

## THE 2024-2025 ADMISSION PROCESS for the SRU BFA ACTING: MUSICAL THEATRE PROGRAM

To be accepted and enroll in the BFA Acting (Musical Theatre Concentration), students must:

- be admitted to Slippery Rock University – that process can be completed at: <https://admission.sru.edu/apply/>. Students are not required to be accepted before auditioning but are highly encouraged to apply by December 1, 2024. As an institution that uses rolling admission, there is no deadline to apply but students who want to be considered for all SRU scholarships, must apply by December 1 and should audition as early as possible;
- successfully pass both phases (prescreens and callbacks) of the audition process.

A NOTE ABOUT DANCE: Currently, we do not require dance auditions for either phase. We work very closely with our nationally-ranked Dance Department to accept students no matter what their dance experience is. Students are encouraged to submit dance videos to support their applications but are not required to do so. The Departments of Theatre and Dance are committed to providing a path through the Theatre BFA programs for any student, regardless of their level of dance training.

### **PHASE 1 - The Audition Prescreen Process – ACCEPTD and Unified Auditions**

Students must successfully pass the Phase 1 Prescreen process to receive an invitation to our callback auditions. Invitations to Phase 2 Callbacks will be sent directly to students via email following the assessment of their prescreen materials. Students can submit their prescreen audition videos through the [ACCEPTD](#) website or participate via one of the unified audition processes we will attend this year. Please reach out to [BFATheatre@sru.edu](mailto:BFATheatre@sru.edu) for a current list of the unified events we are attending.

ACCEPTD Prescreen submissions are reviewed on a rolling basis as they are received. Students are encouraged to apply early for full consideration of all callback dates and scholarships. The final deadline to submit via ACCEPTD is February 16, 2025. If you are interested in being considered after this date, you must email [BFATheatre@sru.edu](mailto:BFATheatre@sru.edu) to check if there are still slots available.

### **PHASE 2 - The Callback Process**

Applicants who successfully pass the Phase 1 prescreen audition will be invited to complete Phase 2 at either an in-person, on-campus callback audition OR at Chicago Unified Auditions.

The On-Campus Callback Audition will consist of an audition, personal interview, tour of the facilities, forum discussion with current students, tickets to a mainstage production or rehearsal, and several workshops with the Theatre Department faculty. The audition will allow the applicant to explore their prescreen audition materials while incorporating feedback from faculty members.

**Callback Auditions are by invitation only.**

On-Campus Callback Auditions will take place on:

- **Friday, November 22nd, 2024**
- **Monday, February 17th, 2025**
- **Friday, February 28, 2025**

A detailed itinerary for on-campus callback auditions will be shared at a later date with invited applicants, but students should plan to be on campus for a majority of the day. Typical callback events run from around 9am to 10pm, if the student wishes to participate in all available events.

The Chicago Unified Callbacks will take place on:

- **February 3-6th, 2025** (check with us to verify which specific dates we will be in attendance)

Our Chicago Unified Callback Auditions will consist of an audition, personal interview, and information session. We have strictly limited availability for this callback. Email [BFATheatre@sru.edu](mailto:BFATheatre@sru.edu)

for more information and specifics about available dates.

Applicants who are invited to a callback but are unable to attend any of these in-person Callback Audition dates, should let us know as soon as possible so we can attempt to make alternative arrangements.

Students who successfully complete Phase 2 callbacks are accepted into the BFA program.

### **Additional Information:**

We encourage students to learn more about us at:

- Slippery Rock University: [www.sru.edu](http://www.sru.edu)
- SRU Theatre Department: [www.sru.edu/theatre](http://www.sru.edu/theatre)
- SRU Theatre Instagram: @SRUTheatre
- SRU Theatre Tiktok: @SRUTheatre
- SRU Dance Department: [www.sru.edu/dance](http://www.sru.edu/dance)
- SRU Admissions Information: [www.sru.edu/admissions](http://www.sru.edu/admissions)

Questions can be directed to [BFATheatre@sru.edu](mailto:BFATheatre@sru.edu)

## **BFA ACTING: MUSICAL THEATRE AUDITION GUIDELINES**

Through the [ACCEPTD](#) website, students may choose to audition for our BFA Musical Theatre Concentration, our BFA Acting Concentration, or both at the same time. If choosing both programs, be sure to submit the combined audition materials that are required for both and indicate your interest in being considered for both on your [ACCEPTD](#) application. Information regarding the BFA Acting Concentration can be found in the Acting Audition Schedule and Guidelines document available on ACCEPTD. Spaces in both programs are competitive so we recommend that students audition early.

All materials will be collected via the [ACCEPTD](#) platform or received via unified events.

