

Minnesota Scholars of Distinction in Theater Arts Artistic Showcase Presentation Guidelines

Overview: The Artistic Showcase is part three of the Scholars of Distinction in Theater Arts process. Participation in the Artistic Showcase is by invitation of the Program Co-Directors, after the evaluators' review of the applicant's portfolio in early March. The Program Co-Directors will invite and schedule qualified candidates to present their materials at The Perpich Center for Arts Education on **either Monday, April 20, 4:00 - 9:00 pm, or Saturday, April 25, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, 2020. All applicants should mark these dates on their calendar to ensure they could present at one of the designated times, should they receive an invitation.**

The Artistic Showcase Presentation has three parts:

- 1) The performing or presenting of materials in your chosen area(s) of recognition
- 2) The submission of further research and support materials
- 3) An interview with the evaluator panel, made up of 3-5 theater education professionals

Mentor/Teacher Involvement: A mentor or teacher may help with the applicant with the preparation process, attend rehearsals (if applicable), and attend the applicant's showcase presentation at the Perpich Center. While the mentor/teacher's support and guidance is encouraged, the applicant's work should be their own, reflecting independent thought and self-motivation.

Awards: Following the Artistic Showcase Presentations, the evaluators and Program Co-Directors will review and assess the applicant's quality of theatrical achievement, and will determine if the applicant will receive an award. Students whose work shows high achievement in theater arts may receive a meritorious performance award. Students whose work exemplifies superior achievement in theater arts will attain the designation of Scholar of Distinction in Theater Arts. All students who submit the required work will receive verification of their participation in the Scholars of Distinction program, and all applicants will receive written feedback about their presentation.

All students receiving awards will be invited to attend the **Scholars of Distinction Awards Ceremony**, which will be held at the Perpich Center for Arts Education on **May 9, 2020 at 1:00 pm**. Students are encouraged to invite their families and teachers/directors who have supported them to attend the ceremony.

For any questions about this part of the process, or the program in general, please contact the Program Co-Directors with questions:

Gretchen Heath: 763-545-9629 or 612-840-7427 or gheath281@gmail.com

Stephanie Lein Walseth: 763-279-4181 or stephanie.walseth@pcae.k12.mn.us

Please see the following pages for details about requirements for each area of Theater Arts.



Artistic Showcase Presentation Guidelines for Specific Theatrical Areas

REQUIREMENTS FOR ACTING

1) The performing of materials - ACTING

Students will prepare an actor's showcase in which they perform:

- **Two contrasting monologues OR one monologue and one song**
 - **The two contrasting monologues** must each be one to two minutes long. By “contrasting” we mean one play written over 100 years ago (examples could include Shakespeare, Moliere, Chekhov, etc.), and one play written within the last 100 years (examples could include August Wilson, Tennessee Williams, Maria Irene Fornes, and other living playwrights). The monologues must be from published plays, not from screenplays, novels, poetry, or original student work.
 - **If actors wish to show expertise in musical theater**, they may present **one monologue** and **one song from a musical**. The two pieces should contrast in time period, genre, or character. Students may perform songs without accompaniment, with recorded accompaniment, or with their own accompanist. The Scholars program does not provide accompanists.
- **A two-person scene**
 - The scene must be 5-8 minutes long, and must be from a published play, not from screenplays, novels, poetry, or original student work. The second actor in the scene may or may not be applying for the Scholars of Distinction in Theater Arts.

2) The submission of further research and support materials - ACTING

Actors should submit a written journal describing their artistic vision as well as a written analysis of each character they've chosen to portray. They should include research materials concerning the historical, cultural, and ethical framework of the plays. The written work should be typed and double-spaced.

3) An interview with the evaluator panel - ACTING

As part of a follow-up interview, actors will be prepared to discuss their choices, the process they used to prepare the monologues and scenes, and the plays from which they selected their presentations. Actors may also be asked to reflect upon past and present theatrical and educational experiences as well as goals and aspirations for the future.

REQUIREMENTS FOR DIRECTING

1) The performing of materials – DIRECTING

Students will direct a **10-15 minute play or scene** from a published play or musical. They will also direct or coach an actor preparing a **monologue**. The scene and the monologue must each be from a full-length play, musical, or one act, and may not be from a screenplay, novel, short story, poetry, or original student work. The scene should have a minimum of two and no more than three actors.

2) The submission of further research and support materials - DIRECTING

Directors must submit a written journal of their artistic vision and an analysis of the play and monologue they've chosen. They should include research materials concerning the historical, cultural, and ethical framework of the material. They should include documentation of their process from play selection to auditions, rehearsals, and production. A personal evaluation of the final production should be submitted. All written work should be typed and double-spaced.

