Pershing Middle School

Magnet Theatre Audition Requirements

For your audition, you will be required to complete the following components:

- **Memorized Performance**

  Perform two memorized monologues provided in advance.

- **Cold Read**

  Demonstrate your ability to cold-read a script and make clear, thoughtful theatrical acting choices with minimal preparation.

- **Interview**

  Participate in a brief interview discussing your interests, commitment, and approach to theatre.

- **Written Assessment**

  Complete a short written assessment addressing your past theatre experience and future goals.

Audition Scoring Breakdown

- **Memorized Performance: 50%**
- **Cold Read: 30%**
- **Interview: 10%**
- **Written Assessment: 10%**

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Audition Monologue Instructions

For your audition, you will prepare and memorize <u>TWO</u> of the following monologues:

1. **One modern monologue**
2. **One Shakespearean monologue**

Please choose monologues that fit your personality and that you enjoy performing.

What You Need to Do

1. Memorize Both Monologues

Know your lines so well that you can say them without stopping, looking down, or starting over.

2. Show Emotion

Think about how your character feels. Are they excited? Scared? Confident? Silly?
Let your voice and face show that emotion clearly.

3. Become the Character

Ask yourself:

- Who am I in this monologue?
- What do I want?
- Why am I speaking?

Try to perform as if you *are* that character, not just reading their lines.

4. Use Your Body

Actors don't stand still! Use simple, clear movements to help tell the story:

- Turn your body
- Take a step
- Look in a direction
- Gesture with your hands

Just don't overdo it. Keep it natural and connected to the character.

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5. Speak Clearly

Project your voice, pronounce each word, and make sure the audience can hear and understand you.

Remember:

You are not being judged on perfection.
You are being judged on **effort**, **creativity**, **confidence**, and **your willingness to try**.

Have fun, take a deep breath, and show us your best storytelling!

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🌟 MONOLOGUES FOR GIRLS

1. *Little Women* – Jo March (Public Domain, 1868)

Context: Jo reflects on her dreams and frustrations.
Length: ~45 seconds
Monologue:
"Women, they have minds, and they have souls, as well as just hearts. And they've got ambition, and they've got talent, as well as beauty. I'm so sick of people saying love is all a woman is fit for. I'm not afraid of storms, for I'm learning how to sail my ship. I want to do something splendid—something heroic or wonderful that won't be forgotten after I'm dead. I may only be a girl, but I can do something great."

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2. *The Secret Garden* – Mary Lennox (Public Domain, 1911)

Context: Mary discovers something that awakens her curiosity and hidden hope.
Length: ~40–50 seconds
Monologue:
"I never cared for anything before, but this... this garden is different. I feel as if I'm changing every time I come here. It makes me feel alive, as if something inside me is waking up after a long, long sleep. If I can bring this place back to life, maybe… maybe I can bring myself back, too. I want to learn every secret it holds."

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3. *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* – Alice (Public Domain, 1865)

Context: Alice tries to make sense of her strange situation.
Length: ~30–40 seconds
Monologue:
"Curiouser and curiouser! I can't understand it at all. One moment I'm myself, and the next I'm smaller than a mouse—or taller than a tree! How can anyone have an adventure when they

can’t even stay the same size? Still… I suppose if I keep my head (and my temper), I may discover something wonderful. After all, every adventure begins with a little confusion.”

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4. Shakespeare – Juliet, *Romeo & Juliet* Act 2, Sc. 2

(edited for clarity, still public domain)
Length: ~40–50 seconds
Monologue:
“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 in a name? That which we call a rose
By any other name would smell as sweet.”

5. Shakespeare — Beatrice, *Much Ado About Nothing*, Act 2, Scene 1

Length: ~25–35 seconds

Monologue:
“I would rather hear my dog bark at a crow than hear a man swear he loves me!
No, Uncle, I will never fall in love— not till men are made of some other metal than earth.
Would it not grieve a woman to be overmastered by a piece of valiant dust?
No, thank you! I had rather lie in the wool and scratch than be bothered with love.
Love may be for others, but as for me— I'll laugh at it while I can!”

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🌟 MONOLOGUES FOR BOYS

1. *Tom Sawyer* – Tom Sawyer (Public Domain, 1876)

Context: Tom defends his adventurous spirit.
Length: ~45 seconds
Monologue:
"I can't help it if folks say I'm always in trouble. Adventures don't come find you—you've got to go make them yourself! If I just sat still and behaved all the time, why, life would be as dull as a fence post. I want to see the world, to run and climb and fish and find treasure. Maybe I do get scraped up now and then, but at least I'm living!"

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2. *A Christmas Carol* – Young Scrooge or Bob Cratchit (Public Domain, 1843)

Context: A hopeful line about kindness and family.
Length: ~40 seconds
Monologue:
"Christmas is a time when we open our hearts a little wider and think of others before ourselves. It isn't the gifts or the feast that matter—it's the kindness. I believe there is good in every person, even those who have forgotten how to show it. And if my small cheer can make someone else's day a little brighter, then that is enough for me."

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3. Shakespeare – Puck, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* Act 2, Sc. 1

Length: ~45 seconds
Monologue:
"I am that merry wanderer of the night.
I jest to Oberon and make him smile
When I a fat and bean-fed horse beguile
Neighing in likeness of a filly foal.
And sometimes lurk I in a gossip's bowl,
In very likeness of a roasted crab;

And when she drinks, against her lips I bob
And on her withered dewlap pour the ale."

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4. Shakespeare – Romeo, *Romeo & Juliet* Act 1, Sc. 4

(edited lightly for youth)
Length: ~45 seconds
Monologue:
"I dreamt a dream tonight.
My mind misgives some consequence, yet hanging in the stars,
Shall bitterly begin his fearful date
With this night's revels. But he that hath the steerage of my course,
Direct my sail! On, lusty gentlemen!"

5. *Peter Pan* – Peter (Public Domain, 1911)

Length: ~40 seconds
Monologue:
"I don't want ever to be a grown-up. Grown-ups always say, 'Be sensible!' and 'Stop playing!' But playing is the best part of life. Why should I give it up? I want to fly, to fight pirates, to laugh, and to live in stories forever. If believing in magic keeps me young, then I'll never stop believing."