



Pre-Professional Program Handbook

(Auditions, Expectations, & Schedule)

Welcome to STAGES Performing Arts Academy!

You are about to embark on an exciting journey and we're glad you've chosen to come along. TeamSTAGES is one of the most rewarding and exciting educational opportunities offered at STAGES St. Louis. Your investment in TeamSTAGES will pay tremendous dividends for many years to come, because in addition to obtaining the lifelong skills needed to become a performing artist or patron, you will learn skills that can be used in every facet of life. Collaboration, dedication, self-discipline, and responsibility prepare you for a successful future in any profession you may choose. We are here to provide guidance as you grow towards a potential career in the arts, and to help realize your dreams both on and off the stage.

What is the TeamSTAGES Pre-Professional Program?

TeamSTAGES (formerly known as The Triple Threats) at STAGES Performing Arts Academy is a year-round, pre-professional program intended for students who are both serious and passionate about enhancing their skillset in singing, acting, dancing, and performance through weekly collaboration alongside an advanced-level musical theatre education. We are returning to our roots, as TeamSTAGES was the name of the very first student ensemble here at STAGES dating back to 2007.

Most importantly, we aren't changing the expectations of our students or the caliber of the program's curriculum; quite the opposite in fact. The program will continue to build the students' performance skills through the many exciting rehearsals, masterclasses, networking opportunities, and performances, simultaneously focusing on creating decent human beings. We truly are a **team** here at STAGES Performing Arts Academy, and we want our student ambassadors to represent our core values loudly and proudly!

The TeamSTAGES Pre-Professional Program is comprised of two auditioned groups.

Grade levels apply to the 2023-2024 academic year.

- 1.) **TeamSTAGES Juniors:** Grade 5 - 8 (Rehearsals: Tuesdays from 5-7pm)
- 2.) **TeamSTAGES Seniors:** Grade 9 -12 (Rehearsals: Tuesdays from 7-9pm)

We understand that many of our students are highly involved in the STL theatre community. Out of respect for their busy schedules (and the people who drive them), students will no longer be required to take additional classes, but will be highly, highly encouraged to continue to take weekly dance classes and private voice lessons.

2023 - 2024 Audition Information

Admittance into the program is by audition only, and all students must re-audition for the program each season despite being in the group the previous year. It is vital to remember that auditions are just as much about showcasing a student's work ethic and endurance, as well as their talent.

Audition Workshop: *May 11, 2023, from 5-8pm.*

This workshop is highly encouraged but not mandatory. Students will be taught the audition dance combination and provided with general audition advice. No sign-up required.

Auditions: **Monday, May 22, 2023, from 4-9pm.**

Students must sign up for individual audition times through the online audition form found on our website. Auditions will be held in-person at the academy (1023 Chesterfield Parkway East, Chesterfield, MO 63017).

There are three parts to the audition process:

LIVE AUDITION (on May 22nd)

1. **ACTING:** Please prepare a 30-second dramatic or comedic monologue of your choice.
2. **VOCAL:** All students should prepare 16-32 bars (roughly 30-60 seconds) of a musical theatre or pop/rock song that best showcases their vocal ability. Pick something that makes you feel comfortable and confident!

****Please make sure your sheet music is in the appropriate key, three-hole punched, and in a binder for your accompanist. We will not print or make copies of your music here at the academy.****

VIRTUAL SUBMISSION (by May 22nd)

3. **DANCE:** Students will be taught a short, intermediate-level dance combo during the workshop on May 11th. The combination will also be provided online for those not able to attend the workshop. All students will then submit a video of themselves performing the dance combination on or before May 22, 2023, by 11:59pm. A submission link will be provided on our website.

Please note: On May 22nd, students will only perform their vocal and acting portion of the audition. There will be no live dance audition on that date. All dance auditions must be submitted virtually.

Please contact jeros@stagesstlouis.org if you are unable to attend the audition date

TeamSTAGES Expectations and Purpose

We expect anyone and everyone involved in the *TeamSTAGES* Pre-Professional Program (students, caregivers, staff, and supporters) to help maintain a supportive, respectful, and inclusive environment. We will not tolerate behavior that promotes hostility, jealousy, or disrespect of any kind. *Before we begin this journey, we ask that everyone remember:*

- 1.) We are here because our love for the performing arts has brought us together.
- 2.) Every person has worked hard and has walked many different paths to get to this point.
- 3.) We all care deeply about the well-being and success of this program.

Furthermore, this program is not solely talent driven, and a student's success in the program is heavily dependent on their level of dedication. This program is intended for those who can collaborate, follow instruction, receive constructive criticism, and maintain an excellent work ethic. Self-discipline is a vital element of all *TeamSTAGES* rehearsals and performances, and students and caregivers alike must realize that they are a member of an ensemble with an excellent reputation, and their behavior reflects on both *TeamSTAGES* and STAGES St. Louis as a whole.

Students, please remember the following basic rules for rehearsals and performances:

- Students are expected to come to rehearsals and performances on time, with materials in hand, and ready to begin.
- Students are expected to be respectful, cooperative, and focused, always, and criticizing another student's talent or effort (inside and outside of SPAA) is unacceptable.
- The use of phones will not be permitted during rehearsals and performances.
- Students will take care of the facilities, sets, props, and costumes by leaving those things in the same or better condition than when they found it, and by taking all their belongings with them each day when they leave.

