

Audition Information and Entry Criteria

Musical Theatre

Arts Educational Schools London (ArtsEd) follows the Code of Practice for Auditions prepared by the Council for Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre (CDMT).

Precept 1: ArtsEd undertakes to consider all applications

- All candidates will be offered an audition, provided they meet the following criteria:
 - All candidates must complete an online application form and upload a written statement, a photograph, and payment of the required audition fee.
 - The candidate must meet the age requirements of their course at the start of their first year of study.
 - Applications must be received by the deadline; this is usually the end of February for a September intake, although this may be later for some courses.
- Candidates are invited to disclose any access or learning requirements on their application form, so that any reasonable adjustments to the audition or interview process can be made.
- In order to ensure that ArtsEd can offer as much support as possible, candidates are invited to disclose any long term health issues on their application form so that these may be discussed at the interview stage of the audition.
- ArtsEd does not discriminate on grounds of age, background, race, colour, disability, family circumstances, gender, nationality, political beliefs or party membership, religion, sexual orientation, trade union membership or on any other grounds deemed to be irrelevant to participation in the course.

- ArtsEd is committed to providing access to our courses to as wide a range of ethnic and social groups as possible. Auditions take place at ArtsEd from November to April, and our Outreach teams work with youth groups around the country to encourage talented candidates from under-represented groups to apply for auditions. Free auditions may be offered to candidates who would otherwise be unable to attend.
- ArtsEd offers Foundation Courses for young people interested in preparing for a full-time training course in musical theatre. Foundation students are offered a free audition for full-time Musical Theatre course.

Precept 2: ArtsEd undertakes to provide candidates with the necessary information before and at the selection process

Before the audition

- All applications are made on line. Candidates have a choice of three audition dates, giving students at least four weeks to prepare. ArtsEd guarantees to confirm the audition date within one week, although confirmations are usually sent within 48 hours. Candidates will be sent an email to confirm their audition date and time. This email provides candidates with a link to the applications portal on our website.

The portal provides candidates with the following information:

- audition requirements
 - texts candidates need to prepare
 - details of the audition day
 - directions to ArtsEd
- Audition requirements:
 - ~ candidates must prepare the following:
 - two musical theatre songs in full. One should be a ballad written no later than 1965 (e.g. 'If I Loved You' from *Carousel*), and the other should provide a contrast.
 - a monologue chosen from a shortlist of eight given to candidates (as above)
 - candidates must be prepared to take part in a jazz workshop on the audition day
 - We do our best to accommodate students' wishes if they need to change their audition date.
 - **Experience, prior learning, audition and formal qualification**
ArtsEd, in common with other drama schools, accepts applicants who have followed unconventional academic pathways, applicants who have changed careers later in life, and applicants who have little experience in acting but who show great potential. The implications of these factors are that:

- There is no alternative to audition as a means of admitting students to the course.
- The cultural and academic diversity of entrant groups of acting and musical theatre students is likely to be greater than is common in many other areas of arts education and training.

Entry Criteria

- **Formal Entry Qualifications**

While audition is the primary means of determining the applicant's suitability for entry, ArtsEd normally requires the following additional formal qualifications:

- Passes in two subjects at A-level or a BTec National Diploma
- Where English is a second language a TOEFL score of 6 or higher

When the School is satisfied that an applicant from an unconventional academic background without formal qualifications nevertheless fulfils the audition criteria (*see below*) it may waive the academic requirements, although good spoken English is a requirement for all our courses.

- **Audition Criteria**

The aim of the audition is to provide the applicant with the opportunity to demonstrate the quality of his/her work and his/her potential to benefit from the course. Auditions are conducted by panels of teaching staff. The panel looks for reasonable evidence that the applicant:

- is able to demonstrate potential in all three disciplines of acting, dance and singing
- is able to portray a character convincingly
- is able to apply their intelligence to the understanding of text, music and choreography and the communication of meaning
- is capable of work of distinctive individuality
- is able to work effectively with others
- is flexible, industrious and receptive to suggestions
- possesses the work ethic, motivation and stamina to participate in the training and successfully complete the course

3: ArtsEd undertakes to provide candidates with information on the availability of and criteria for the allocation of public funding

Fees and funding information is included on the web pages of all vocational courses at <https://artsed.co.uk/>

Following the auditions, successful candidates will be informed of the range of funding options available to them.

