Collegiate Performing Arts Programs

This list begins with colleges that offer undergraduate musical theatre degrees. A few BFA Acting programs worth consideration are also included. They are organized alphabetically by state. Following the name of the school in parentheses is the type of degree they offer, and in some cases, the number of students the program offers admission to. We have also provided a list of schools that offer graduate degrees in musical theatre and a list of suggested questions to think about when researching and visiting colleges. This is just a starting point for your research!

**KEY:**

(+) next to a school indicates that they are especially selective (that they admit only a small number of applicants).

(−) next to a school indicates that they are non-audition (that they do not require an audition to major in musical theatre).

(**) next to a school indicates that it is one of Jennifer’s “Top 15 MT Schools to Investigate”

(*) next to a school indicates that it is one of Jennifer’s “Top 50 MT Schools to Investigate”

Schools without marks do require an audition.

**COLLEGES THAT OFFER UNDERGRADUATE MUSICAL THEATRE DEGREES:**

**ALABAMA:**
Auburn University (BFA in Theatre, MT Curriculum)  
Birmingham-Southern College (BA, audition at the end of sophomore year)  
Samford University (BA)  
*University of Alabama (BA in MT/A)  
University of Mobile (BM)  
~University of South Alabama (BFA)

**ALASKA:**
Currently no undergraduate programs offered in musical theatre.

**ARIZONA:**
*Arizona State University (BA in A/Theatre, BM)  
+University of Arizona (BFA in MT, BA Theatre Arts) (9 students/year)

**ARKANSAS:**
~Ouachita Baptist University (BM)

**CALIFORNIA:**
~California State University, Chico (BA in MT/A)  
+California State University, Fullerton (BA in A, audition for freshman; BFA in MT, audition at end of sophomore year)
~California State University, Northridge (BA Theatre, Musical Theatre minor)  
Chapman University (BFA in Acting/ Film&TV)  
Loyola Marymount University (BA in Acting)  
Notre Dame de Namur University (BA in MT/A)  
Pepperdine University (BA in MT/A)  
Redlands University (BA in MT/A)  
~Santa Clara University (BA in Theatre Arts, Musical Theatre concentration, minor)  
+University of California, Berkeley (BA Acting/Theatre Studies)  
University of California, Davis (BA in Theatre/Dance/Music)  
*University of California, Irvine (BA, BFA in MT/A)  
+*University of California, Los Angeles "UCLA" (BA in Acting) (12-15 students/year)  
+*University of Southern California (BFA Acting, Musical Theatre minor)

COLORADO:  
~Metropolitan State College of Denver (BFA, audition once accepted to the college)  
*University of Colorado at Boulder (BFA in MT and Performance, BA in Theatre)  
University of Colorado at Denver (BFA in Theatre/ Film &TV, BA in Theatre)  
*University of Northern Colorado (BA in MT/A)  
University of Denver (BA in Theatre and minor)

CONNECTICUT:  
+*University of Hartford, The Hartt School of Music (BFA in MT, Theatre, Dance, BA in Music, BM in Vocal Performance) (25-30 students/year)  
~Western Connecticut State University (BA in Theatre Arts, MT)  
+Yale University (BA- Theatre Studies, BA- Music)

DELWARE:  
Delaware State University (Theatre Arts minor)  
*Currently no undergraduate programs in Delaware offered in musical theatre.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:  
*American University (BA in MT/A)  
*Catholic University (BM in MT, BA in Acting)  
Howard University (BFA in MT/A/D)

FLORIDA:  
+**Florida State University (BM in MT, BFA in MT/A, BA in Theatre, BM)  
Jacksonville University (BFA, BM, BS, BA)  
Palm Beach Atlantic University (BA)  
New World School of the Arts (AA and BFA in MT and Theatre)  
Rollins College (BA Theatre, Musical Theatre concentration)  
+*University of Central Florida (BFA- MT Track, A, BA-Music)  
University of Florida (BFA, BA, BM)  
+*University of Miami (BM in MT and BFA in MT, Performance, BA in General Theatre)  
University of Tampa (BA in MT and M)  
~University of West Florida (BFA, BA audition at end of Freshman year) (10 students/year)

