



**Dear Musical Theatre Students,**

**The entire faculty and staff of GSA are very excited and look forward to adding you to our growing musical theatre 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, coffeehouse cabarets, 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:**

- **Tim Howard – Acting/Drama – Renowned Director, Actor, Professor, & Coordinator of the BFA Musical Theatre Program at Western Connecticut State University.**
- **Alaina Mills – Dance/Choreography – Professional Actor, Associate Choreographer, & Dance Captain for Broadway National Tours & renowned Regional Theatres. Proud GSA Alumna (Musical Theatre, Class of 2005).**
- **Haley K. Clay – Vocal Coach – International Actor, Vocal Captain, and Vocal Coach. MFA, Musical Theatre from The Boston Conservatory. Proud GSA Alumna (Vocal Music, Class of 2012).**
- **Kyle Broady – Music Director – Professional Musical Director, Conductor, and Pianist. Choral Director and Musical Theatre Teacher at Jeffersonville High School.**

**Besides the faculty, special guests in the field of musical theatre 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 theatre 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 will learn and explore. We have provided you below 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 (July 7th), we will have everyone sing the songs from your audition (have sheet music available for your songs, *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 a collegiate or professional audition situation. This will also help you become acquainted with your new musical theatre family & our various teaching styles. 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've also included a brief message from our GSA counselors-in-residence:*

GSA is an experience like no other with opportunities to make memories and be part of an arts community to cherish for a lifetime. In preparation for your time with us, please keep in mind a few important points for both your physical and mental health:

- Even though your brain might go into “summer mode” after wrapping up the school year, please know that the 3 weeks of GSA aren’t like a typical summer camp. Every day you will work and play hard and, along the way, be challenged and inspired!
- Because our days are full of activity, be sure to try your best to prioritize rest,

healthy eating, and opportunities to recharge when you can. Small things like drinking enough water and getting to bed earlier a few nights will allow you to recharge your batteries and show up as your best self. Quite honestly, we recommend making these priorities right now in preparation, so it's a smoother adjustment.

- The GSA staff, faculty, and counselors are available to help if you ever feel out of balance while on campus. We're your go-to people to help you find the best fit in our unique community and to help with any adjustments that are needed. Don't wait to reach out because we're there to help from Day 1. You will never be a burden to us — we are here to make this the positive experience you have been waiting for.
- As it applies to you, don't forget to bring any prescribed medication (we can help with reminders but do not administer) and know that we can help with coordination of telehealth therapy sessions (with your already established provider) while at GSA as long as it's not overly disruptive to your studio schedule. Just like eating balanced meals and taking time to rest will help keep your body fueled for the next three weeks, maintaining your wellness routines will keep your brain fueled as well.

We trust that this acknowledgement of you being a part of the Musical Theatre department of GSA finds you very excited and looking forward to our time together. See you on July 6th!

Sincerely,

Your Musical Theatre, Session II Faculty

- *Tim Howard*
- *Alaina Mills*
- *Haley K. Clay*
- *Kyle Broady*

## **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.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The GSA Musical Theatre faculty recognizes everyone's individual gender identity and expression. For the purpose of this list, we recognize we are using binary terminology – however, please come prepared with the items that you feel best represent who YOU are.

- 1) Journal, notebook, pencils, pens, highlighter, erasers**
- 2) Muscle rub and Tylenol or similar over-the-counter pain reliever**
- 3) Black leotard for ladies – camisole, tank or short sleeve are acceptable\***
- 4) One pair of black performance tights for ladies\***
- 5) One black t-shirt for gentlemen for performance\***
- 6) Black jazz shoes\***
- 7) Black jazz pants\***
- 8) Ballet shoes (optional)**
- 9) Black tap shoes, preferably jazz taps\***
- 10) Men must have a dance belt\***
- 11) Men bring at least one pair of black socks**
- 12) Sheet music for your audition music (both pieces)**
- 13) Hard copy of your audition monologue**
- 14) "Respect for Acting" by Uta Hagen (available on Amazon)**
- 15) 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)**

16) Three-ring binder for music, monologues, notes, etc.

17) Water bottle with lid.

18) 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.

19) Cell Phone or Recording Device – PLEASE NOTE: Personal cell phone use is prohibited during any and all Studio Sessions. Cell phones may be brought to studio *only* for recording purposes where it concerns vocal warmups, song coachings, and ensemble harmonies. Regarding choreography recordings, your Musical Theatre Staff will assist in making sure all students receive rehearsal recordings when necessary.

*Any student who is using their cell phone outside of the instructional guidelines set by faculty and staff will be written up per the Student Community and Accountability Guidelines.*

20) GSA is not planning to require face masks or coverings, but you are welcome to wear one anytime. If you prefer to wear masks while at the program, please pack enough to last all three weeks.

\*All marked items may be purchased through dance stores in your area, i.e. Kinney's Dancewear in Louisville, or online at Amazon, [www.discountdance.com](http://www.discountdance.com), and [www.justforkix.com](http://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](mailto:gsainfo@kentuckyperformingarts.org). We're happy to help!