4: ArtsEd undertakes to give candidates the opportunity to demonstrate their potential to fulfil the aims of the course

Every effort is made to ensure candidates feel at ease, are given ample opportunity to demonstrate their potential for training, and are given opportunities to ask questions.

- ***Audition Day Procedure***

There are two stages to the musical theatre audition:

Stage 1 consists of a group jazz dance audition and a short individual singing audition.

Dance audition

Candidates are required to participate in a jazz class led by a senior member of dance staff and overseen by the Head of Dance or Director of Musical Theatre. All applicants are required to dress appropriately in fitted dance/sports attire with either soft jazz shoes, foot thong or bare feet. All jewellery must be removed for safety reasons.

We will be looking closely at

- how you learn – how you listen and respond to instructions
- how well you can apply the technique you are taught to the choreography
- your acting through dance – the characterisation, expressiveness and creativity you bring to the routine.

Singing audition

Candidates should prepare two musical theatre songs in full. One should be a 'legit' ballad written no later than 1965 (e.g. 'If I Loved You' from *Carousel*), and the other should provide a contrast and be something you enjoy singing. For stage one you should prepare a section from each of the two songs, each lasting no longer than one minute. The audition panel will choose to hear one or both of these sections. Sheet music in the right key must be brought for both songs. Please avoid songs which demand an extreme 'character' voice, such as 'Adelaide's Lament' (*Guys and Dolls*) or 'My Girlfriend Who Lives in Canada' (*Avenue Q*). We need to hear YOUR voice – if you are invited to continue to Stage Two you may be asked to perform the same two songs in full.

Stage 2 Candidates will be selected to stay for this stage. Some may be required to dance again. All candidates will:

- take part in a group acting workshop
- sing again using their songs as previously prepared for the first stage of the audition
- perform their monologue to the panel. The panel will give the candidate various scenarios to see they respond to direction and how well they work with others.
- take part in an interview with a senior tutor

- in some cases candidates may be required to have an orthopaedic examination by a qualified physiotherapist for which top and shorts should be worn.

Precept 5: ArtsEd undertakes that the decision-making process is fair and transparent

Selection process

Each member of the audition panel completes a detailed Audition Report form on which they record comments about each stage of the audition process, and give grades on the candidates' potential for training. If there are any discrepancies of opinion amongst the panel, the candidates in question are auditioned further and extra time is allocated for this purpose.

Criteria for selection

The Audition Report form records each panel member's comments about each stage of the audition process, and gives grades in a number of areas, as detailed below:

Dance:

- Potential: strength, control, athleticism, placement, and coordination.
- Quality: style, musicality, focus and receptiveness to change
- Presentation: interpretation, expressiveness and characterisation.

Singing:

- Vocal quality: strength, pitch, tone, range
- Technique: Musicality, Use of Dynamics, Projection
- Presentation: Involvement, Expressiveness, Interpretation

Acting:

- Sense of character/situation
- Use of text
- Inner life
- Physicality
- Ability to be directed (duologue only)
- Listening and Reacting (duologue only)

Musical Theatre applicants are graded 1 to 5, where

- 1 = Huge potential (many good features, some outstanding)
- 2 = Well suited to training (good features and no major shortcomings)
- 3 = Satisfactory but trainable (some good features and some shortcomings)
- 4 = Not ready for training (many shortcomings)
- 5 = No potential for training (shortcomings in important areas)

The scores for each element of the recall are amalgamated with the scores awarded for Part One of the audition.

Precept 6: ArtsEd undertakes to ensure that candidates are informed of the outcome of an audition

Candidates who are not recalled for Stage 2 of the audition are informed on the day that they have not been successful. Those who are recalled are informed in writing within a week of their audition, although we aim to inform them within three days.

Since different drama schools are looking for different qualities and skills in their candidates, ArtsEd does not give advice or feedback to unsuccessful candidates in case our advice is inappropriate for entry to other institutions.