GEORGIA:  
~Brenau University (BFA, audition for scholarships)  
*Savannah College of Art/Design (BFA and MFA in Performing Arts)  
*Shorter College (BFA in MT/A) (13-15 students/year)  
Valdosta University (BFA)  
~Young Harris College (AFA – Associate of Fine Arts)

IDAHO:  
University of Idaho (BFA)
ILLINOIS:
~Columbia College (BA/BFA in MT/A)
*DePaul University (BFA w multiple tracks of focus)
Illinois State University (BA)
Illinois Wesleyan University (BFA in MT/A, BA in theatre arts)
*Millikin University (BFA)
North Central College (BA, audition for scholarships)
+*Northwestern University (BA Theatre, BM Music, Musical Theatre certificate, audition at end of freshman year)
Rockford College (BFA)
+*Roosevelt University (BFA in MT/A)
Southern Illinois University, Carbondale (BFA)
Western Illinois University (BFA in MT, BA in A)

INDIANA:
*Ball State University (BFA in MT/A/D)
**Indiana University at Bloomington (BFA in MT, BA in Theatre and Drama)
~Vincennes University (AS, 2-year degree)

IOWA:
Drake University (BFA)

KANSAS:
~Friends University (BA)
~Wichita State University (BFA in MT/A)
University of Kansas (BFA Theatre and Voice, through Music)

KENTUCKY:
~Northern Kentucky University (BFA)
~Western Kentucky University (BFA)

LOUISIANA:
~Northwestern State University (BS Theatre, Musical Theatre performance concentration)
*Tulane University (BFA in MT through Music department, BA in Acting)

MAINE:
University of Southern Maine (BM)

MARYLAND:
Currently no undergraduate programs offered specifically in musical theatre.
Goucher College (BA in Theatre)
Towson University (BA or BS in Theatre Arts)
University of Maryland, Baltimore County (BFA and BA in Acting)
University of Maryland, College Park (BA in Theatre)

MASSACHUSETTS:
Boston College (Theatre Program in a Liberal Arts Setting)
+*Boston Conservatory (BFA)
*Boston University (BFA in A/Theatre Arts, BA in Music)
~*Brandeis University (BA Theatre Arts, Musical Theatre track)
~Dean College (AA, 2-year program)
+Harvard University/ Harvard College (BA in Theatre Arts, Acting major being developed)
+**Emerson College (BFA in MT/A) (24 students/year)
Northeastern University (BM, Musical Theatre minor)
MICHIGAN:
Adrian College (BA)
Central Michigan University (BFA)
Eastern Michigan University (BA/BS in Theatre Arts, Musical Theatre minor)
Michigan State University (BA in Theatre)
Oakland University (BFA in MT/A/D, BA in Theatre)
**University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (BFA in MT/A/D, BA in Theatre Arts) (20 students/year)
University of Michigan, Flint (BFA in Acting)
*Western Michigan University (BFA in MT Performance)

MINNESOTA:
~University of Minnesota, Duluth (BFA in MT/A, audition at end of freshman year)

MISSISSIPPI:
~University of Southern Mississippi (BFA Theatre, Musical Theatre “Professional Training” option, audition for scholarships)
~University of Mississippi (BFA)

MISSOURI:
~Avila University (BFA)
Culver Stockton College (BFA)
Lindenwood (BFA)
Missouri State University
Missouri Valley College (BFA)
Southwest Missouri State (BFA)
~Stephens College (BFA, audition at end of freshman year)
*University of Missouri, Kansas City (BA Music, Theatre concentration)
**Webster University (BFA)

MONTANA:
Currently no undergraduate programs offered in musical theatre.

