

Dear **Drama** Students,

Congratulations on your acceptance to GSA! This summer, you will begin an exciting three-week journey that will inspire, challenge, and support you – as an artist and as a person. In addition to reviewing this letter and preparing for the rigors of the program, please give some thought to your artistic and personal goals.

First, it's important that you arrive well-rested and ready to exercise the complete artist in you – your voice, body, and imagination.

Most of your days will consist of studios with the Drama faculty. Studio is where you'll explore monologues and scenes from plays, practice vocal, physical, and improvisational actor training, and create original theater pieces. In addition, we will engage with guest artists, as well as participate in cross-disciplinary collaborations with GSA students, faculty, and guests in other artforms. We'll also take school-wide and Drama-specific field trips. If you are interested in pursuing a career in theater, our faculty will provide you with the tools you need to audition for college programs and professional theaters. While your time at GSA will be process-oriented, you will work towards a final showcase of scenes and ensemble pieces developed during studios.

You can look forward to GSA being a captivating, demanding and uplifting environment where creativity is encouraged. Presume welcome and extend welcome – be open to learn from everyone, and remember this: if the going gets tough, turn to wonder.

NOTE – If you have any questions about what to expect during the program, or if you are unable to purchase any of the supplies listed on the next page due to financial reasons, please send GSA your detailed request IMMEDIATELY to gsainfo@kentuckyperformingarts.org. We're happy to help!

ALSO NOTE - GSA students participating in the summer program should be reading this letter. It is full of assignments and crucial information regarding the summer. If you are a parent reading this letter please pass it on to the young artist attending the summer program and encourage them to read it thoroughly.

We are very much looking forward to working with you this summer.

Sincerely,

Ellie Clark (*First and Second Session*)

Bo List (*First Session Only*)

Nikki Ferry (*First Session Only*)

-The GSA Drama Faculty

THE COMMUNITY

GSA offers a Judgment-Free Zone. Artists are accepted for who they are, what they believe, and where they come from. This community is built on respect, kindness, and open heartedness. Everyone has something to offer, and your faculty will be diligent in ensuring our working space is safe and respectful. Students will be encouraged to express themselves and to give space for others to express themselves. We ask that you show up curious and collaborative for the three weeks you are here.

TO DO BEFORE GSA

1. **Read a play** (two would be great. Three would be fantastic! And so on.) of your choosing by one of the following playwrights, and be prepared to discuss it during the program:
 - a. **(Classic, old-school)** Arthur Miller, William Inge, Tennessee Williams, Eugene O'Neill, Lillian Hellman, Lorraine Hansberry, Edward Albee, Noel Coward, Samuel Beckett
 - b. **(Modern masters)** Caryl Churchill, Sam Shepard, Beth Henley, Moisés Kaufman, Tony Kushner, Paula Vogel, Lanford Wilson, Terrence McNalley, Anna Deavere Smith, George C. Wolfe, Steven Dietz, David Mamet, John Patrick Shanley, Theresa Rebeck, Amiri Baraka, Jane Martin, August Wilson, Stephen Adly Guirgis, Charles Mee, Harold Pinter, Tracy Letts
 - c. **(Contemporary)** Jordan Harrison, Ayad Akhtar, Annie Baker, Sarah Ruhl, Suzan-Lori Parks, Ike Holter, Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, Lynn Nottage, Jeremy O. Harris, Lauren Gunderson, Kristen Greenidge, Jordan Harrison, David Adjmi, Victoria Stewart, Allison Moore, Keith Adkins, Will Power, Charles Smith, Katori Hall, Moises Kaufman, John Cariani, Dominique Morisseau, Karen Zacarias, James Ijames, Tom Stoppard

NOTE – If you can, bring the script(s) with you. The more options we have for monologues and scenes, the better.

2. **Discuss your health plan with your family** – If you have a restricted diet, be sure to make good eating choices while away from home. Likewise, plan on getting good amounts of sleep and, most importantly, be sure to take all your needed medications on their appropriate schedules. In other words, GSA is NOT the time to experiment with your health!

TO BRING TO GSA

In addition to the general GSA packing list, please bring the following for Drama studios:

- **One memorized monologue** – The one you auditioned with is preferred, but you may share another if you'd like (as long as it is memorized, prepared, and follows the same guidelines as your original audition monologue). We will share these monologues on the first day. If you don't remember the audition guidelines please see that information below.
- **Voice Assignment:**
 - What is one sound that you associate with the part of Kentucky you are from?
 - What is something that you find special about this part of Kentucky?

- **A journal and plenty of writing utensils**
- **A folder or binder** for handouts
- **A computer or tablet (if you have one).** We will utilize these on rare occasions but may ask you to bring them to studio for a particular day.
- **Spending money** – Though housing, meals, room, and board are covered by GSA, you might want a little extra money for GSA merch sold on-campus or souvenirs during field trips.
- **Face Masks/Coverings** – GSA is not currently planning to require masks, but if a student would like to wear one at any time, they are welcome to do so. If you would prefer to wear masks while at the program, please pack enough to last all three weeks.
- **Clothing that allows you to move freely** – Your movement will be rigorous. Wear clothes you can stretch, bend, run, jump, roll in, etc. Every single day of GSA it is imperative that you do not wear clothes that limit your ability to participate fully (no tight jeans, baggy clothes, short shorts, flip flops, sandals, crop tops, high heels, dangling jewelry, etc.). Sweats or athletic clothing that fit well are highly encouraged.
- **Hair ties, scarves, or clips** to keep your hair away from your face
- **Layers** for air-conditioned spaces - we may be sweating and then sit down in an air-conditioned space. *Layers are good.*
- **Close-toed, comfortable shoes**
- **A yoga mat** *if you have one.*
- **A reusable water bottle**
- **Neutral black clothing** – *NO LOGOS OR WRITING PLEASE!* You will need
 1. one outfit that covers your arms and legs (leggings/pants & a long sleeve black shirt)
 2. one outfit for the final showcase (black slacks, leggings, button downs, or tops depending on your preference – and don't forget black shoes and socks!).

Things that **DO NOT** work for the final showcase: Spaghetti strap tank tops, and short shorts. Skirts and dresses only work if they are stretchy and you wear leggings or dance shorts underneath.

Monologue Requirement Reminder:

- should be spoken by a character from a produced and published play that you have read entirely, rather than a piece of poetry or prose.
- should be active (a person speaking about a present situation, not telling a story from their past)
- should be memorized
- should not rely on props, costumes, make-up or any other technical elements
- should not contain material or language that others might find offensive
- should be a character close to your own age. 12-25 is a good character age range for most high school performers
- should not require a dialect
- can portray a character of any gender identity as long as the guidelines above are followed