

AUDITION INSTRUCTIONS

theater department admissions

An audition is required to be considered for admission to the Theater program at Cornish College of the Arts. The audition gauges your potential for success in the Theater Program.

when and where to audition

We offer auditions on campus and in several locations around the country. Applicants are encouraged to audition in person. For those who cannot, you can audition by videotape.

On-campus auditions are available January through July. Off-campus auditions are part of the Unified Theater Auditions in February. Locations include: New York City, Chicago, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

The complete on and off campus audition schedule is available from the Office of Admissions or online at <http://www.cornish.edu/admissions/>.

audition requirements

You will need to memorize two monologues from contemporary plays. Cornish will provide you with one of the monologues; the other monologue is your choice. The monologue you select should be a contemporary piece that is no more than two minutes in running length. Try to choose a monologue whose mood, style and intention offers an interesting contrast to the Cornish selection. It should have a strong objective that allows you to play actions that connect you with another character. Most importantly, it should be a piece that you enjoy performing.

Make sure you have gone over your monologues in front of other people. Read the plays from which they were chosen, so you understand what is at stake for your character.

You will also need to prepare 16 bars of a song (a verse and a chorus) to be sung unaccompanied. Try to choose a song that allows you to play an action and brings your focus out rather than inward. If you are not used to singing in front of people, don't worry. We are more concerned about how you deal with the size of emotion required to sing than whether you are a "good singer."

the day of your audition

Please bring a copy of your resume and a current photo (a Polaroid is fine). Dress comfortably in clothes that allow you freedom of movement.

The most important suggestion we can give you is: be prepared to PLAY. The audition will be a chance for us to see you use your imagination, to see how you give and receive from your fellow actors in a group and how you respond to suggestions. Jump in and play with fearlessness and joy. Have fun.

The audition will also include a physical warm-up, improvisations and theater games and an interview with faculty about your goals and interests. You may be asked to try different approaches to one of your monologues, for us to see how you respond to direction.

Applicants interested in the Performing Arts Emphasis must be prepared to discuss their reasons for this choice in their interview. This track requires a separate audition to assess vocal ability and range with the Music Department during Registration Week (the week before school starts).

auditioning by video or DVD

Because an in-person audition will give us a chance to actively work with you and better judge your skills, it is to your advantage to audition either at Cornish or at one of our designated out-of-state audition sites. However, if circumstances make an in-person audition difficult, you may submit an American format VHS tape or DVD. Please note that auditioning by mail does not fulfill the improvisational/ensemble aspect of the audition; therefore, applicants auditioning by videotape are admitted on a provisional basis only. Videotaped, auditions must be accompanied by two letters of recommendation by people familiar with your performance work. They can either accompany the videotape, or be sent separately to the Admissions Office. These letters should include phone numbers and, if possible, email addresses for your references. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with sufficient postage to assure return of your audition materials.