NEBRASKA:
~Nebraska Wesleyan (BFA, audition for scholarships)
~University of Nebraska (Musical Theatre minor)
University of Nebraska at Kearney (BFA, through Music department)

NEVADA:
~University of Nevada, Las Vegas (BA)
University of Nevada, Reno (BA in Theatre, BFA in Performance)

NEW HAMPSHIRE:
++Dartmouth College (BA in Theatre, declare major in sophomore year)
Plymouth State University (BFA in MT/A)
~University of New Hampshire (BA in Acting, Musical Theatre minor)

NEW JERSEY:
Drew University (BA in Theatre Arts)
*Fairleigh Dickinson University (BA w concentrations in MT/A, Music minor available)
*Kean University (BFA in Performance, BA in Theatre)
**Montclair State University (BFA in MT/A, BA in Theatre Arts)
+Princeton University (BA in Acting and Theatre Arts)
Rider University (BFA in MT/A, BA Theatre Arts)
Rowan University (BA in Theatre)
*Rutgers University (Camden- BA in Theatre) (New Brunswick- BFA in Acting, BA)
Seton Hall University (BA in Acting/Theatre Studies)
*Westminster College of the Arts at Rider University (BFA)
William Patterson University (BA, BM in Music)

NEW MEXICO:
Santa Fe University of Art and Design (BFA)

NEW YORK:
Adelphi University (BFA - Theatre)
American Academy of Dramatic Arts, NY (AOS in Acting, Cert. in Adv Studies in Actor Training)
*CAP21 Professional Musical Theatre Training Program (2-year Musical Theatre certificate) can be paired with a BFA from Molloy College (4 years/ integrated) of BFA New School (last 2 years)
Circle in the Square Theatre School (2-year program Acting or MT Certificate)
Colgate University (BA in Theatre Major/Minor)
+Columbia University/ Barnard College (BA in Acting and BA in Theatre Arts)
Five Towns College (BFA, concentrations in Performance, Musical Theatre, or Music Business)
*Fordham University (BA in Acting Performance Major, Directing Major)
~Hofstra University (BA in Drama, BFA Theatre Performance, Musical Theatre minor, audition at end of sophomore year)
Hunter College, CUNY (BA in Theatre)
+Ithaca College (BFA in MT/A/Theatre)
+Juilliard (BFA in Acting, Music, Dance, NO degree in Musical Theatre)
Long Island University, C.W. Post (BFA in Acting, BA in Theatre)
*Manhattanville College (BA Music, Musical Theatre concentration, BA in Theatre Arts)
*Marymount Manhattan (BFA in A, BA in Theatre Arts, Theatre or Dance degrees, BFA Musical Theatre concentration/ minor)
*Molloy College (BA, new partnership with Cap 21)
Nazareth College (BA in Theatre Arts)
The New School (BFA, BA)
+**New York University, Tisch School of the Arts: Phased out - CAP21 (BFA), +New Studio on Broadway for Musical Theatre and Various Studios (Studio System) for BFA Acting
+**New York University, Steinhardt School of Education (BM w concentration in Musical Theatre)
+**Pace University (BFA in MT, BA in Theatre Arts and A)
Russell Sage College with NYSTI (BS)
*SUNY, Buffalo (BFA in MT/A/D, BA in Theatre/D)
SUNY, Cortland (BA, Musical Theatre minor)
*SUNY, Fredonia (BFA in MT)
SUNY, Geneseo (BA in Theatre)
SUNY, Purchase (BFA in Acting, BA in Theatre Studies)
+*Syracuse University (BFA MT/A) (25-30 students/year)
++Vassar College (Drama Major, Dance Concentration, No audition required to choose focus)
*Wagner College (BA in MT/A) (30 students/year)

NORTH CAROLINA:
~Catawba College (BFA, BA)
+Duke University (BA in Theatre Studies)
East Carolina University (BFA, audition at end of freshman year)
+*Elon University (BFA) (18-25 students/year)
Lees-McCrae College (BFA, audition at end of freshman year)
~Mars Hill College (BFA)
Meredith College (BA)
+University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (BA in Drama, BM)
University of North Carolina at Pembroke (BM)
*University of North Carolina School of the Arts (BFA Theatre, Musical Theatre classes offered)
Western Carolina University (BFA and BM)
NORTH DAKOTA:
University of North Dakota (BFA)

