



ARTS HIGH SCHOOL

DRAMA Audition Requirements

- All students applying for admission to Arts High School as Drama Majors must audition.
 - Students can sign up for an audition on the Arts High School website.
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Drama Audition Requirements are:

1. PREPARED MONOLOGUE

Drama candidates are required to **MEMORIZE AND PERFORM** the monologue indicated below.

Drama candidates will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Boys must learn MALE monologue.
- Girls must learn FEMALE monologue.
- There is an optional monologue that can be performed by either male or female student.
- Students will be asked to explain, in their own words, the meaning of the monologue.
- Students will be asked to explain the mood of the character.
- Posture, gesture, and facial expression **MUST** be exhibited.
- Changes in mood and how clearly candidates speak will be evaluated.

2. COLD READING

Additionally, students must perform an unrehearsed (or “cold”) reading from a contemporary play selected by the audition panel at the time of the audition.

Candidates will be notified of call-back, if applicable.

FEMALE MONOLOGUE

The Ballad of Yachiyo by Philip Kan Gotanda

The Play: Yachiyo, a poor peasant girl with not much hope of raising herself beyond working in the sugar fields of Hawaii, is sent by her father to live with a pottery artist, Hiro Takamura, and his wife, Okusan. Okusan hopes to teach Yachiyo proper Japanese language and customs, and before long Hiro finds new inspiration for his work through the girl. Eventually, the young Yachiyo and Hiro develop a deep relationship that leads to tragic outcome.

Time and Place: Kauai, Hawaiian Islands, 1919

The Scene: Yachiyo paints a picture of Takamura practicing his art.

Yachiyo: **In front of him sits a mound of clay which he is squeezing into a tall cone, he pushes it down, then squeezes it into a tall cone again. This helps to even the consistency of the clay and makes it easier to work with. All during this time he is pulling on the base of the wheel with his feet to keep it turning... ..He is making yunomi, teacups. Takamura-san does this by working the clay back into a tall cone and by fashioning a measured portion at the top into a ball. He's done this so many times he knows just the amount to use by the feel. Then by inserting the thumb of his right hand, he makes a deep pocket, drawing the clay up to make the walls of the cup with the same thumb and middle finger. It's all done in one motion. Now he starts to use some tools. First, he inserts a flat spatula tool to make sure the yunomi has a clean face on the inside. Then, he takes a tombo, dragonfly, because of the way it looks—**

Takamura: *(Looking up, interrupting gruffly.)* Yachiyo, *hayaku shiro!*
Hurry up! (Takamura fades to black. Silence.)]

MALE MONOLOGUE

Brighton Beach Memoirs

By Neil Simon

Character: Eugene

Eugene: *(writing, says aloud)* That's-what-they-have-gutters-for....*(to audience)* If my mother knew I was writing all this down, she would stuff me like one of her chickens...I'd better explain what she meant by Aunt Blanche's —situation...You see, her husband, Uncle Dave, died six years ago from ...*(He looks around,)*...this thing...They never say the word. They always whisper it. It was — *(He whispers)* - Cancer!....I think they're afraid if they said it out loud, God would say, —I HEARD THAT! YOU SAID THE DREAD DISEASE! *(He points finger down.)* JUST FOR THAT, I SMITE YOU DOWN WITH IT!!!”....There are some things that grown-ups just won't discuss....For example, my grandfather. He died from - *(he whispers)* - Diphtheria!...Anyway, after Uncle Dave died, he left Aunt Blanche with no money. Not even insurance...And she couldn't support herself because she has - *(he whispers.)* Asthma...
...So my big-hearted mother insisted we take her and her kids in to live with us. So they broke up our room into two small rooms and me and my brother Stan live on this side, and Laurie and her sister Nora live on the other side. My father thought it would just be temporary but it's been three-and-a-half years so far and I think because of Aunt Blanche's situation, my father is developing - *(he whispers)* - High blood pressure!
(He resumes his writing. KATE comes out the kitchen with a pitcher of lemonade. She crosses to LAURIE.)

(OPTIONAL)
MALE OR FEMALE MONOLOGUE

A Midsummer Night's Dream
By William Shakespeare

Character: Puck
Genre: Comedy
Tone: Comic
Style: Verse
Act/Scene: III ii

Scene Setting: Puck reports to Oberon that the trick they are playing on Titania has been successful. He tells Oberon that he found Bottom rehearsing a play near where Titania was sleeping, gave him the head of a donkey, and the love-spell on Titania caused her to fall in love with this transformed man.

Puck: **My mistress with a monster is in love.
Near to her close and consecrated bower,
While she was in her dull and sleeping hour,
A crew of patches, rude mechanicals,
That work for bread upon Athenian stalls,
Were met together to rehearse a play,
Intended for great Theseus' nuptial-day.
The shallowest thick-skin of that barren sort,
Who Pyramus presented, in their sport
Forsook his scene and enter'd in a brake:
When I did him at this advantage take,
An ass's nolle I fixed on his head:
Anon his This be must be answered,
And forth my mimic comes. When they him spy,
As wild geese that the creeping fowler eye,
Or russet-pated choughs, many in sort,
Rising and cawing at the gun's report,
Sever themselves and madly sweep the sky,
So, at his sight, away his fellows fly;
And, at our stamp, here o'er and o'er one falls;
He murder cries, and help from Athens calls.
Their sense thus weak, lost with their fears thus strong,
Made senseless things begin to do them wrong;
For briars and thorns at their apparel snatch;
Some sleeves, some hats, from yielders all things catch.
I led them on in this distracted fear,
And left sweet Pyramus translated there:
When in that moment, so it came to pass,
Titania waked, and straightway loved an ass.**