TeamSTAGES Attendance Policy

As a member of *TeamSTAGES*, you have an obligation to your fellow members to be prepared and on time for all rehearsals and performances. We are not tolerant of poor weekly attendance or excessive tardiness. This commitment is from August 2023 - May 2024. *Please read the following carefully to avoid dismissal from the program:*

1. If a student exceeds **5 excused absences** at any point throughout the year, they will be placed on probation and will be permitted to rehearse but not perform for a certain period of time (up to one month after their last allotted absence).
2. If a student exceeds **2 unexcused absences** or **7 excused absences**, it will result in their *immediate dismissal* from the program.
3. Absence from or lateness to rehearsals and performances may be excused for medical emergencies or personal injury, a death in the family, or other activities determined on a case-by-case basis. Please notify the director in case of an emergency or if you will be late for rehearsal.
4. All excused absences require written notice from a caregiver to the director *at least **TWO WEEKS*** in advance.

Monthly Masterclasses

Once a month, all *TeamSTAGES* students will participate in an exclusive masterclass featuring a special guest artist or theater professional. Masterclasses will always be held on Monday evenings, as this is a day of the week when all touring artists have time off from performances.

Group Travel

Enrollment in *TeamSTAGES* offers a variety of performance and travel opportunities, including an annual trip to New York City. All students admitted to the program are eligible but not required to participate, as this is a separate, additional student cost.

Please see the separate document with details regarding an itinerary and pricing for the program's Spring 2024 trip to New York City

Fees

There are several costs associated with *TeamSTAGES*. These fees can be paid in full or divided into equal installments customized to meet each family's needs.

Payment must be made in full, or a payment plan must be established by August 1, 2023.

Type of Fee	Amount	Details
Registration	\$ 25.00	Currently applies to new students only; paid annually for all students.
Participation	\$ 850.00	Covers group rehearsals, monthly masterclasses, staffing and productions costs, and group apparel.
New York City Trip	See separate document for pricing options	Includes airfare and hotel, in addition to entrance to all workshops, tours, and shows.

All TEAM Stages students receive a 50% discount that can be applied to any number of additional academy classes, camps, and productions

Financial Assistance

SPAA will never turn a student away due to their financial circumstances, and financial assistance is available to any student or family that may need it. Please visit StagesStLouis.org/Academy for more information.

Communication

Email will be our primary form of communication throughout the year. Additionally, feel free to follow the Academy's social media pages or check the website for all important updates!

SPAA Contact:

Website: StagesStLouis.org/Academy

Email: stagesacademygen@gmail.com or jeros@stagesstlouis.org

Facebook and Instagram: @StagesStlAcademy

Phone: 636.449.5775

TeamSTAGES Staff

We ask that you contact *TeamSTAGES* staff either by phone or email, and request that you refrain from contacting any academy staff members or teaching artists on their personal cell phone numbers or social media accounts.

Jamie Eros

TeamSTAGES Director and Choreographer

jeros@stagesstlouis.org

618-830-4924

Crissy Nordin

Director of Education and Outreach, STAGES St. Louis

cnordin@stagesstlouis.org

636.449.5775 ext. 633

2023-2024 Calendar (tentative)

In addition to weekly rehearsals, please keep the following dates available. These dates are subject to change and students will be notified as soon as possible if anything is added or cancelled.

A detailed schedule will be distributed once the groups have been decided.

Weekly Rehearsals: August 2023 - May 2024

TeamSTAGES Juniors: Tuesdays 5-7pm

TeamSTAGES Seniors: Tuesdays 7-9pm

DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
05/11/23	<i>Audition Workshop</i>	5-8pm	STAGES Performing Arts Academy (SPAA)
05/22/23	<i>Audition Day (Dance video submissions due by midnight)</i>	4-9pm	SPAA
07/25/23	<i>First Rehearsal</i>	6-9pm	SPAA
08/14/23	<i>CHEERS Fundraising Event Performance</i>	6-9pm	Kirkwood Performing Arts Center (KPAC)
10/04/23	<i>Gala Committee Celebration Performance</i>	6-8pm	Kent House (new location)
11/10/23	<i>APPLAUSE Gala Performance</i>	6-9pm	Ross Family Theatre (KPAC)
10/27/23	<i>Frightfully Fun Fall Festival</i>	5-9pm	SPAA
March (TBD)	<i>Trivia Night Fundraiser</i>	5-9pm	SPAA
04/11/23-4/14/23	<i>TeamSTAGES NYC Trip</i>	TBD	New York City, New York
05/06-05/12	<i>Musical Production Tech & Performances</i>	5-9pm	Mary Strauss Blackbox Theatre (KPAC)

2023-2024 *TeamSTAGES*

COMMITMENT AGREEMENT

Please bring this form to the audition on **Monday May 22nd**. IT MUST BE SIGNED BY BOTH THE STUDENT AND A PARENT/GUARDIAN/CAREGIVER OVER THE AGE OF 18. This completed form is required for all students prior to their audition for the program. Please print all the information and ensure we can read the email address provided as this will be our primary form of contact.

Student Name _____

Age _____ Grade Level (2023-2024 academic year) _____ T-Shirt Size _____

Student Email Address _____ Student Cell _____

Parent/Guardian/Caregiver Name(s) (print) _____

Email Address _____

Cell Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Home Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Parent/Guardian/Caregiver 2 Name(s) (print) _____

Email Address _____

Cell Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Home Address (if different) _____ City _____ Zip _____

Please list any known or potential conflicts (between August 2023 - May 2024):

In becoming a member of *TeamSTAGES*, I realize that conscientious attendance and preparation for rehearsals and performances are essential for the program to operate successfully. I have reviewed the required attendance dates and will attend all dates on which it is mandatory for me to attend. In the case of an absence or late arrival, I will notify the director and choreographer in advance. Furthermore, I have read the expectations and guidelines outlined in the handbook and agree to follow these policies and procedures to become a both successful member of *TeamSTAGES* and ambassador for STAGES St. Louis.

Student Signature _____ ***Date:*** _____

Parent/Guardian/Caregiver Signature _____ ***Date:*** _____