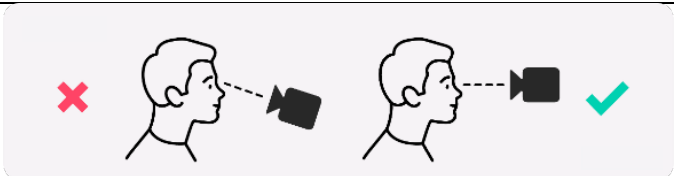

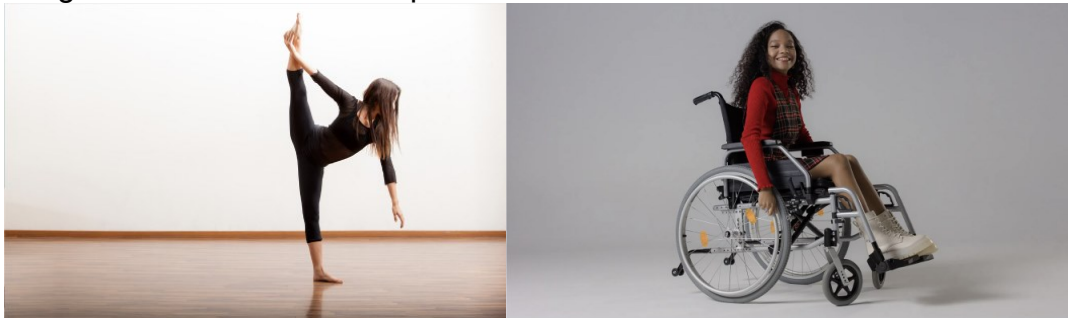
**Do not email audition materials.**

**In order to streamline the audition process for students, SRU is using the Musical Theatre Common Prescreen for all Musical Theatre applicants.**

### **All applicants are required to upload a headshot and resume.**

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION AND TIPS**

- Each piece should be filmed/uploaded as a separate piece of media. No continuous videos.
- Students are encouraged to use standard technology/recording devices available to them (i.e. smartphones, tablets, etc.)
- Solid-colored walls are ideal, but any background that does not steal the focus from your performance is desired.
- Take care that your space allows for adequate lighting. Having a lamp or window directly behind you will cast a shadow over your face. Keep the lighting source behind your recording device or to the side of you so that your face is lit.
- When using pre-recorded music, place the music source (the speaker) closer to you than it is to the device on which you are recording. By having the accompaniment near you, your voice and music will reach the microphone on your device in a more balanced manner.
- Before filming, do a trial run to test both your audio & visual presentation. Watch your video back to ensure everything looks AND sounds okay.
- Ensure the camera portion of your device is at eye level (see example). You can use a tripod built for a smartphone or tablet. If you do not have a tripod, consider using a stack of books on a desk or box. Filming in "landscape" (horizontally) is recommended.

	
<b>PRESCREEN INTRODUCTION "SLATE" VIDEO</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Record one introduction "slate" video stating your name. If you would like to include your pronouns, state them as well. Please speak loudly (project your voice) and clearly (articulate) directly at the camera. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is an opportunity for the auditors to get a sense of your personality and to learn the pronunciation of your name.</li> </ul> </li> <li>There is no need to slate your individual performance videos &amp; pieces. Instead, clearly label each video with your name and the title of the piece you are performing (see more details below).</li> </ul>
<b>LABELING GUIDELINES FOR ALL VIDEOS</b>	<p>Label each video file with the piece you are performing, the show or playwright, and your first &amp; last name.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Title of Song – Musical/Show – Your First &amp; Last Name</li> <li>Title of Play – Playwright – Your First &amp; Last Name</li> </ul> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Slate – James Smith</li> <li>Your Daddy's Son – Ragtime – Minnie Mouse</li> <li>Much Ado About Nothing – William Shakespeare – Luke Skywalker</li> </ul>
<b>TIME GUIDELINES FOR ALL PERFORMANCE VIDEOS</b>	<p>All song, monologue, dance, ballet, and wild card videos are recommended to be between 60-90 seconds each.</p>
<b>FRAMING FOR ALL PERFORMANCE VIDEOS</b>	<p>Camera framing is simply the placement and position of the actor in the shot. We recommend a waist up frame so we can see your face and hear you clearly.</p> 
<b>FRAMING FOR DANCE AND BALLET</b>	<p>We recommend a setup that allows us to see the top of your head to the floor. This allows us to see how you inhabit space. Framing for Dance and Ballet Tip:</p>  <p>If it is helpful for you to see yourself, place a full-length mirror behind the filming device and remember that the camera is your audience.</p>

