Juilliard

Frequently Asked Questions About

AUDITION MONOLOGUES

Actor Training Program Audition Monologue Requirements:

- Four memorized monologues (two classical and two contemporary), each approximately two minutes in length.
- At least one of the classical selections must be from a play by Shakespeare.
- At least one of the classical selections must be in verse.
- In addition to Shakespeare, classical selections may be drawn from the Greeks and any other pre-20th century writers whose text is poetic or heightened
- Contemporary selections should be from writers working in the 20th and 21st centuries, roughly from Anton Chekhov and Henrik Ibsen to the present day.

May both of my classical monologues be from works by Shakespeare? Yes.

May I choose a classical piece that is not by one of the playwrights listed above? Yes.

May I use source material that is not from a play for my contemporary monologue (e.g., a novel or film)? In general, the faculty prefer monologues to be selected from published plays. However, if you feel strongly about a particular piece that is not from a play, you may prepare it as long as your other monologues are from plays.

Does Juilliard provide a list of suggested monologues (or a list of monologues to stay away from)?

No. Please choose monologues with which you feel a particular connection, whether they are commonly known or less so. Beware of using monologue books to select your pieces: it is essential that you read the entire plays from which your monologues are selected so that you thoroughly understand the character's circumstances and to whom they are speaking and why.

May I use an accent? If you feel that a piece that you have selected warrants the use of an accent, you are welcome (but not required) to do so.

May I choose a character of any gender identification? Yes.

How strict is the two-minute time limit? Although we do not use a timer in the audition room, we do ask you to be respectful of the time limit. It's fine if your monologue is slightly less than or a few seconds over two minutes.

Do I need one comedic and one dramatic monologue? Not necessarily, although we do ask that the different characters you choose allow you to bring different aspects of yourself and reveal your capacity for transformation.

What about the song? We ask that you prepare a part of a song (16 bars – twice the length of "Happy Birthday") to sing a cappella (unaccompanied). It can truly be ANY song that you would like to sing, in any language, from any genre. If you are asked to sing, it is an opportunity for our faculty to find out information about your vocal range and instrument. A trained singing voice is not required for admission.

May I use the same monologues from my prescreening recording in the live audition? Yes. Applicants who are invited to a live audition after passing prescreening are permitted to use the same monologues in the live audition that they prepared for the prescreening recording.