

For entry in September 2022 all candidates will be invited to attend a first-round audition in support of their application. The audition will take place online, via Zoom. Once we receive your application, we will email you with further details regarding booking an audition.

### Your First-Round Audition

Please follow the guidance below:

For your audition you will need to prepare:

#### 1. Audition Song

You will need to prepare **one song** from the musical theatre repertoire.

We prefer that the song is accompanied; either live or using a pre-recorded accompaniment. However, if this is not possible the song can be unaccompanied. Candidates should not perform their own material.

#### 2. Audition Speech

Candidates should prepare **either**:

- **One** modern/contemporary speech (**written after 1956**) *or*
- **One** speech from the Elizabethan / Jacobean period

There is no specific advantage in choosing one option over the other, it is up to the individual candidate. The speech should be taken from a published play and must last no longer than **two** minutes. See further guidance below.

Candidates will be invited to perform their chosen pieces, to an audition panel comprised of members of the Musical Theatre programme staff and / or external, professional practitioners. The panel may choose to redirect one of your pieces.

### Further Guidance

- The songs and speeches selected may have been originally written for a gender different to your own.
- The songs and speeches can be translated from any language.
- Speeches can be edited, as long as they continue to flow and make sense.
- Candidates should not perform their own material.

- We advise candidates to avoid overused speeches.

Following your first-round audition, we will inform you in writing whether:

- We would like to invite you to attend a recall audition.
- You have not been successful on this occasion.

### Recall Auditions

**We hope that recall auditions will be able to take place at the College in Cardiff, but if we are not able to hold in-person auditions they will be conducted online.**

Recall auditions in person are likely to include sessions in singing, acting and dance.

Candidates asked to attend recall auditions should be prepared to repeat their original song and speech from their first-round audition. *In addition*, candidates will need to prepare **one** further song and **one** further speech.

These should be contrasting in style to the pieces selected for your first-round audition. Please follow the guidance listed above, e.g., when attending a recall, candidates will need to have 2 songs prepared, and either 2 modern / contemporary speeches or 1 modern and 1 Elizabethan / Jacobean prepared.

For recalls taking place in person, you must bring sheet music to your audition for the accompanist. Sheet music must be presented either in a folder, book, or as taped together single-sided sheets, to ensure the pages are in the correct order and easy to turn. The music must be in the correct key and cuts must be clearly marked.

Further details regarding recalls will be available from January 2022.

### Feedback

Due to the large numbers of candidates attending our auditions, we regret that we are unable to provide individual feedback. The decision of the panel is final.

### Advice to Candidates

The College places a high value on:

- The ability to 'inhabit' a character – to understand and reveal their complex psychology.

- Willingness to take risks, but to exercise some sophistication in their execution.
- Generosity in working with others.
- Technical and expressive ability in voice, movement and singing.
- An active interest in, and knowledge of, theatre and related performing arts.
- Life experience – we encourage applicants from a wide age range.

We also make the following specific recommendations:

- Make sure that you are secure in remembering the pieces you select.
- Avoid over-used speeches. If you have selected a piece from an audition book, the chances are that the panel may have seen the piece performed many times before.
- Avoid speeches by characters much older than yourself, unless the sentiments within it are universal.
- Avoid using an accent other than your own, unless you are absolutely secure in it.
- Avoid telephone speeches.
- Wear appropriate clothing which will allow you to move easily and comfortably.
- **Do not use props.**
- Enjoy the experience!

#### Preparing for your Zoom Audition – Tips & Advice

- Ensure you are ready for your audition in a suitable space; try to make your background as plain as possible and you may like to create a little space in your set up, to allow you to move around without leaving the shot.
- Please be sure that you are lit-well, that your recording device is placed on a tripod or flat surface, in your eyeline. We will need to be able to see you in full body with the facility of being able to come close to the camera too.

If using a mobile phone, please set up your device horizontally.

- Be in the waiting room a few minutes prior to your audition start time.

- Make sure your Wi-Fi is as stable as possible.
- We recommend that you familiarise yourself with Zoom before your audition day, including testing your sound and visual settings. You may find it useful set up a test call with a friend or family member. If possible, please download the Zoom app beforehand.
- When you enter the waiting room for your audition, **your Zoom Name should match your name on your UCAS Conservatoire application.**
- If you have a disability and/or have particular needs, please contact us directly to ensure that we are able to make any necessary arrangements in time for your audition: [admissions@rwcmd.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@rwcmd.ac.uk) or telephone 029 2039 1361.