

Student Auditions for Theater Emory (TE) productions

☞ Frequently Asked Questions ☞

(updated 8-14-19)

☞ **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 web site <http://theaterstudies.emory.edu> for information about Theater Studies, with links to 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. See above web site for info.

☞ **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.

☞ **May graduate students audition?**

- ☑ Yes. Any enrolled Emory student may audition, but undergraduate majors and students currently enrolled in theater classes would be given priority in this situation. TE opportunities include full productions, staged readings and opportunities to read new plays in the playwriting classes. By auditioning, any student makes their presence on campus and their interest in theater known and we may be able to call them in to work with Theater Emory should projects arise.

☞ **May Emory at Oxford students audition?**

- ☑ Second year students at Oxford may audition for TE but we encourage you first and foremost to take full advantage of the excellent productions and other opportunities provided by the Theater program at Oxford. Theater is always time consuming, but even more so if you factor in the commute between the two campuses – so consider carefully before seeking involvement in TE offerings. Full productions are a substantial commitment: TE rehearses six days a week, though actors may not be called all the time. See below about the time commitment for acting in a TE show.

☞ **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, including resident and guest faculty and staff. Some TE productions involve a few professional actors, others a substantial number. Occasionally productions feature student actors only or professional actors only. For more information see <http://theater.emory.edu/home/about/index.html>

➤ **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 Theater Studies classrooms on the second floor of the Rich Building.

➤ **Are scripts available in advance?**

- ☑ Perusal scripts are usually made available 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. There is an Emory Box site called “Theater Emory Student Auditions” (referenced below) where perusal scripts may be found.

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

- ☑ Sign up for the Theater Interest Email List by contacting Lizzy Clements at Theater Studies, edcleme@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 on the first Thursday after classes begin every fall semester. The location and time for the meeting is announced on the Student Auditions webpage at <http://theater.emory.edu/home/get-involved/student-auditions/index.html>. 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. An audition appointment sign-up sheet is posted on the callboard, plus details about the productions including project descriptions, roles available, preparation required, etc. 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 usually be duplicated in the Emory Box folder “Theater Emory Student Auditions” <https://emory.account.box.com/login>. To access the Box folder, email Robert Schultz, robert.schultz@emory.edu and ask to be enrolled, providing your Emory email address.

☞ **How are auditions and callbacks structured and scheduled?**

- ☑ The day of auditions is usually followed by a day of callbacks. Group auditions are common but we sometimes audition students singly. For group auditions, actors sign up for open spots within an appointment time of 60-75 minutes. The group 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 can be lengthy due to the multiple productions being cast, therefore auditioning actors are asked to free up a 4-5 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 postings for more information. Usually during group auditions the entire group enters the room for introductions, sometimes followed by a group exercise/improvisation. This is often followed by the presentation of prepared material by individual actors, 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.) required for the production.

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

- ☑ Yes. No later than when the sign-up sheet is posted, a form is provided. The form must be completed PRIOR to your audition time. The form asks for standard information such as contact info, year and major, etc, plus any Theater Studies classes taken, theater or other related experience, special skills, etc. (Related experience could include creating original theater projects, film/video creation, dance, sketch/improv comedy, performance art...etc.) Actors note obligations on weekends and weekday evenings that may conflict with rehearsals/performances. 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 since you may be considered for all of the productions or only for a specific production or productions. Actors may indicate a priority of interest or indicate equal interest in multiple productions. We wish to avoid casting someone for a production in which the actor is not interested and/or available.

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

- ☑ We'd like a resume if you have one. Or you can list experience on the back of the form. (Previous theater experience is not required to audition.) We ask that you provide a hard copy of a picture. It need not be a professional "headshot" – just something that helps us remember you at the end of the day.

➤ **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 – but other days may be designated as the one day off per week.) 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. However, some shows are considered “ensemble productions”, where all the actors are onstage all or most of the time. This kind of show requires an increased time commitment – but still observes the 30 hours max per week rule.

➤ **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 Managing Director Rosalind Staib (rstaib@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 robert.schultz@emory.edu.