

Dear **Musical Theater** Students,

The entire faculty and staff of GSA are very excited and look forward to adding you to our growing musical theater family. The three weeks we spend together will be filled with fun, friendship, laughter, HARD WORK, sore muscles, and feelings of gaining new ideas and of accomplishing new goals. GSA guarantees an unforgettable summer for you. There will be performances, guest artists, coffee houses, and much more. So, as Opening Day draws closer, know that you are about to experience the state's best three weeks of fine arts instruction.

You will have the opportunity to work with a superb faculty, consisting of faculty member **Sharon Kinnison**, current head of the Fine Arts Department at the *Collegiate School in Louisville* and professional singer, actor and freelance director; **Henry Lewers**, graduate of the *University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music* master's program in conducting and arranging and music directory of musical theater at the *University of Alabama*; **Jacob Priddy**, graduate of *Northern Kentucky University* living in NYC working as freelance musical director accompanist; and **Donna Richards**, former *Broadway* musical theater performer, master dance teacher, and choreographer based in Louisville. Besides the faculty, special guests in the field of musical theater will share experiences with us as we prepare you for what is our passion—singing, dancing, and acting!

You will have daily training in dance, drama, and voice. You will learn the ins and outs of putting together and carrying out a musical theater performance as well as the construction of viable audition packages. This will culminate with a final day presentation that is built off your audition packages as well as the production numbers you have learned and explored.

We have provided you with a checklist of items you **must** have to be successful in your GSA experience. In a group setting on the first Monday morning of your program (June 13th or July 11th), we will have everyone sing the songs from your audition (**have audio accompaniment available for yourself, see supply list**) and perform your monologue (**make sure to have a hard copy available**). Please have both songs and monologue well in mind as this aids your faculty in developing specific strategies for your work. This will also allow us to completely address your strengths and weaknesses, ensuring your monologue and audition songs are appropriate for you in an audition situation. *This will also help you become acquainted with your new musical theater family.* In the afternoon, you will have a master class in dance to aid in placement so that everyone can develop at their own rate and to their maximum potential. **Make sure you have all your dance equipment with you at the master class.**

We trust that this acknowledgement of you being a part of the Musical Theater department of GSA finds you very excited and looking forward to our time together. See you June 12th (Or July 10th)!

Sincerely,

- **Sharon Kinnison** (*First and Second Session*)
- **Henry Lewers** (*Second Session Only*)
- **Jacob Priddy** (*First Session Only*)
- **Donna Richards** (*First and Second Session*)

The GSA Musical Theater Faculty

MUSICAL THEATRE CHECKLIST

In addition to any items listed in your GSA handbook, please bring the following items with you to GSA. In order to maximize this opportunity and experience it is imperative that you have all these items with you when you arrive to prevent delays in your training.

- 1) Enough **masks/face coverings** for 3 weeks at GSA
- 2) **Journal, notebook, pencils, pens, highlighter, erasers**
- 3) **Muscle rub** and **Tylenol** or similar over-the-counter pain reliever
- 4) **Black leotard** for ladies – camisole, tank or short sleeve are acceptable*
- 5) One pair of **black performance tights** or **knee-high socks** for ladies*
- 6) 1 **black muscle t-shirt** for gentlemen for performance*
- 7) **Black jazz shoes***
- 8) **Black jazz pants***
- 9) **Ballet shoes** (optional)
- 10) **Black tap shoes**, preferably jazz taps*
- 11) Men **must** have a **dance belt***
- 12) Men bring at least one pair of **black socks**
- 13) **Audio accompaniment** for your audition music (both pieces)
- 14) Hard copy of your **audition monologue**
- 15) “**To the Actor**” by **Michael Chekhov** (available on Amazon)
- 16) A clear, color **headshot**
- 17) Additional dance wear for rehearsals and class
 - **Ladies** – leggings, jazz pants, jazz shorts, camisoles, additional leotards of any color (**nothing oversized or baggy**)
 - **Men** – dance shorts or leggings (compression type used by cyclists or runners)*; tight workout t-shirts or tanks (**nothing baggy or oversized**)
- 18) **Three-ring binder** for music, monologues, notes, etc.
- 19) **Water bottle** with lid.
- 20) **Spending Money** – Though housing, meals, room, and board are covered by GSA, you might want a little extra money for GSA merch on-campus or souvenirs during field trips.

*All marked items may be purchased through dance stores in your area, i.e. *Kinney's Dancewear* in Louisville, or online at www.discountdance.com , www.dance4less.com, and www.justforkix.com .

NOTE – If you are unable to purchase any of your supplies due to financial reasons, please send GSA your detailed request **IMMEDIATELY** to gsainfo@kentuckyperformingarts.org . We're happy to help!