that candidates have audition experience, it is strongly suggested that you hold practice auditions with your candidates prior to the audition event. These mock auditions should be timed as described in the GUIDELINES FOR CANDIDATES. Please encourage your students to take the appropriate standardized tests in a timely fashion so that their scores can be provided on the Audition Application Form.
- Nominators should be familiar with the work of their candidates and should assist them in the selection and preparation of their presentation. **An accompanist WILL be provided.** Students must bring their clearly marked sheet music for the accompanist. No student will be allowed to audition acapella or with recorded music.
- All auditionees must be present at the Audition Briefing planned especially for them at 8AM on Sunday, November 17, 2019.
- Nominators should counsel candidates on the selection of categories and programs for which they wish to be considered.
- The nominator should provide students an honest assessment of their strengths, weaknesses and potential to succeed in the chosen area(s) of specialization.
- Auditions will be closed, only representing college and universities are allowed in the room.
- Nominators should review GUIDELINES FOR CANDIDATES with all students being considered.
- Nominators should encourage students to follow-up each meeting with appropriate correspondence to those institutions in which the student is interested.

General Guidelines for High School Junior & Senior

- All students will be in consideration for the SCTA High School Awards for Individual Excellence in Theatre for educational pursuits.
- The audition session will be held on **Sunday, November 17th at 8:00 am on the campus of FMU.** There will be a **mandatory audition briefing session at 8:00 a.m. immediately preceding the auditions.**
- There will also be preparatory workshops offered for students to work with the accompanist.
- Auditioning order and time will be assigned prior to convention.
- Representatives from participating colleges and universities view the auditions, and provide a list of callbacks for students they are interested in for their programs. This will allow the college representatives to speak candidly about what their programs have to offer. Although the auditions are closed, your parents and nominators are welcome to attend these meetings.
- Make sure you visit the colleges and universities in the Commercial Expo prior to Sundays auditions to learn more about their programs.
- Auditionees are accepted by application only. **By October 15, 2019 You must:**
 - Complete the High School Audition Application and pay the **\$20 audition fee;** and
 - Join SCTA and register for the convention by having your teacher place your name on the High School Roster and pay the **\$15 student membership dues, as well as the \$25 convention fee(\$35 if paid after 10/1)**

Audition Procedures

PROCEDURES for High School Junior & Senior

- Seek the assistance of your nominator. Take advantage of the SCTA Convention workshops.
- Time limits are not to be exceeded. ***Time begins when you say your name & number.***
 - Actors: One (1) minute allowed for your acting audition
 - Directing: One (1) minute allowed for your acting audition. You can discuss your directing experience during callbacks.
 - Musical Theatre: One (1) minute thirty (30) seconds is allowed for your audition. **An accompanist WILL be provided.** No one is to sing without accompaniment.
 - Design, technical and management candidates will be allowed two minutes to present highlights from portfolios and resumes. These candidates will also be allowed to set up displays in a designated area for College/University reps to review prior to auditions.



- Prepare your audition piece or verbal presentation to fit the time limits allowed. Those who keep going when time is called appear to be unprepared. ***Every auditionee should begin and end with name and number.***
- If a candidate goes over time, the Timekeeper will say, "Thank you!" The candidate should stop, say his/her name and number, leave the stage and return to his/her seat.
- No properties or costumes are allowed for acting/singing auditions. A chair may be used and will be provided.
- Audition order will be provided prior to convention, however audition numbers will not be assigned until the Mandatory Audition Briefing at **8:00 a.m. immediately preceding the auditions.** Be on time and ready to go!

THE AUDITION PROCESS

- Auditionees are to meet at a specified location on the campus of USC Aiken for a mandatory briefing at **8:00 a.m.**, for warm-up, final assignment of order and for last minute questions and clarifications. Technical auditionees should bring their models and portfolios to the audition area at this time to save time during the auditions.
- Auditionees will be divided into groups of 10. Each group will be taken into the audition room at the appropriate time. When signaled by the Timekeeper, the first person in the group will proceed to the stage; put the chair in position if necessary, state name and number, and present audition piece repeating name and number at the end.
- ***Each auditionee should wait briefly for a signal from the Timekeeper before beginning his/her audition.***
- Design, technical, and management auditionees will go immediately in turn to their materials and place them on the table provided. There will be someone to help you set up and strike your materials.
- After each group completes their audition, they will all move from the audition room and the next group will enter and begin their auditions.
- After all auditionees a Callback List will be posted for each school indicating the students they would like to meet with at their table.
- At the designated time, the High School Auditions will end. Any follow-up is the responsibility of the student and/or the college or university concerned.

SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER

- For your audition piece choose a character as near your age as possible and similar to yourself. Avoid unnecessary vulgarity. College professors are rarely shocked, but they can be turned off.
- Ease of accompaniment – be sure and think about an accompanist sight reading the music and make sure your music is clearly marked and on strong paper which can stand on its own.
- Memorize and rehearse your piece exactly as you intend to perform it.
- If you are making a technical or management presentation, do so as if you were preparing a speech. Rehearse it. Be organized and in control. Each audition is a "sales pitch." You and your skills are the product.
- Audition only in one priority area.
- Avoid sitting, kneeling or lying on the stage floor as these choices may present sightline problems for the auditors.
- If singing, please obtain assistance choosing that part of a song that shows your vocal strength. Many successful singers choose the end of a song or a climactic vocal passage. If you wish to demonstrate choreographic skill, do so while you sing.
- Dress to impress! Treat every audition like a job interview and dress accordingly.