



What to Do?

1. Apply to
JMU

2. Register for
Gateway
Interview or
Audition

3. Apply to
School of
Theatre and
Dance in
SlideRoom

THEATRE GATEWAY

A gateway interview or audition is required for admission to the Theatre Major or to a Concentration within the Theatre Major. In the 2023 – 2024 cycle we will offer in-person, virtual, and video options. Students should apply both to JMU and the School of Theatre and Dance separately and register for an audition/interview.

SLIDEROOM

Theatre Major and/or Concentration applications will be submitted through [SlideRoom](#). Applicants who wish to be considered for both Theatre and Musical Theatre only submit one SlideRoom application (but will need to schedule separate auditions, and follow the submission guidelines for both Theatre and [Musical Theatre](#).)

SlideRoom applications should be submitted along with the following materials:

- **Photo of Yourself**
- **Resume:** including any relevant experience. For instance, an actor will include roles in past productions, but we are also interested in experience in other areas such as design, playwriting, education, jobs, and so forth.
- **Unofficial Transcript:** from high school or, in the case of transfer or current JMU students, college.
- **Personal Statement (1,000 words or less):** Describe a creative experience that was particularly meaningful, engaging, or transformative. You might, for example, discuss a production you worked on, a play you wrote, a performance you saw, or a creative experience not connected to theatre at all. Help us to understand who you are, your life experience, and how it may relate to your interest in Theatre and/or Musical Theatre. If you want to be considered for both Theatre and Musical Theatre, you only need to write one statement.
- **Creative Materials** – These materials **are not a prescreen** and do not need to be the same materials you share during your interview or audition. If you do not plan to attend an interview/audition in-person or live virtually, then these materials will be used for your admission decision.



Please submit your [Slideroom application](#) at least 9-days prior to your audition/interview.

INCLUSIVITY

We aim to host inclusive and accessible auditions, portfolio reviews and interviews that allow all participants to engage and share fully. To request accommodations please contact Theatre Recruitment Coordinator Dr. Rachel Rhoades at rhoadere@jmu.edu.

INTERVIEWS AND AUDITIONS

Prospective students choose how they want to interview/audition from one of four formats listed below. Students with multiple interests may choose two formats. Unfortunately, we won't have time for more than two, but you are welcome to address additional interests in your personal statement or during your interview. Please remember: demonstrated ability within a particular area of theatre such as acting, design, or playwriting is wonderful, but we are more interested in learning about who you are, what you feel, and how you think. Please review the requirements on pages 4–6 for each of the following interview or audition formats before choosing how you'd like to share yourself:

- **Monologue Format**
- **Theatre Education Format**
- **Visual Portfolio Format**
- **Writing Sample Format**

CONCENTRATIONS

Our Theatre major offers concentrations in Design and Technology, New Work, Performance, and Theatre Education. If you would like your interview/audition to serve as your application into a concentration, you must select that concentration in your Slideroom application. If you are already a Theatre major, you would still apply for concentrations through the same Slideroom, and audition/interview registration process as an incoming student. To be considered for a concentration, your interview/audition should match one of the following formats:

- **Design and Technology Concentration – Visual Portfolio Format**
- **New Work Concentration* – Visual Portfolio and/or Writing Sample Format**
- **Performance Concentration – Monologue Format**
- **Theatre Education Concentration – Theatre Education Format**

Concentrations are not required, nor does choosing a concentration impact whether or not you will be accepted into the Theatre major.

If you are accepted into the Theatre major, but not accepted into the concentration of your choice, you may still attend JMU as a general Theatre major. Later in your first year you may choose to apply for a different concentration or re-apply for the same concentration. No student may apply to the performance concentration more than twice and cannot re-apply until your sophomore year.

Prospective students may also be admitted into multiple concentrations. Because of limitations of time, you may apply for no more than two concentrations at the time of your initial interview/audition.