3) An interview with the evaluator panel - DIRECTING

Directors must be prepared to discuss the play and the monologue, their process and their directorial choices with evaluators. They must be able to articulate their artistic vision in terms of acting, blocking, and design elements. Directors may also be asked to reflect upon past and present theatrical and educational experiences as well as goals and aspirations for the future.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PLAYWRITING

1) The performing/presenting of materials – PLAYWRITING

- Students will **write a 10-15 minute two-person play** and also a **1-2 minute monologue or soliloquy**.
 - **The two-person play** should be submitted in written format by **April 9, 2020** to the project directors. The play must be original, reflect the voice of the playwright, and may not be a translation, adaptation, or screenplay. The script may be a one-act play or a scene from a larger work.
 - **The monologue or soliloquy** should stand alone with its own beginning, middle, and end. It must be original, reflect the voice of the playwright, and may not be a translation or adaptation. It may be an audition piece, the beginning of a one-person play, or a soliloquy meant to be a part of a larger work.
 - Both the monologue and the play should be written for the stage in standard format. The script must include a title, list of characters, dialogue and stage directions. Playwrights should also include a two-sentence play synopsis.
 - **During their artistic presentation, playwrights will present their monologue for evaluators.** They may perform the piece themselves or have another actor perform the piece.

2) The submission of further research and support materials - PLAYWRITING

On the day of their artistic presentation, playwrights must submit a journal with a description of their artistic vision and a discussion of the themes and content of the play and monologue they've written. They should discuss their inspiration for characters, and acknowledge sources and reference materials they've used. All written work should be typed and double-spaced.

3) An interview with the evaluator panel - PLAYWRITING

In the interview, they may be asked to discuss their playwriting process, artistic vision and goals, and the themes and content of the play and/or monologue with evaluators. Playwrights may also be asked to reflect upon past and present theatrical and educational experiences as well as goals and aspirations for the future.

REQUIREMENTS FOR DESIGN AND TECHNICAL THEATER

1) The presenting of materials – DESIGN/TECHNICAL

- **Students must submit a design in one primary field with no more than one supporting area.** The design fields are scenic design, costumes, lights, sound, and stage management. The design should be developed for a particular theater and for a specific play. Designers should reveal a clear understanding of the play they have chosen to design through written and visual journals, analyses, and interviews.
- **Scenic designers** will create and present a model of a set for a specific play. The model will be in color and will be presented in conjunction with rendering/sketches, floor plans, side and front elevations of the set. The model, floor plans and elevations will all be drawn to scale. A script analysis should show how the design reinforces the themes and ideas treated in the play.

- **Costume designers** will create and present a costume plot for specific characters in a specific play. The plot will include sketches, color renderings, and fabric swatches for each costume. There should be a script analysis that indicates character, period, class, status, and gender. The style and atmosphere of the play should be supported by the costume design.
- **Lighting designers** will prepare and present a fully marked script analysis and cue sheet. There should be documentation of performance requirements for lighting design in space: schematic layout, equipment list, acting areas, lighting positions. The design will include a detailed lighting plot to ½ inch scale and a ½ inch scale lighting section (side elevation, set masking, and lighting instruments). Instrument schedule including: channels, circuits, type of light, function and color. Color choices should be keyed off a color medium sample book.
- **Stage managers** will prepare and present detailed cue sheets or a prompt book, along with a marked script analysis. There should be documentation of performance requirements for a selected full-length production that the student has managed. Materials should include a sample of rehearsal schedules, cues, directorial notes where applicable, as well as any other examples that will delineate the stage manager's duties and responsibilities.
- **Sound designers** will prepare and present detailed cue sheets and marked script analysis. There should be documentation of performance requirements for sound design in space: schematic layout, equipment list, sound positions. There should be a sound cue schedule including cue number, aural or visual cue from play, equipment, type of sound, level, channels, and notes. The design will be submitted on tapes or compact discs. A student may integrate live on-stage sound with recorded sound and describe how these sounds were achieved.

2) The submission of further research and support materials - DESIGN/TECHNICAL

All designers and stage managers must submit research materials and documentation in journal form. These materials should include a written description of the student's artistic vision as well as an analysis of the play or characters. The research should be a coherently compiled collection of notes and research. It may include a visual journal including photos of source ideas and visual metaphors.

3) An interview with the evaluator panel - DESIGN/TECHNICAL

Students must be prepared to discuss their vision, their design process or stage management role, and choices in a follow-up interview. Designers and stage managers may also be asked to reflect upon past and present theatrical and educational experiences as well as goals and aspirations for the future.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE THEATER AWARD

1) The presenting of materials – COMPREHENSIVE

Students pursuing the comprehensive award will demonstrate participation, dedication, commitment, and diversity in TWO areas of theater arts, and will tailor their artistic showcase presentation to show expertise in both areas. The student may perform, direct, write a scene or monologue, and share knowledge of design and technical theater, utilizing the guidelines for each of these areas as listed above.

2) The submission of further research and support materials – COMPREHENSIVE

Comprehensive theater applicants should submit a written journal describing their artistic vision as well as a written analysis of the elements they've chosen to showcase, abiding by the guidelines listed in their two chosen areas as listed above. They should include research materials concerning the historical, cultural, and ethical aspects of their areas of expertise. The written work should be typed and double-spaced.

3) An interview with the evaluator panel - COMPREHENSIVE

As part of a follow-up interview with evaluators, applicants will be prepared to discuss their choices, the process they used to prepare the showcase, and plays from which they selected their presentations. Applicants may also be asked to reflect upon past and present theatrical and educational experiences as well as goals and aspirations for the future.