

# SO YOUR KID WANTS TO PURSUE THEATRE . . . **NOW WHAT?**

---

## HERE'S THE DEAL

The college audition process is filled with tight deadlines, demanding audition material needs, self-tape prescreens, interviews, and in-person auditions. There are an overwhelming amount of programs and degrees to choose from, and college theatre prep programs notoriously cost families thousands of dollars. At Downstage Arts, our mission is to make the arts accessible to every student—no matter the size of their wallet.

In this guide, we share our top **3 tips** to help you support your teen as they begin their journey.

We know a thing or two about the college audition process— we've been through it ourselves and have gone on to work professionally in the theatre industry. We're proud to share that **100%** of our Teen Cohort students have placed in top theatre and music programs across the nation.

Let's get started!



**We build *bridges* over barriers to provide arts for all.**

# A PARENT'S GUIDE

## TO THE COLLEGE AUDITION PROCESS

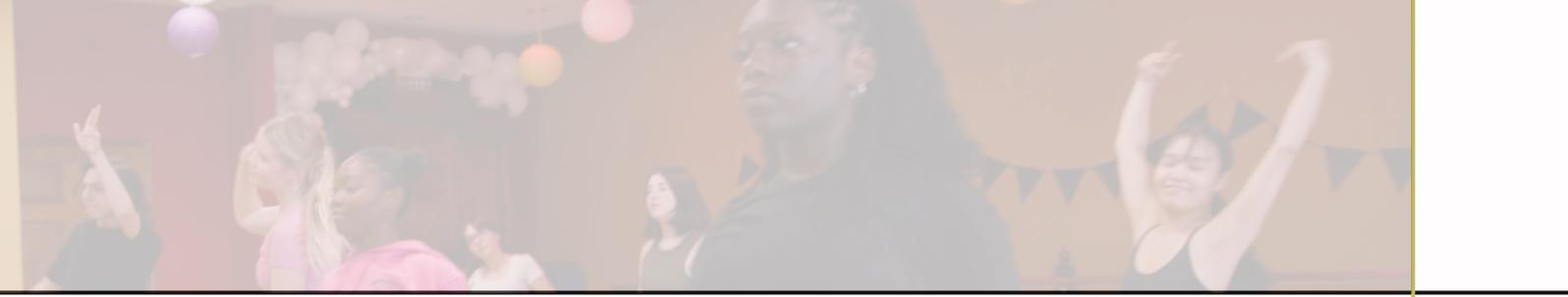
### 1. RESEARCH THEATRE PROGRAMS

There are several theatre programs to consider during the college search. It's easy for students to subscribe to the idea that they must attend a particular program (often one that has been popularized). Sit down with your teen and discover what their unique desires and needs are in order to find programs that meet those qualities.

Ask questions that will allow your teen to be guided by their own intuition.

#### *For example:*

- *Will you thrive in a large or small program?*
  - *What kind of opportunities are catching your eye? (e.g., study abroad programs, internships, cross-disciplinary collaboration, networking opportunities with industry professionals.)*
  - *What type of location do you prefer? (e.g., access to a big city, state climate, proximity to home.)*
- 3.
- *Would you like to study a wider range of theatre-related topics or would you like your course load to follow a conservatory style experience (BA vs. BFA)?*



## 2. EXPLORE A RANGE OF THEATRE DEGREES

There are several pathways in the arts, including: Dance, Acting, Musical Theatre, Arts Administration, Directing, Stage Management, TV/Film, Theatre Design and Technology. Consider what a future looks like with a range of performing arts degrees as majors or minors, and BFA's or BA's.

### *For example:*

- *Acting and Musical Theatre degrees often foster performance-based careers.*
- *Directing and Theatre Education degrees often foster teaching and leadership careers.*
- *Arts Administration degrees often foster marketing and business careers.*

Furthermore, pursuing a degree in the arts as well as one outside of the arts is a great choice for many students. Some choose to major in theatre and minor in something else, or vice versa.

### *More on this next.*



### 3. SCRAP THE “BROADWAY OR BUST” MINDSET

Earning a degree in the arts shouldn't solely focus on “making it” on Broadway. It's easy to zero in on one facet of the theatre industry, but, at Downstage Arts, we believe that artists can and should be multi-faceted. There are thousands of theatre professionals who either did not major in theatre or earn a degree in the arts, but pursued a different or additional career post-graduation.

Assure your teen that there is no “one size fits all” and no specific pathway that will lead to a higher chance of success in the arts. Rather, success in the arts can look different for each individual.

#### ***For example:***

*After writing his first musical, Lin Manuel Miranda worked as an English teacher, columnist, and formed a hip hop improv group before going on to create the incredible musicals that we know and love (Hamilton, In The Heights). He is proof that being an artist is not exclusive to performing. He is a composer, educator, activist, writer, director and more!*



## IN A NUTSHELL . . .

Our top 3 tips are a great place to start in this rigorous process. Additionally, your teen will need to prepare for the rest of the college audition process alongside thousands of other students. Training in voice, acting, and dance that is specifically geared towards auditioning is what sets competitive artists ahead of the curve.

***\*It is of utmost importance to train with a coach who cultivates the unique perspective and originality of your teen’s artistry—this is what makes a performer stand out.***

Unlike other theatre college prep programs that cost thousands of dollars and build a one-track mindset, the Teen Cohort at Downstage Arts is **FREE** and tailored towards each individual.

# READY TO GET STARTED?

**THAT'S WHERE  
WE COME IN**

**THE TEEN COHORT OFFERS:**

*INDIVIDUAL & GROUP COACHING*

*COLLEGE PROGRAM KNOWLEDGE*

*MENTORSHIP*

*ARTISTIC COMMUNITY*

*AND MORE!*



**100% OF OUR  
STUDENTS ARE  
PLACED IN AT LEAST  
ONE OF THEIR TOP 5  
SCHOOLS.**

**COLLEGE THEATRE  
PREP.  
*FOR FREE.***

# BONUS TIP!

## FOR YOUR TEEN

### AUDITION MATERIAL

Audition guidelines vary by degree and program. Begin to keep track of these requirements, and, remember that it's not as simple as choosing material that your teen likes and has previously performed. There are several things to consider in order to have a successful audition.

*Here are a few tips to get you started:*

- **Castability:** *Choose something in your age range, where the language is informal/everyday and a comfortable fit. The faculty wants to see what makes you, you!*
- **Range:** *The faculty wants to see the character go on an emotional journey. It is less interesting to see an actor remain in one state throughout the entire piece.*
- **Comedic Material:** *This can be light hearted, positive, or bright. Do not take the word "comedic" to mean that the piece must be "laugh out loud" or a "joke a minute".*
- **Dramatic Material:** *This can be serious or sad, but avoid content that is very tragic or extreme.*