

2020 VIRTUAL AUDITIONING WORKSHOP

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Colonial Theatre's 2020 Virtual Auditioning Workshop (**Workshop**) is an innovative, virtual, week-long program that explores the process of filming audition tapes. In partnership with The United and with generous grants from the Lattner Family Foundation and the Sculco Foundation, this technology-based workshop uses conferencing apps like Zoom to sharpen student participants' (**Participants**) performing, presenting, and auditioning skills. With the business community's increased reliance on teleconferences in the wake of COVID-19, making strong and professional impressions on screen has become more important than ever. Through the lens of preparing a filmed audition, this Workshop will offer Participants practical opportunities to refine the job skills necessary for success in a 21st-century workplace.

SCHEDULE

Twelve to fifteen Participants will join our five-day Workshop and work with our lead Instructor, Marion Markham (**Instructor**), to rehearse and record portions of Marc Antony's timeless "Friends, Romans, Countrymen" monologue in William Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*. Each Participant will be responsible for fine-tuning and submitting a few lines of the monologue (as if they were auditioning for a role in the play), which will be professionally edited together in a full video and shared with the community on social media platforms at the conclusion of the Workshop.

The following timeline details the Workshop's structure and pace:

- **Wednesday, June 17th: Application deadline.** Students interested in enrolling in the Workshop should complete the [Google Form](#) and submit a short video introducing themselves and why they are interested in the Program by midnight.
- **Wednesday, July 1st: Callbacks.** The Instructor will contact the accepted Participants via email with instructions for the first meeting. *Participants should submit the \$40 enrollment fee by Sunday, July 5th (payment may be made by check or credit card).*
- **Monday, July 6th: Day 1.** The Workshop will begin with a "Meet and Greet" session, where Participants get to know their Instructor and one another. Important guidelines and skills will be established, and the Instructor will make initial assignments of a few lines from the monologue to each Participant.
- **Tuesday, July 7th: Day 2.** Participants will begin analyzing the script and rehearsing their assigned lines. Once they are ready, Participants will film themselves performing their lines, submit their videos to the Instructor, and schedule a one-on-one coaching session for the next day.
- **Wednesday, July 8th: Day 3.** The Instructor will host a half-hour session for each Participant, which will allow for individualized feedback and critique. During these sessions, the Instructor will make recommendations for the presentation and delivery of each Participant's final audition tape.
- **Thursday, July 9th: Day 4.** All Participants will rehearse their lines collectively in a group-wide virtual meeting. This session will allow the Instructor to offer broader feedback to help Participants conceive of their individual audition tapes as snippets of a larger production. Participants are also free to ask questions at any point during this group session.

- **Friday, July 10th: Day 5.** On the last day of the Workshop, all Participants will submit their filmed audition tapes to the Instructor and discuss the skills they learned through their experience in the Workshop. At this session, the Instructor will also explain where to find casting websites for those interested in pursuing additional acting opportunities.
- **Monday, July 13th: Premiere Night.** Participants are invited to reconvene for one final group session to watch the premiere of the full, professionally edited video. Following this premiere, the video will be posted to social media and will be accessible for any Participants who need to submit a sample of their work for future auditions.

REQUIREMENTS

Participants must be high school-aged students in Westerly, Stonington, North Stonington, and Chariho. (Rising freshmen are welcome as well as graduates of the Class of 2020.) All Participants must sign the Colonial's student contact form and usage waiver prior to first day of the Workshop, as will their parents and/or guardians. The “supplies” needed for participation – a computer with access to the Internet and a video device, such as a smartphone, for filming – are the responsibility of the Participants.

GOALS

Over the week-long duration of the Workshop, Participants will work closely with Marion Markham, a professionally-trained performer with 40 years of experience on stage, to learn and improve upon essential presentational and performing skills through the lens of preparing a filmed audition. While each Participant will approach the Workshop from unique backgrounds, we expect that all will be proficient in these common objectives by the end of the week:

- Manipulating lighting, framing, and ambient noise to cultivate professional on-camera appearances;
- Developing personally-driven time management practices to effectively balance personal rehearsal time with group collaboration time;
- Exhibiting productive interpersonal skills in collective as well as one-on-one sessions so as to incorporate feedback seamlessly into rehearsals; and
- Identifying transferable job skills gained through this theatre-based program, specifically with regard to presentational and communicative skills, as well as opportunities for further experience in theatre.

Participants who successfully complete our Workshop will be invited to apply for a place in our Pathways Program, a six-week, theatre-based internship experience, for the Colonial Theatre's Summer 2021 production of *Julius Caesar*.

OUR GOALS FOR EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND DIVERSITY

- Charge a standard enrollment fee of \$40;
- Make financial aid available for low income families upon request; and
- Ensure that outreach program targets and includes a diverse population of students.