<p><b>SONG REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <p>(REQUIRED for all Musical Theatre applicants)</p>	<p><b>Students may choose whichever of the following song options serves them best:</b></p> <p><b>OPTION A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One song written before 1970 (musical theater, Golden Age, pop, hip-hop, folk, rock, rap, soul, country, punk, etc.).</li> <li>• One song written after 1970 (musical theater, pop, hip-hop, folk, rock, rap, soul, country, punk, etc.). This song should contrast the style of the first selection.</li> </ul> <p><b>OR OPTION B</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One musical theater song from any time period.</li> <li>• One song of your choice from any time period and in any style that best suits you (musical theater, pop, hip-hop, folk, rock, rap, soul, country, punk, etc.). This song should contrast the style of the first selection.</li> </ul> <p><b>Song Tips:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some examples of contrasting songs are fast tempo vs slow tempo, sustained melodic singing vs speech-like singing, dramatic vs comedic, belt vs head/falsetto mix.</li> <li>• Many accompaniment tracks are available on YouTube and other websites. If you do not have a way to work with a live accompanist or don't have access to a recorded track of your music, consider using an app that will play the piano part for you. Harmony Helper is one such app that allows you to take photos of your sheet music, upload them to the app and then generate a piano track that you can use.</li> </ul>
<p><b>MONOLOGUE REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <p>(REQUIRED for all applicants)</p>	<p><b>Students must submit:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One contemporary monologue (typically written after 1950) from a published play or written by a professional writer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A professional writer is someone whose plays have been produced, but may not have been professionally published.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One classical monologue (typically written before 1950) from a published play or written by a professional writer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Classical monologues should have heightened language. Heightened language may include works by Shakespeare, Molière, Christopher Marlowe, Thomas Middleton, Thomas Kyd, Aristophanes, August Wilson, Tony Kushner, Suzan-Lori Parks, Mike Bartlett, George the Poet, Andrea Gibson, or contemporary adaptations of classical plays that still utilize heightened language.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Monologue Tips:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is recommended to choose monologues that are age-appropriate (generally within 5-10 years of your actual age) and that feel authentic to your culture, background, and lived experience.</li> <li>• Active monologues are often better for auditions; an active monologue takes place in real time and focuses on what you want and puts you in direct communication with an imaginary scene partner. This is often more successful in an audition situation than pieces that are a story or remembrance. Additionally, it can be helpful to avoid monologues that rely on extreme emotions as it can be hard to believably justify those responses in a short piece.</li> </ul>

<p><b>DANCE</b> (OPTIONAL for all applicants)</p>	<p><b>NO Dance or Ballet required.</b></p> <p>While dance prescreen auditions are not required for SRU, students who wish to be considered for the Dance Minor in our NASD-accredited and nationally-ranked Dance Department are highly encouraged to submit the OPTIONAL Dance/Ballet prescreen videos. Students can learn more about the SRU Dance Department on their <a href="#">WEBSITE</a>.</p> <p>If you decide to upload OPTIONAL dance videos, please keep the following in mind:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Show us your best version of dancing or moving. Please include at least one turn, one jump and one kick (or other suitable rotation, elevation, and extension that works for your body).</li> <li>• Show us your best version of ballet. Please include a brief series of pli��, tendu, and grande battement, a pirouette en d��hors (to both sides), and one or more grand jet�� across the floor.</li> </ul> <p><b>Dance Tips:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make sure you can execute all the choreography well. It is to your advantage to choose steps and movement that highlight your strengths instead of your weaknesses.</li> <li>• You may use recent videos of you from a show or concert, but it must just be you in the frame.</li> <li>• Dance sample should be in whatever dance discipline you feel most confident. This may include, but is not limited to jazz, ballet, tap, modern, hip hop, lyrical, contemporary, or dance styles beyond American and Euro-western styles.</li> <li>• Dance media can be “self-choreographed”, but it must be a solo video of you. This can include a show, competition, or other performance so long as you are clearly featured on your own.</li> <li>• Please use steps, movement, and physical vocabulary that you are familiar with and can execute well. Fully move your body to the best of your ability.</li> <li>• To assist applicants with the dance prescreen, several institutions provided the following resource videos for applicants who do not have access to a choreographed combo for the prescreen process. You may submit this choreography (or a combination of it) to any of the schools you are applying to that ask for a dance prescreen. This list will be updated as more institutions share resources, so be sure to check back. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Abilene Christian University Dance Combo Resource</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Emerson College Dance Combo Resource</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Nazareth University Dance Combo Resource</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Texas State University Dance Combo Resource</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>OPTIONAL WILD CARD VIDEO</b> (OPTIONAL for all Musical Theatre applicants)</p>	<p>Think about the wild card section as an opportunity to show your personality or share something about you. This media can be ANYTHING you want - a special skill, an interesting story about yourself, a passion speech, an instrument you play, etc. “What do you want us to know about you?” Below is a list of ideas that have been successful in the past:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Singing a pop song</li> <li>• Singing or playing an original composition/song/poem or choreographed dance.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performing your own Saturday Night Live-styled skit where you create a comedic character</li> <li>• Sharing a hobby or activity that means something to you</li> <li>• Performing in a language other than English in which you are fluent</li> <li>• Playing an instrument</li> <li>• Making a “how-to” video on something you are good at, baking, calligraphy, gymnastics.</li> <li>• If you are a dancer and want to show us a different style you excel in: Tap, Hip Hop, Lyrical, Ballet, etc.</li> </ul>
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