OHIO:
Ashland University (BA Theatre, Musical Theatre concentration)
+**Baldwin-Wallace College (BM in MT, Vocal Perf., BA in Dance) (10-12 students/year)
Bowling Green State University (BA Communications, Musical Theatre concentration)
Heidelberg University (BA/BS Theatre, Musical Theatre emphasis)
Kent State University (BFA in MT)
~Marietta College (BFA, BA)
Ohio Northern University (BFA)
+Otterbein College (BFA in MT/A) (8 students/year)
~University of Akron (BA)
+**University of Cincinnati, College Conservatory of Music “CCM” (BFA in MT/A) (22-24 students/year)
Youngstown State University (BFA in MT)
*Wright State University (BFA in MT/A) (13 students/year)

OKLAHOMA:
+**Oklahoma City University (BFA, BA in MT/A, BM)
University of Central Oklahoma (BM in MT)
+University of Oklahoma (BFA in MT/A) (12 students/year)
~University of Tulsa (BA, Musical Theatre minor)

OREGON:
Southern Oregon University (BFA Theatre, Musical Theatre minor)

PENNSYLVANIA:
+**Carnegie-Mellon University (BFA in MT/A) (10 students/year)
~Clarion University of Pennsylvania (BFA, audition at end of freshman or beginning of sophomore year)
~DeSales University (BA, Audition only for scholarships)
Marywood University (BA)
*Muhlenberg College (BA Theatre, BA Music, BA Dance, can double major, audition is optional)
+**Pennsylvania State University (BFA in MT, BA in A) (15-20 students/year)
+**Point Park University (BFA in MT/A, BA in A)
*Seton Hill University (BA Theatre, Musical Theatre emphasis)
Susquehanna University (BA Theatre, Musical Theatre emphasis)
*Temple University (BA Theatre, Musical Theatre emphasis/concentration)
+**University of the Arts (BFA MT/A, BA in A)
+University of Pennsylvania (BA- Theatre Arts)
West Chester University (BA Theatre, Musical Theatre emphasis)
Wilkes University (BA)

RHODE ISLAND:
+Brown University (BA in Theatre Arts)
Rhode Island College (BA Theatre, Musical Theatre concentration)

SOUTH CAROLINA:
*Coastal Carolina University (BFA in MT/A, BA in Theatre Arts) (16 students/year)
Coker College (BFA in MT)
Limestone College (BFA in MT)

SOUTH DAKOTA:
~Northern State University (BA)
University of South Dakota (BFA)
TENNESSEE:
*Belmont University (BM and BFA- MT/A, Heavy emphasis on Voice Programs)
University of Memphis (BFA Theatre Performance, Musical Theatre emphasis) (15 students/year)

TEXAS:
Abilene Christian University (BFA in MT/A)
KD Studio (2-year program)
+Sam Houston State University (BFA in MT/A)
~St. Edward’s University (BA, Musical Theatre concentration, audition for scholarships)
~Southwestern University (BFA Theatre, Musical Theatre concentration, audition for scholarships)
Texas Christian University (BFA in MT)
**+Texas State University (BFA in MT/A)
University of Texas at Arlington (BM in MT)
University of Texas at El Paso (BFA in MT/A)
West Texas A&M (BA in Theatre Arts)

UTAH:
*Brigham Young University (BFA, Music, Dance, and Theatre)
Southern Utah University (BFA Theatre, Musical Theatre emphasis, audition at end of freshman year)
University of Utah (BFA in MT/A)
Weber State University (BA or BS in Theatre Arts)

VERMONT:
~Johnson State College (BA)

Virginia:
~Christopher Newport University (BA Theatre, Musical Theatre track)
College of William and Mary (BA in Theatre)
Barter Conservatory at Emory and Henry College (BA, Musical Theatre “pre-professional” track)
*James Madison University (BA in MT/A and BM)
++Shenandoah Conservatory (BFA in MT/A, Music Ed Programs)
University of Richmond (BA in Theatre Arts)
University of Virginia (BA in Drama)
Virginia Commonwealth University (BFA in Performance)

WASHINGTON:
Central Washington University (BFA in MT/A)
Cornish College of the Arts (BFA Performing Arts, Musical Theatre emphasis)
University of Puget Sound (BA Theatre)
University of Washington (Seattle) (BA in MT/A)

WEST VIRGINIA:
~West Virginia Wesleyan College (BA, Musical Theatre minor)

