



Emanuel School

Drama scholarship information

On the basis of the application (consisting of the paperwork and accompanying evidence) we will draw up a shortlist of applicants who will be invited to audition.

Awards will be made mainly on the basis of performance in the auditions but great emphasis will be placed on the reference and supporting evidence detailing previous experience or commitment to drama.

In most cases the successful candidates will have appeared in drama productions both in and outside their school and the application must include a reference from a teacher or instructor who can verify the pupil's dedication and talent. Further relevant references will also be considered.

All candidates should submit documentation to support their application, which must include:

- A statement of interest written by the candidate about why they would like to be a drama scholar at Emanuel School (maximum length 500 words). Candidates are likely to be questioned about this if called to audition. This statement should include a summary of what the pupil can offer the school in terms of drama and what they would hope to gain by being part of the drama scholarship programme. Pupils may wish to explain any previous drama experience, both in and out of school.
- A theatre review written by the candidate about a play or performance they have seen in the last year (maximum length 500 words). It is intended that this will show the candidate's understanding of how drama is created as well as reflecting their appreciation that drama is not solely about being a performer.

Please do not send any further evidence. Please note that supporting statements and reviews will be retained by the school.

Summary of audition

Candidates should prepare an audition piece which should be a monologue of not less than one minute and not more than two minutes in duration. The piece should be delivered without notes or text. The audition piece must be from a published play or piece which has been performed on the professional stage and all candidates are expected to have read the whole play as they will be questioned about their role in context.

In the first part of the audition, candidates will be seen as a whole group and will work with each other to see how they interact with other actors. In this session they will be asked to perform a series of improvisation exercises. We are looking for students who can demonstrate a high level of personal skill in the audition and who show a real commitment to performing on stage and offering an outstanding contribution to drama lessons at Emanuel.

Please note that all stages of the audition are in 'open' format, with candidates watching each other perform.

Further information about drama scholarship auditions

In addition to the above information we would like to draw your attention to the following:

1. The prepared audition piece (which is between one and two minutes long) should be taken from a published play or a piece which has been performed on the professional stage. It should be a monologue or speech from that play (i.e. not a poem or other reading). All candidates are expected to have read the whole play as they will be questioned about their role in context.

2. The audition is likely to take approximately one hour (slightly longer for those applying for sixth form scholarships). We will begin with a workshop where all candidates will be seen together and assessed in terms of their communication skills and ability to interact with others to create drama. All candidates will then watch each other performing their prepared solo piece. Therefore, there are two equally weighted parts to the audition: the group workshop and the solo prepared piece.

In the group workshop candidates will be assessed on their ability to:

- Collaborate with others
- Suggest creative ideas for drama
- Develop the ideas of others into successful drama
- Focus on and commit enthusiastically to the drama.

In the solo audition candidates will be assessed on their ability to:

- Use voice and movement to portray a role which is in keeping with the context of the piece (e.g. the monologue must suit the style and content of the play from which it has been taken)
- Reflect upon the performance choices they have made, including why they chose the monologue and how they created their role
- Answer questions on the character in a way which reflects knowledge of the play and the role in context (e.g. “What is the primary emotion in the piece?”, “Who is your character speaking to here and why?” or “Can you describe your character in three words?”)
- Be part of a focused and supportive audience.

If you have any further queries about the auditions please do not hesitate to contact; Ms C Fearnley, Head of Drama (clare.fearnley@emanuel.org.uk).