

Minnesota Scholars of Distinction in Theater Arts Portfolio Guidelines

Each applicant for this award must submit a portfolio demonstrating scholarly excellence and theatrical experience. The portfolio must be submitted in a bound notebook or 3-ring binder that is clearly organized, and that includes the student's photo and name on the cover. Do not submit loose pages or materials in a folder. **The portfolio is due February 21, 2020**, and must include all of the following items in the order listed:

1. A cover sheet including applicant information and a revised artist statement of 100-150 words

Applicants will include their name, school, grade, and the area(s) they are applying in at the top of the page.

Applicants will describe their artistic vision in the context of the theatrical area they intend to pursue for this award (acting, directing, playwriting, and/or design). The statement may be a personal reflection on the importance of this area of study in terms of the student's past experience, present studies, and future goals. The statement should be typed and double-spaced. This statement should be a revision from the version that the student submitted with their application, in light of the work they have completed for the portfolio.

2. An annotated K-12 resume

The resume should:

- reflect the experiences that have led the student to qualify as a scholar of distinction in theater arts.
- list educational experiences that have prepared the student for excellence in acting, directing, playwriting or design/technical theater. Examples might be coursework or training in theater, speech, music, humanities, creative writing, visual arts, technical arts, language arts, or dance.
- show theatrical experiences in school, community, religious, and/or professional theater.
- list theaters, productions, roles, and directors.
- document experiences in other arts areas that pertain to the theatrical area(s) the student is pursuing.
- follow a resume format and be typed.
- be annotated – i.e. include a few sentences with each entry that clarify how that particular role or experience contributed to the student's overall knowledge and personal growth as a theater scholar.
- (*If your K-12 resume is quite extensive, please select approximately 10-12 entries to annotate, highlighting the experiences that provided the greatest opportunities for personal growth.)

3. Work samples and support materials

Examples might be copies of programs, photos, writing samples, scripts or scenes written by the applicant, character sketches, production journals, renderings, set designs or other pertinent documentation. Video clips are not encouraged. Each example should include a brief description so evaluators understand its significance. (Submitted materials *might not be returned*, so student should keep the originals).

4. A 500-700 word review of a *live* performance of a play or musical production.

This review should be of a full-length play, not a contest one-act, and preferably a community or professional production. This should not be a review of a production in which the applicant participated. The performance being reviewed must have occurred within no more than a six-month time frame before the date of submission. The review should have a title other than the title of the play. It should focus upon the area of theater that the student intends to pursue. For example, directors should analyze directorial choices; actors should focus upon characterization; designers upon set, costumes, lighting, and or sound; playwrights

upon the script; and stage managers on the running of the production. Those applying in the Comprehensive category should address one of their two areas of focus. Discuss any particularly arresting choices made by the artists and how these choices relate to the overall production. You may also discuss issues of genre, style, mood, and the central themes/ideas that were emphasized in the production. Reviews should be typed and double-spaced.

5. **A 500-700 word script analysis**

The analysis should address a full-length published, non-musical, classic or contemporary play that explores the theme of *resilience*; and is *reflective of your life experience*, identity, or heritage in some way. This connection may be related to race/ethnicity, gender, socio-economics, age, dis/ability, geography, or another factor that is of importance to you. (*Returning applicants must select a new play to analyze.)

Analyze the play with an emphasis on the area of theater you intend to pursue (acting, directing, playwriting, design/technical), and address how it speaks to your experience. If you are applying in two areas (comprehensive), address the area of focus you did not cover in your production review. If you use secondary sources, please document your research following MLA guidelines. The analysis should have a title other than the title of the play and must be typed and double-spaced.

The script analysis must include the following components:

- WHO was the play was written by, for, and about; WHEN and WHERE it was written and set?
- WHAT predominant themes are raised and how are they are revealed through action?
- WHY: Speculate on the artist's intent. What social issues were they grappling with, and what messages were they attempting to communicate? What did they want the audience to do?
- HOW does the play speak to your life experience? Why did you select it? How does the form and/or content of the play resonate with you?
- AREA SPECIFIC: What choices might you make as an actor, director, designer, stage manager if staging/performing this play? If you are applying in playwriting, how does this work influence your artistic voice and vision?

The two Letters of Recommendation and the Statement of Academic Qualification may be sent directly to the Project Co-Directors, or included in the portfolio, but are also due by February 21, 2020.

6. **Two letters of reference/recommendation**

A form is available online for those writing recommendations.

7. **Statement of Academic Qualification**

This form is also available online.

The completed portfolio should be postmarked by February 21, 2020 and submitted to:

Scholars of Distinction in Theater Arts

Suzanne Bursh

Perpich Center for Arts Education

6125 Olson Memorial Hwy

Golden Valley, MN 55422

Please contact the Program Co-Directors for clarification or answers to questions:

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