

Minnesota Scholars of Distinction in Theater Arts

Portfolio Guidelines

Each applicant for this award must submit a portfolio demonstrating scholarly excellence and theatrical experience. The portfolio is due February 17, 2012.

Portfolio should be submitted in a folder or notebook that is clearly organized. The contents must include all of the following items:

1. An artist statement of 100-150 words.

Applicants will describe their artistic vision in the context of the theatrical area they intend to pursue for this award (acting, directing, playwriting, and/or design). The statement may be a personal reflection on the importance of this area of study in terms of the student's past experience, present studies, and future goals. The statement should be word-processed and double-spaced.

2. An annotated K-12 resume.

The resume should:

- reflect the pathways and experiences that have led the student to qualify as a scholar of distinction in theater arts.
- list educational experiences that have prepared the student for excellence in acting, directing, playwriting or design/technical theater. Examples might be coursework or training in theater, speech, music, humanities, creative writing, visual arts, technical arts, language arts, or dance.
- show theatrical experiences in school, church, community, or professional theater. List theaters, productions, roles, and directors.
- document experiences in other arts areas that pertain to the theatrical project the student intends to pursue.
- follow a resume format and be word-processed.

3. Work samples and support materials.

Examples might be copies of programs, photos, writing samples, scripts or scenes written by the applicant, character sketches, production journals, renderings, set designs or other pertinent documentation. Video clips are not encouraged. (Submitted materials *will not be returned*, so student should keep the originals).

4. A 250-300 word review of a *live* performance of a play or musical production.

The performance being reviewed must have occurred within no more than a six-month time frame before the date of submission. This should not be a review of a production in which the applicant participated. The review should have a title other than the title of the play. It should discuss issues of genre and style and ways in which mood and ideas were emphasized in the production. It may focus upon the area of theater that the student intends to pursue. For example, directors might

analyze directorial choices; actors might focus upon characterization; designers upon set, costumes, lighting, and or sound; and playwrights upon the script. Discuss any particularly arresting choices made by the artists and how these choices relate to the overall production plan and impression. Reviews should be word-processed and double-spaced.

5. **A 450-500 word script analysis.**

The analysis must be based on one of the following written scripts:

The Miser by Moliere

The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde

Lost in Yonkers by Neil Simon

The script analysis might focus on one or two of the following:

- Issues of genre and style
- Comic devices and/or humorous language
- Character development and motivation, and how the characters humorously depict and react to historical or social issues addressed in the play
- A predominant theme and the way in which it is revealed through the action
- Specific social problems depicted in the play and how they are presented and/or corrected through satirical or comedic treatment
- Production choices the student might make if staging or performing this play

Analyze the play with an emphasis on the area of theater you intend to pursue. If you use secondary sources, please document your research following MLA guidelines. The analysis should have a title other than the title of the play and must be word-processed and double-spaced.

The letters of recommendation and the Statement of Academic Qualification may be sent directly to the Project Directors, but are also due by February 17, 2012.

6. **Two letters of reference/recommendation.**

A form is available online for those writing recommendations.

7. **Statement of Academic Qualification**

This form is also available online.

The completed portfolio should be postmarked no later than February 17, 2012 and should be submitted to:

**Dr. Virginia McFerran and Gretchen Heath
Scholars of Distinction in Theater Arts
Perpich Center for Arts Education
6125 Olson Memorial Highway
Golden Valley, MN 55422**

Please call or email the project directors for clarification or answers to questions.

**Virginia McFerran 763-591-4775
virginia.mcferran@pcae.k12.mn.us
or Gretchen Heath 763-545-9629**