WISCONSIN:
~Carthage College (BA Music)
University of Wisconsin, Green Bay (BA in MT/A)
+University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point (BFA in MT) (7-8 students/year)
*Viterbo University (BFA in MT/A)

WYOMING:
Casper College (AA in Theatre Arts)
University of Wyoming (BFA)
CANADA:
Sheridan College (BAA – Bachelor of Applied Arts in Musical Theatre Performance)

COLLEGES THAT OFFER GRADUATE MUSICAL THEATRE DEGREES (MM or MFA):

Arizona State University (MM)
Boston Conservatory (New MFA in MT, used to be an MM)
Minnesota State University- Mankato (MFA with core in Acting, Directing, or MT)
New York University, Steinhardt (MM Vocal Performance, Musical Theatre concentration)
Oklahoma City University (MM)
San Diego State University (MFA in MT)
Tulane University – Newcomb Department of Music (MFA)
University of Montana (MM)
University of Nevada, Las Vegas (MFA Performance, Musical Theatre style option)

MUSICAL THEATRE PROGRAM
QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1.) Degree/Certificate Type: What type of program does the school offer? Is it conservatory
   training or a liberal arts program? Bachelor of Arts (BFA) or Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree? Is
   musical theatre a major with distinct curriculum or is it a certificate/concentration?

2.) Curriculum Structure: Does the curriculum cover voice, acting and dance equally or does it
   have a concentration in one or two areas? Are you required to complete General Education
   credits? Does your performance training begin immediately or do you have to wait several
   semesters? Does the program focus on professional training? Do you have the option to train for
   one or more semesters in another city (i.e. an LA campus or a sister school abroad)?

3.) Majoring/Minoring in a Related Field: Does the program allow you to study T.V./Broadcasting,
   Communications, Theatre Management, etc. in addition to your performance training?

4.) Admission/Retention requirements: Does the program require an initial audition to be
   accepted? Will you need to re-audition annually to remain in the program after your initial
   acceptance? What happens if, based on re-audition, student is told that they cannot remain in
   musical theatre program?

5.) Class Size and Faculty: How many students are typically accepted into the program each
   year? What is the average class size? How many faculty members work in the program full time
   and/or part time? Are these faculty members working professionals? Are the facilities suitable to
   the program and are they well maintained?

6.) Performance Opportunities: Are freshman and sophomores eligible to perform in the program?
   How many productions are mounted each year and of what type (musicals, plays, dance pieces,
   cabarets, readings, etc.)? Are there any differences based on whether you are in BFA or BA
   program? Does the school have an affiliation with a professional theatre company?

7.) Student Life: What does a typical daily schedule look like? Will students have rehearsals and
   other related obligations? What is the layout of the campus? Does the school provide housing
   and, if so, are the facilities well-maintained? Does the school offer meal plans and on campus
   medical services? Are students permitted to have a car on campus? Do you feel that the program
   fits with your personality, work habits, personal needs, budget, and goals as a performer?
8.) Career Development Opportunities: Does the program help students find employment and/or internships (summer and during school year)? Is there a senior showcase and/or other opportunity for exposure? Do students have networking opportunities with professionals in the field of theatre, T.V., broadcasting, etc?

ADD YOUR QUESTIONS HERE:

SCHOOLS THAT REQUIRE A PRESCREEN SUBMISSION BEFORE INVITATION FOR A LIVE AUDITION

*These prescreen videos must be prepared and submitted by October/November of your Senior Year!*

- Baldwin Wallace
- Brigham Young University
- Central Washington University (Ellensburg, WA)
- Coastal Carolina University (16) (SC)
- East Carolina University (NC)
- Elon University (NC)
- Florida State University (FL)
- Indiana University (IN)
- Ithaca (NY)
- Illinois Wesleyan (Unless recruited from off-campus audition)
- Loyola Marymount University (CA)
- Nebraska Wesleyan University (NE)
- Marymount Manhattan (only required for regional auditions)
- New York University: Steinhardt School of Education (20-30) (NY)
- Otterbein College (8) (OH)
- Pace University (NY)
- Pennsylvania State University (15-20) (PA)
- Shenandoah Conservatory (VA)
- Texas Christian University (not required but recommended)
- Texas State University-San Marcos (TX)
- University of Central Florida (FL)
- University of Colorado at Boulder (CO)
- University of Michigan, Ann Arbour (20) (MI)
- University of Oklahoma (12) (OK)
- University of Texas
- University of the Arts (PA) (not required but recommended)
- Viterbo - Part of application, but not used to screen out applicants
SCHOOLS THAT OFFER A SENIOR SHOWCASE
(Perhaps not complete, but a starting point)

