

## **AUDITIONING FOR ARTS WESTMOUNT DRAMA**

### **WHAT WILL HAPPEN:**

Auditions for entry into Arts Westmount Drama will consist of two parts:

*Morning:*

1. A group workshop session where students will be required to participate in drama whole and small group exercises.

*Afternoon:*

1. A presentation of one learned monologue from the approved monologue selection. You may be asked to improvise different scenarios based on the monologue or another improvise based on suggestions from the interviewer.
2. An interview where you can also speak to anything that you wish us to know about yourself that you think we haven't seen so far.

### **WHAT TO BRING:**

Please bring the following to your audition:

1. Students should choose clothing that will allow you to move freely, while participating in dramatic activities. Clothing should be logo free and adhere to the York Region District School Board dress code policy.
2. You will be asked to remove outside footwear and can participate in socks or a clean, inside shoe.
3. You may also bring a water bottle.

### **WHAT NOT TO BRING:**

Please refrain from bringing the following to your audition: jewellery, cell phones, headshot and resume.

### **WHAT TO PREPARE:**

The morning workshop does not require any additional preparation. You will need to be well rested and have eaten breakfast and ready to respond to various dramatic prompts. Following the workshop, you will be free for lunch. Please arrive no earlier or later than ten minutes before your assigned time for the afternoon monologue and interview. This interview will last for approximately ten minutes. You will be required to learn a monologue from the modern repertoire that we provide. Your monologue choice should reflect your dramatic strengths.

### **TIPS FOR SUCCESS:**

Please keep the following success criteria in mind while preparing for your audition:

1. A monologue other than what is in this package is not acceptable.
2. When you are performing, you need to clearly know and show TO WHOM your character is speaking, what your character WANTS from that person, and what TACTICS your character uses to achieve his or her goal.
3. Be prepared to work your monologue and be flexible and open to input. You may be asked to do a short improvisation-have fun and explore the suggestion, there is no right or wrong.

## **THE ARTSWESTMOUNT AUDITION PROCESS**

The audition process for the Arts Westmount Drama program is a comprehensive look at a student in order to determine and project the overall success of that student within our program over their four-year association with it. Our panel of adjudicators work hard to provide many opportunities in a variety of drama exercise in multiple groupings in the morning that allow the student to demonstrate such things as: their leadership and follower capabilities, listening, offering, collaboration, their ability to take and synthesize instruction and direction as well as their ability to solve creative problems within the drama context.

In the afternoon, we ask the student to bring in work, in the form of a monologue, in order to provide them with the opportunity to demonstrate their own thinking/creative process. We gauge that work on authenticity, connection to character/voice/body, actor choices, maturity and emotional depth. In the effort to provide them with more opportunity for success, we also work with the students one on one with either the monologue or in an improvisation during this phase of the process in order to further diagnose their aptitude in solving creative problems, making connections, and thinking outside the box.

In the final stage of this detailed process, we interview the students to gain further insight and to give them the opportunity to express themselves and ask questions. Report cards, letters of recommendation, personal and parent statements all work together to provide us as much information as possible in order to rank and situate students accordingly. There is never "one thing" that keeps a student from making a successful application, if there was, our process would be deeply flawed. We do not use words like right or wrong, but merely seek to assess with as much clarity as possible, where a student's current ability stands with respect to all of the above.

Over the years we have become adept at being able to clearly identify students who fit this program, thereby ensuring their success within it. Not all students are suited to this program and it is our job to find those that do. We appreciate that it is extremely disappointing to not be offered a placement, but it is important for parents to encourage their children to see this as an opportunity to learn and to continue to grow into maturity. Application numbers for this program are high, but we are limited to a class of twenty-eight each year, therefore those that fall outside of our parameters will not be offered a placement. Also, due to the high number of applicants, we do not have the manpower to provide individual feedback to every applicant. Parents need to be assured that the well-being and success of the student within our program is our primary goal.