If you are not interested in applying for a concentration at this time, no problem, feel free to choose whatever interview/audition format you're most excited about.

*New Work Concentration -- The New Work concentration focuses on the process of building and developing new work. New work includes plays, or solo, devised, or non-text-based work. Students may enter the concentration from multiple disciplines, playwrights, actors, directors, dramaturgs, devisors, or designers. Based on their primary focus, students will select the classes that align with that area of focus. The New Work concentration lays the foundation for possible careers in playwriting, dramaturgy, literary management, devising, directing, creative writing, and publishing.

MONOLOGUES

The monologue format is comprised of two contrasting monologues. Both monologues together should not exceed two minutes.

- Choice of material helps us to understand what you are passionate about. Choose material that you LOVE. Your material is one of the ways we can learn something about you, your interests, and your taste.
- “Contrasting” means each monologue is different in tone (serious or comic) or style (contemporary, early realism, classical, and so forth).
- Memorize your material.
- Choose characters fairly close to your own age.
- Avoid dialects and character accents.
- Do not share work from a musical, an unpublished play, or a monologue written for audition purposes for which no play exists.

- Introduce your pieces with play title, author, and character name. Background on scene or plot is unnecessary.
- Read the play and be able to answer questions about your character.
- Wear clothing that is comfortable. Avoid high heels that may hinder movement.
- Please time your material.
- Remember: monologues are one person talking to another person. Even though the other person isn't there, we are interested in whether or not you can create the simple illusion of conversation. Find the honesty.
- Focus on what your character needs.

THEATRE EDUCATION

If interviewing for theatre education, please submit a one-page statement in Slideroom that describes your interest in theatre education and some of the unique skills you bring to the program that would apply to teaching. During your interview, we will ask about where you envision teaching (age group, school and/or community-based context, etc.), what you believe are the most important traits in a theatre educator, and what topics related to equity, access, and justice you find most important.

VISUAL PORTFOLIO

Please submit a 2-5 page sampling of your portfolio to Slideroom. In addition, if available, please bring a more extensive hard copy of your resume and portfolio to your interview (which will be returned back to you). If you are presenting work from a particular production, include not only performance photographs, but also images and documents that were part of the process of making the work, such as concept images, design drawings, process photos, and dramaturgical research. Be prepared to talk about your process and point of view. Portfolios may include examples of theatrical and/or non-theatrical work such as:

- Photographs of productions
- Three-dimensional work, models, sculpture
- Production books, sketchbooks, and director's notebooks
- Production draftings or mechanical drawings
- Scene, costume or lighting examples, renderings and sketches
- Drawings or paintings from art classes (not necessarily related to theatrical design)

- Visual examples showing your highest level of achievement and training, graphic abilities and artistic vision
- Recorded audio which can be shared during your presentation
- Examples of masks, puppets or craft projects
- Dramaturgical research: conceptual, creative, and/or historical
- Blocking scripts with blocking notation (stage managers and directors only)
- “Calling Scripts” with lighting/sound cues (stage managers only)
- Schedules, pre-show/post-show checklists, shift schedules, scene breakdowns, important/necessary emails and communications (stage managers only)

WRITING SAMPLES

This writing sample format can be used for students interested in playwriting, directing, dramaturgy, performance studies, theatre history, and dramatic criticism and should be comprised of 2–5 writing samples. Please present your work in a clear, easily readable, and organized manner and clarify the context in which the work was done (i.e. class, assignment, show, and so forth). Be prepared to talk about your writing process and point of view. Samples might include:

- Playwriting such as monologues, scenes, or plays
- Short stories
- Poems
- Essays (not necessarily related to theatre)
- Dramatic criticism
- Journalism (not necessarily related to theatre)
- Dramaturgical research: conceptual, creative, and/or historical

QUESTIONS?

Contact Rachel Rhoades, Theatre Recruitment Coordinator at rhoodere@jmu.edu.

All photos by Prof. Richard Finkelstein