



PRE-PROGRAM DRAMA LETTER 2019

Dear Drama Student,

Congratulations on your acceptance to The Kentucky Center Governor's School for the Arts! On Sunday, June 23rd you will begin an exciting three-week journey that will inspire, challenge and support you – as an artist and as a person. In addition to reviewing this letter and preparing for the rigors of the program by following the instructions on the next page, please give some thought to your artistic and personal goals, and how GSA can help you achieve them.

It is important that you arrive well-rested and ready to exercise the complete artist in you: voice, body and imagination. The majority of your days will consist of studios with Drama faculty, where you will explore monologues and scenes from plays, practice vocal, physical and improvisational actor training, and create original theater pieces. Guest artists will conduct specialized workshops in mask, acting for film, and Shakespeare. You will collaborate with Film + Photography students on film projects, with Instrumental Music students who will compose original music for your scenes, and with other disciplines during interdisciplinary workshops. The Drama program will also take field trips to Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati and Kentucky Shakespeare. If you are interested in pursuing a career in the theater, Drama faculty will provide you with the information you need to audition for college programs and professional theaters – please come prepared with questions! While your time in the program will be process-oriented, you will work towards final showcases of monologues, scenes and ensemble pieces developed during studios.

You can look forward to a captivating, demanding and uplifting environment where creativity is encouraged. Presume welcome and extend welcome – be open to learning from everyone, and remember: if the going gets tough, turn to wonder.

If you have any questions about what to expect during the program, or if you have any trouble completing the preparations on the following page, please do not hesitate to contact us – we are here for you! The best way to reach us is through the GSA office at (502) 566-5192.

We are very much looking forward to working with you this summer.

Sincerely,

Bill Caise, Julane Havens and Bo List
GSA Drama Faculty

TO DO BEFORE GSA

1. Read William Shakespeare's *King Lear*: You will be discussing this play during a workshop with Kentucky Shakespeare (week one) and during studios in preparation for our field trip. Your time will be limited once you arrive, so please read this play as soon as you can, giving yourself time to understand the plot, characters and themes. Shakespeare's plays can be found in most libraries, bookstores and online – getting your own copy for reference is recommended, but if you need to you can read the play here: <http://shakespeare.mit.edu/lear/full.html>
2. Read at least one play of your choosing by one of the following playwrights: Sarah Ruhl, Arthur Miller, Suzan-Lori-Parks, Paula Vogel, Tennessee Williams, Anna Deavere Smith, Eugene O'Neill, William Inge, Lillian Hellman, August Wilson, Caryl Churchill, Lanford Wilson, Moises Kaufman, John Patrick Shanley, Stephen Adly Guirgis, Jordan Harrison, Edward Albee, Tony Kushner, Sam Shepard, David Mamet, Lorraine Hansberry, Theresa Rebeck or Jane Martin. If you can, bring the script(s) with you. The more options we have for monologues and scenes, the better.
3. Discuss your health plan with your family: If you have a restricted diet, be sure to make good eating choices while away from home. Likewise, plan on getting good amounts of sleep and, most importantly, be sure to take any and all needed medications on their appropriate schedules. GSA is NOT the time to experiment with your health!

TO BRING TO GSA

In addition to the general GSA supply list, please bring the following for Drama studios:

1. One memorized monologue: The one you auditioned with is fine, but you may share another if you prefer (as long as it is memorized).
2. Three pieces of news/ media on issues about which you feel strongly: Newspaper articles, book passages, video clips (YouTube or other).
3. Two or three songs that excite you: CDs, iPod, YouTube or in your head if you are willing to sing them!
4. A journal and plenty of writing utensils.
5. Spending money: Though everything is paid for at GSA, you might want a little extra money for a souvenir or present, or for anything you may want during a field trip.
6. Clothing that allows you to move freely: Stretch, bend, run, jump, roll, etc. It is imperative that you do not wear clothes that limit your ability to participate fully (no tight jeans, short shorts, flip flops, high heels, jewelry, etc.). Sweats/ athletic clothing is encouraged. You may also want to bring layers for air-conditioned spaces, and hair bands, clips or ties to keep your hair away from your face.
7. A reusable water bottle.
8. Neutral black clothing: No logos or writing please. You will need at least one outfit that covers your arms and legs, and one outfit for the final showcase (black slacks, button downs, dresses, skirts, or tops depending on your preference – please remember black shoes and socks!).