## FEMALE ARTS WESTMOUNT AUDITION MONOLOGUES

### **A RAISIN IN THE SUN** *By Lorraine Hansberry*

#### **BENEATHA** *(A girl struggling with her disillusionment)*

Me? ... Me? ... Me, I'm nothing... Me. When I was very small...we used to take our sleds out in the wintertime and the only hills we had were the ice-covered stone steps of some houses down the street. And we used to fill them in with snow and make them smooth and slide down them all day... and it was very dangerous you know... far too steep... and sure enough one day a kid named Rufus came down too fast and hit the sidewalk... and we saw his face just split open right there in front of us... And I remember standing there looking at his bloody open face thinking that was the end of Rufus. But the ambulance came and they took him to the hospital and they fixed the broken bones and they sewed it all up... and the next time I saw Rufus he just had a little line down the middle of his face... I never got over that... That was what one person could do for another, fix him up—sew up the problem, make him all right again. That was the most marvellous thing in the world... I wanted to do that. I always thought it was the one concrete thing in the world that human being could do. Fix up the sick, you know—and make them whole again. This was truly being God... I wanted to cure. It used to be so important to me. I wanted to cure. It used to matter. I used to care. I mean about people and how their bodies hurt... I mean this thing of sewing up bodies or administering drugs. Don't you understand? It was a child's reaction to the world. I thought that doctors had the secret to all the hurts... That's the way a child sees things—or an idealist.

### **DIARY OF ANNE FRANK** *By Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett*

#### **Anne:**

Look, Peter, the sky. *(She looks up through the skylight)* What a lovely, lovely day! Aren't the clouds beautiful? You know what I do when it seems as if I couldn't stand being cooped up for one more minute? I think myself out. I think myself on a walk in the park where I used to go with Pim. Where the jonquils and the crocus and the violets grow down the slopes. You know the most wonderful part about thinking yourself out? You can have it any way you like. You can have roses and violets and chrysanthemums all blooming at the same time? It's funny. I used to take it all for granted. And now I've gone crazy about everything to do with nature. Haven't you? When I think of all that's out there. The trees. And flowers. And seagulls. When I think of the dearness of you, Peter. And the goodness of people we know, all risking their lives for us every day. When I think of these good things, I'm not afraid any more. I find myself and I... We're not the only people have had to suffer. There've always been people that've had to. Sometimes one race, sometimes another, and yet...I know it's terrible, trying to have any faith when people are doing such horrible things, but you know what I sometimes think? I think the world may be going through a phase, the way I was with Mother. It'll pass, maybe not for hundreds of years, but someday I still believe, in spite of everything, that people are really good at heart. Peter, if you'd only look at it as part of a great pattern. That we're just a little minute in the life? *(She breaks off)* Listen to us, going at each other like a couple of stupid grownups! Look at the sky now. Isn't it lovely?

## **A MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM** BY William Shakespeare

*HELENA (Helena is upset because the boy she likes is not in love with her and (to make matters worse) he is in love with her best friend.*

How happy some o'er other some can be!  
Through Athens I am thought as fair as she.  
But what of that? Demetrius thinks not so;  
He will not know what all but he do know:  
And as he errs, doting on Hermia's eyes,  
So I, admiring of his qualities:  
Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind;  
And therefore is wing'd Cupid painted blind:  
For ere Demetrius look'd on Hermia's eyne,  
He hail'd down oaths that he was only mine;  
And when this hail some heat from Hermia felt,  
So he dissolved, and showers of oaths did melt.  
I will go tell him of fair Hermia's flight:  
Then to the wood will he to-morrow night  
Pursue her; and for this intelligence  
If I have thanks, it is a dear expense:  
But herein mean I to enrich my pain,  
To have his sight thither and back again.

## **ROMEO AND JULIET** BY William Shakespeare

*Juliet: (Juliet stands at her balcony upset at the fact that the boy she just met and fell in love with is from a family her family is feuding with.)*

O Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?  
Deny thy father and refuse thy name;  
Or if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love  
And I'll no longer be a Capulet  
'Tis but thy name that is my enemy:  
Thou art thyself, though not a Montague.  
What's Montague? It is nor hand nor foot,  
Nor arm nor face, nor any other part  
Belonging to a man. O be some other name!  
What's in a name? That which we call a rose  
By any other word would smell as sweet;  
So Romeo would, were he not Romeo call'd,  
Retain that dear perfection which he owes  
Without that title. Romeo, doff thy name,  
and for thy name, which is no part of thee,  
Take all myself.