Baldwin-Wallace College
Belmont University
Ball State University (seniors must audition to be showcase)
Boston Conservatory
University of Cincinnati -- College Conservatory of Music
Carnegie Mellon University (senior leagues in NY and LA)
Catholic University (NY and DC)
Emerson University
Florida State University
Hartt School
Ithaca College
Millikin University
Northwestern University
New York University -- Tisch School of the Arts (industry nights)
New York University -- Steinhardt School of Education
Otterbein College
Penn State University
Point Park University
Shorter University
Syracuse University (by audition)
University of California, Irvine (for BFA in MT students/ 4 week Sr NY Satellite Program)
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of the Arts
Wagner College
Webster University
Western Michigan University
Wright State University

INFORMATION ABOUT MUSICAL THEATRE PROGRAMS WITH STRONG DANCE COMPONENT

The following information has been compiled from opinions posted by various posters and how the schools present their own programs by telephone and website. The accuracy has not been established by more valid means. (Perhaps not complete, but a starting point)

The schools that have been reported to be strongest in dance include:
Florida State University (FSU)
University of Michigan
NYU Tisch (MT or Dance BFA)
Syracuse (SU)
Elon
Montclair
PACE (BFA in Commercial Dance)
Penn State (PSU)
Point Park University (PPU)
CCM (some disagreement about this)
Cal State Fullerton
Oklahoma City University
Otterbein
University of Oklahoma (OU)
Otterbein has a special track for dancers called BFA in Musical Theatre with a Concentration in Dance (they also have a dance minor available). Millikin University has a dance minor you can take in addition to the MT program. Some schools which house departments of dance, as well as musical theatre programs, may be well known for their dance programs. For example, Oklahoma City University (OCU) is very strong in both musical theatre and dance, but they exist in separate schools within the university, with different faculty and facilities. University of Arizona is well known for its dance department, but scheduling dance classes for MT majors can be difficult. Please do not assume that because a school has a strong dance program that musical theatre majors will reap the benefits from this program. In many cases, it has little or no effect on the dance training of MT majors. At the University of Oklahoma, the CMU dance audition that have been made on this subject include: Point Park University has one of the hardest dance auditions, but for an advanced dancer it was still easy. The CMU dance audition has been said to be very easy for an advanced dancer, and in 2014 there was no required dance audition for MT and Acting candidates. There is no dance department at CMU, which might account for the perceived weakness in dance in CMU’s MT program. In many of the MT programs, advanced dancers take classes alongside students who have never studied dance. Some programs, such as Western Michigan University and Wichita State University, allow students to take higher level dance classes if qualified. At Tisch, MT majors may not take dance classes with dance majors. Oklahoma City University's dance audition is not part of the actual audition, but used strictly for placement.

**Choosing Audition Material**

**Plain and simple.** Audition pieces should be chosen because the performer in question has a strong connection with the message of the piece, or the piece shows off that performer's talents particularly well...preferably both. While suggestions can be helpful, you will have a better chance of doing well at the audition if your own blood, sweat, and tears went into preparing for it. However, we can offer some guidelines as to what to pick and what not to pick.

In general, schools will ask you to have two songs -- one uptempo, one ballad (or one belt, on legt) -- and two monologues -- one contemporary, one classical (or sometimes two contrasting contemporary). Many schools ask for repertoire (both songs and monologues) from a very specific time or era (usually one song pre-1960). Many schools also have a dance audition, but that is usually a combination taught to everyone on the day of the auditions, so on the whole, you won't need to have a dance routine prepared. As always, there are exceptions, but this is the norm. (Be advised that if you attend a unified audition, you may need to prepare your own dance routine for specific schools.)

