

Musical Theatre Audition and Interview Guidelines

UAL Level 3 Extended Diploma in Performing Arts September 2024 entry

Thank you for applying to join our Musical Theatre course for September 2024. We understand that you may be as nervous as you are excited and want to make sure that you feel that you are able to present yourself and your work to the best of your ability. These guidelines are intended to help you prepare effectively, give you some information about what to expect on the day, and explain what happens next in the application process. Please read through them carefully, and do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions that aren't answered here.

We want to make sure that our applications process is accessible to everyone and will make reasonable adjustments if you have a disability or particular requirement. If you have any questions about this, please contact Julie Humphreys at admissions@lipasixthformcollege.org or call us on 0151 330 3232. This information can be made available in other formats – please let us know about any specific needs you have.

Any questions?

We wish you the best of luck and hope you enjoy your day with us. In the meantime, if you need any further information about any aspect of the audition and interview process, please contact Julie Humphreys at admissions@lipasixthformcollege.org or call us on 0151 330 3232.

Overview

Your audition and interview are intended to enable you to present yourself and your work in the best possible way. We understand how much you care about your work and how nerves inevitably play a part on such occasions, so we encourage you to view the day as a learning opportunity in its own right, both with the panel and with fellow candidates. Regardless of the outcome, there is much you can learn about yourself and your work from a day like this. The audition and interview schedule for Musical Theatre is as follows:

Arrival and registration

Group vocal warm up

Session A

Acting audition/Singing audition/Interview

During this time, you will present your prepared audition pieces and have a short interview. You will present your audition piece individually before a small panel, followed by an individual interview to allow for the panel to ask further questions. Each candidate will have 10 minutes in total. You can use the rest of the time productively in meeting other candidates and sharing experiences of performing arts and performances.

Session B

Group workshop: dance

This dance workshop will give you an idea of how it would feel to be in class as part of LIPA Sixth Form College should you be offered a place with us, and allows us to assess how you engage with the collaborative learning process. There is no need to prepare for this, but please make sure you engage with the activities fully and wear appropriate clothing.

**Important. The Dance workshop is a crucial part of the Musical Theatre assessment and all M.T applicants must participate. If you are unfit to participate in the dance group workshop you must not accept your audition/interview date. Please contact Julie and a 2nd audition/interview maybe arranged at a later date.*

**Please note, second auditions/interviews are held after the first round have taken place and there may be less students at these sessions than in the first.*

Your audition

You are asked to perform a song from a musical in character. 1 – 1 min 30 seconds maximum so think about where to start your piece. Please bring a pre-recorded backing track and/or playback device (if you are using an iPhone 7 or later, you will need to bring a connector, as we don't have any in college). You will need to provide sheet music at your audition or if this is not possible 2 copies of lyrics for the panel. Your song should be performed from memory.

You will also perform a 1 minute monologue from a contemporary play. This should be something that shows off your acting and storytelling ability. Please avoid "Our Sammy" from Blood Brothers.

Remember, preparation is everything for auditions and is the best help against inevitable nervousness. Also, remember that we are not looking for finished performing skill, but your ability to express yourself in your work.

Tips to help you prepare for your audition

- Consider the style of song/monologue that will allow you to demonstrate both your existing skill and your potential - a style you feel comfortable with, yet which excites you and which you feel enables you to speak to your audience will help you perform to the best of your ability.
- Choose a song/monologue that you find exciting, challenging, and engaging.
- Don't try to copy a particular performer or their style of delivery - use your own style, your own imagination, and your own emotions to find your own, unique way of delivering the song/monologue. A friend or teacher can let you know if you are conveying what you want to in a way that is true to yourself.
- Flesh your character out - give him/her/them real emotions, motivations, and a backstory to make your performance more compelling.
- Think about your character and how his/her/their story develops from the beginning to the middle and the middle to the end of your song.
- If you can, practice performing to a friend or teacher, who will be able to give you useful feedback.

Your interview

Your interview will have three questions as follows:

Question 1 refers to your audition piece:

- Why did you choose these pieces to present?
- How did you go about working on them?
- How do you think it went today and what can you learn from it?

Question 2 - What's your ambition?

Question 3 - How will coming to LIPA Sixth Form College help you to achieve this?

We have provided these questions so that you have time to think about what you want to say in advance. We want you to have the opportunity to speak honestly about yourself and your work.

Tips to help you prepare for your interview

Make some notes about each of the questions to help you shape your thoughts and responses – by doing this over a period of time, you may find that new ideas occur to you and that you can add to your possible answers the more you think about them.

- As with your application form, think about what makes you different – you may have wanted to be a performer since you were a small child, but what makes you stand out from everyone else? Why would studying at LIPA Sixth Form College - rather than elsewhere - set you on the path to achieving your dream? What are you looking for by applying to us, and how do you think we can help you?
- What can you bring to your studies, and to us as a college, if you were offered a place? Think about all the different ways in which you could make the most of the opportunity – not just in the theatre space, but outside.
- Practice answering the questions in front of a mirror, or with a friend or teacher who you can trust to give you honest, useful feedback. The more you practice what you want to say, the easier it will be to speak naturally and with confidence on the day itself.
- Look again at the information you put on your application form, and make sure you can talk about it if asked to - being able to talk confidently about things you've done or seen will help you to be more natural and 'yourself' in an interview.
- Above all, relax and enjoy the experience – we want to know about you, and only you can tell us that.

What to wear

Please attend the audition wearing clothing and footwear that is comfortable for the dance workshop element of the audition (leotard, tights, leggings, t-shirt, jazz shoes, or trainers etc.)

What to bring

If you are performing with a backing track (on a suitable playback device or USB), if using an iPhone 7 or later, you will need to bring a connector, as we don't have any in college. Please bring a copy of the monologue with you for the audition panel.

What happens next?

The panel will consider all four elements of your application together - your auditions, your interview, and the information on your application form (including your predicted GCSE grades). They will reach a decision regarding your application collectively.

You will receive an email from us at the end of March/ beginning of April 2024 which will state the outcome of your audition and interview.