

## Student Auditions for Theater Emory (TE) productions

### 🔗 Frequently Asked Questions 🔗

(updated 8-17-11)

- 🔗 **Where can general information about Theater at Emory be found?**
  - ☑ Some informational brochures and other handouts about Theater Studies are available on the second floor of the Rich Building. See also the Theater at Emory Web site [www.theater.emory.edu](http://www.theater.emory.edu) for information about Theater Studies, Theater Emory, and the student-run theater organizations at Emory.
  
- 🔗 **Is it required to audition to major or minor in Theater Studies?**
  - ☑ No. An audition is not required to major or minor. For more information see [www.theater.emory.edu/Theater-Studies/major-minor.php](http://www.theater.emory.edu/Theater-Studies/major-minor.php)
  
- 🔗 **Do you need to be a Theater Studies major or minor to audition for TE productions?**
  - ☑ No. Any student may audition. Non-majors have been cast in a range of roles (including principals) in past productions.
  
- 🔗 **What is the involvement of professional artists in Theater Emory productions?**
  - ☑ Theater Emory is the producing affiliate of Theater Studies within the Department of Theater and Dance, and a professional theater operating under an agreement with Actors' Equity Association, the union for professional stage actors and stage managers. We involve professional artists in our productions, some of who include resident and guest faculty and staff. Some TE productions feature professional actors in numbers usually amounting to one fourth or less of the available roles. Other productions feature student actors only. For more information see [www.theater.emory.edu/Theater-Emory/about-us.php](http://www.theater.emory.edu/Theater-Emory/about-us.php)
  
- 🔗 **When and where are student auditions held?**
  - ☑ One combined audition for fall semester productions is usually held on the first weekend following the start of fall classes. One combined audition for spring semester productions is usually held on the weekend just before final exams at the end of fall semester. Auditions take place in the Theater Studies classrooms on the second floor of the Rich Building.
  
- 🔗 **Are scripts available in advance?**
  - ☑ Perusal scripts are usually made available a few weeks prior to auditions in the Theater student lounge (room 229) on the second floor of the Rich Building. These scripts may not be removed from room 229. Scripts in pdf form may also be available in advance. Audition notices will provide further information about accessing scripts in pdf form.

## ➤ How can I receive advance notice about upcoming auditions and other events?

- ☑ Sign up for the Theater Interest Email List by contacting Scott Wile, TE Program Administrative Assistant, at [scott.a.wile@emory.edu](mailto:scott.a.wile@emory.edu) and request to be added to the list. You receive audition notices in addition to information about other Theater at Emory events via email. You are also encouraged to attend the annual Theater at Emory Information Meeting that takes place at 5PM on the first Thursday after classes begin every fall semester in the Mary Gray Munroe Theater in the Dobbs University Center. Attendees are treated to information about classes, events, productions, opportunities for involvement, and the people who make it all happen in Theater Studies, in Theater Emory, and in our student-run theater organizations.

## ➤ Where can information about auditions for specific productions be found?

- ☑ Audition notices provide some specifics but will also steer actors to the Theater Emory callboard in the hall outside Rich 207. Audition appointment sign-up sheet, plus details about the productions including project descriptions, roles available, preparation required, etc are posted on the callboard. If provided, hard copies of any additional materials such as audition speeches or songs will be found in this same general location outside Rich 207. Information posted on the callboard will be duplicated on Learnlink (<http://it.emory.edu/showdoc.cfm?docid=722>) in the Theater Emory conference: Public Conferences → Arts at Emory → Theater Emory → TE Auditions.

## ➤ How are auditions and callbacks structured and scheduled?

- ☑ There is usually a day of auditions followed by a day of callbacks. Actors sign up for 8-10 open audition spots within an appointment time of 60-75 minutes. The group of 8-10 is required for the entire 60-75 minutes. A list of actors needed for callbacks appointments is posted the same evening after auditions end. Callbacks often require a lot of time due to the multiple productions being cast. Before auditioning actors are asked to free up a 5-6 hour time slot (specified in advance) on the day of callbacks. It's rare for a called-back actor to be required the entire time and it's possible to work around some conflicts on the day of callbacks. If an actor cannot attend on either the auditions day or the callbacks day it may still be possible to be considered for casting but TE must be notified about this situation in advance.