**GENERAL**

While it is not always a good idea to do a piece from a show and character that you have already performed, do have some of your most notable roles and material prepared just in case you are asked. For instance, I was once participating in an NYC Master Class during which one of the participants in the class had recently finished up a stint as Christine on the Broadway National Tour of Phantom. While the piece she prepared for the class was not from Phantom, the instructor asked her to sing the end of “Think of Me” to demonstrate one of his points (working with anactable moment that did not contain actual lyrics). This was a great learning moment and it was nice that she was game to participate. When you have a credit that iconic or notable, may all be secretly dying to hear you sing from the rep. Also, it may help casting directors or college program directors get to know and understand what you do best. If it's on your resume, and a notable lead, be prepared (or know that you might be asked) to
sing 16 bars or so from the role off the cuff. (Also- be careful about lying on your resume! They will find out!) There have also been times that folks have looked at one of my student’s resume and said, “Wow! What you just showed me was a GREAT belt! Thank you! I’d also love to hear your soprano chops! I see Philia in Forum and Laurey in Oklahoma here on your resume! Do you have anything with you from those shows or something similar?” Be ready to do so!

**PLAY TO TYPE.** This is something a lot of people don’t realize about college auditions. While out in the “real” theater world it can be refreshing for a casting director to see a new take on something, don’t do it for the colleges. If you are a young attractive soprano, don’t do King Lear or “Send in the Clowns.” **Pick something age-appropriate, and yes, type-appropriate.** Same goes for race-specific roles. Though this may be a touchy subject for some, it is an important point that needs to be brought up. A blonde boy with a surfer accent shouldn’t be doing “Bess, You Is My Woman Now.” Now, this isn’t to say that if you are Asian, you should **only** consider Flower Drum Song and Miss Saigon or if you are black you should only do Dreamgirls. Just make sure that your piece is played by a character that, with colorblind casting, you could portray. Think of Audra McDonald as Carrie in Carousel awhile back. She was perfect as Carrie. She wouldn’t have done so well as Billy Bigelow, though I’m sure she could have sang “Soliloquy” wonderfully. Follow her (and the Tony voters’) lead. When in doubt, ask yourself, “As of this very moment, would I get cast in this role?” If the answer is, ”Well, no, but I really make it my own out of context!” move on to something else.

**SONGS**
For EVERY song that you sing, have a full-length version, a 32-bar cut, and a 16-bar cut. Some schools want more, some less, and for the ones that ask for less, you should have more available. Try not to sing anything from something currently running on Broadway. It’s a good rule of thumb. (The adjudicators are going to groan when they hear “Defying Gravity” or ”The Wizard and I,” or a couple of years ago ANYTHING from Thoroughly Modern Millie.) Try not to sing anything too well-known. While shows like Miss Saigon, Les Miserables, Cats, and West Side Story aren’t running on Broadway, they are still too famous to do without the adjudicators groaning to themselves, “Oh, God, not again.” Show them that you’ve done your homework. There is LOTS of good stuff out there, all you have to do is find it. When looking for a ballad, going with the standards is always a good bet: Kern, Rodgers and Hart, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Gershwin, Berlin, Porter, etc. Ballads by these composers usually have extended legato lines, which is difficult to sing and will showcase you well. Plus...they’re called standards for a reason.

**MONOLOGUES**
While for BAA intensive programs they can be a helpful starting place, be wary of monologue books while looking for monologues for COLLEGE auditions. It is fine to go through collection books (101 Monologues for the Serious Actress, etc.) looking for some material, but if you find something you like, make sure it's from a play, and make sure you READ the play. (You may be asked brief questions about the character or the piece it’s from during your audition! It never looks good for you to say, “I don’t know, I got it from some monologue book...or off the internet!” At the very, very least, know the title and author of the play it is from.) When they ask for classical monologues, Shakespeare is always a good bet. While there isn’t a lot of Shakespeare that hasn’t been done over and over, do your best to show you’ve done your homework. For instance, instead of doing Juliet's "Wherefore art thou Romeo" or Hamlet’s "To be or not to be," go for something a little less well-known.

**BREAK A LEG!!!**