## ➤ What can I expect at the audition and/or callback?

- ☑ See specific audition notices and related information for more precise detail. A common pattern for auditions is that the entire group of actors enters the room for introductions and a group exercise/improvisation lasting around 10 minutes. This is often followed by actors presenting prepared material individually, such as a speech and/or song, etc. The audition ends with the entire group in the room to address any questions and for parting remarks. Callbacks are tailored to the specific production and to the role(s) for which the actor is being considered. Callbacks can entail reading scenes or monologues from the script or engaging in group exercises or improvisations or demonstrating any skills (singing, dance, juggling, playing an instrument, etc) as required for the production.

➤ **Is there an audition form to fill out?**

- ☑ Yes. A form is provided at the same time the auditions sign-up sheet is posted, usually 3-4 days before the audition. The form must be completed PRIOR to your audition time. The form asks for standard information about the actor such as contact info, your year and major, etc, plus any Theater Studies classes you may have taken, theater or other related experience, special skills, etc. Actors are asked to make note of any obligations on weekends and weekday evenings that may conflict with rehearsals. Actors may name roles that particularly interest them. TE usually holds auditions for multiple productions. The form asks for which of these productions you are auditioning. Think carefully if you wish to be considered for all of the productions or only for a specific production or productions. Use numbers to indicate a priority of interest by listing a number 1 show and a number 2 show for example. Or you can indicate equal interest in multiple productions by giving them the same number. Directors pay close attention to these indicators so as to avoid casting someone for a production in which the actor is not interested and/or available.

➤ **Are a resume and/or picture required?**

- ☑ No. We ask you to list experience on the back of the form. If you have a lot to write it may save time to create a simple resume and we will be happy to add this to the form. Pictures are not necessary but we will accept them if you wish to provide one.

➤ **What clothing is appropriate for auditions/callbacks?**

- ☑ Clothing or footwear for dance or other specific needs for the audition will be specified but here are some general guidelines (and things to avoid):
  - No flip-flops, platform shoes, or boots. No hats or caps. Wear hair back from face.
  - Be able to move freely and comfortably standing or on the floor.
  - Don't wear clothing that distracts people from looking at the person (i.e. bold graphics or words or other distractions).
  - Don't wear clothing that requires constant adjustment during physical exercises (i.e. pulling up your jeans, pulling down your shirt, etc). It disrupts the actor's focus on the task at hand and is distracting to observers.

➤ **What is the time commitment for acting in a TE production?**

- ☑ See specific audition notices/material for more detail about this. Generally rehearsals take place during the hours of 6-11pm on Tuesday – Friday, and during the hours of 11am-7pm on Saturday – Sunday. (Mondays are the typical day off.) Any one actor does not attend all of these hours. No individual student actor may rehearse more than 30 hours per week, prior to tech week. The time commitment is generally commensurate with the role (i.e. the more onstage time your character has, the more you will be required to rehearse). If your character never leaves the stage you will likely rehearse 30 hours a week, but it is unusual for TE to produce such plays. Usually actors appear in a number of scenes and are only called to

rehearsal when those scenes are being worked, plus those times that require the entire acting company such as a read-through, run-through, dress rehearsal, etc.

➤ **Can I be involved in productions other than as an actor?**

- Yes. TE involves students in non-acting capacities such as set/costume construction, props, lights/sound technician, stage management, front-of-house, marketing, and others. Often these activities are tied to enrollment in specific Theater Studies courses but it is also possible to volunteer or to receive credit under a wide-ranging course like THEA 200R Theater Practicum. TE hires many students in work/study positions to work in these areas and as general office help. If you are auditioning you can indicate your additional interest in non-acting areas on the audition form. Otherwise contact TE Technical Director Scott Little ([selittl@emory.edu](mailto:selittl@emory.edu)) to pursue these opportunities for involvement.

➤ **I have other general questions about auditions. Who do I contact?**

- Feel free to contact Robert Schultz, TE Production Stage Manager and Casting Coordinator at [rschult@emory.edu](mailto:rschult@emory.edu).