



WIU BFA Musical Theatre Video Submission Requirements for Fall 2026 Admission

***This is highly detailed information - please read carefully!**

For all questions regarding the Musical Theatre Program or the audition process for Western Illinois University, please contact Lysa Fox (l-fox@wiu.edu).

***Please note that we communicate heavily through email. Please send this info from or provide us with the email address you use the most and check often.**

Please note that we do not require a pre-screen. If you're interested in auditioning for us, we're interested in you!

Video Submission General Instructions

- **You will submit your videos through email by creating a PDF with clearly marked URL's to the location of your videos and materials.** Please include your first and last name and your email address as the header at the top of the PDF. Your personal email is preferred over your school email.
- You should have a separate video for each piece of the audition, no continuous video.
- Upload your videos and materials to a share folder or YouTube. This is the most reliable way to know that we can open them on different devices.
- **Please ensure you have granted public access to all of your videos and links** as the full Musical Theatre faculty at WIU will be viewing your work.
- **See the final page of this document for an example** of what your email should look like. This will also help you see a quick 'checklist' of what is needed for a complete audition.

On the following pages, please find:

- **Video Audition Submission Materials Instructions**
- **Tips and Suggestions**
- **Email Instructions**

Video Submission Materials

Slate video

- State your name and your pronouns if you'd like.

There's no need to slate on your individual performances, instead please clearly label each of your videos as listed below.

- For songs - title of the piece and your name (i.e. - Live Out Loud - Your Name)
- For monologues - title of the piece, the playwright, and your name (Doubt - John Patrick Shanley - Your Name)

Song Videos - a separate video for each song

- **Please provide a full song and one cut using these guidelines:**
 - One musical theater song/cut from any time period.
 - One song/cut of your choice from any time period and in any style that best suits you (musical theater, pop, hip-hop, folk, rock, rap, soul, country, punk, etc.). This song should contrast the style of the first selection.
 - *See below for **Song Tips** on choosing good songs for an audition such as this.

Monologue Video

- **One monologue from a published play or written by a professional writer.**
 - A professional writer is someone whose plays have been produced, but may not have been professionally published.
 - *See below for **Monologue Tips** on choosing a good monologue for an audition such as this.

Dance Video

- Show us your best version of dancing or moving. Please include at least one turn, one jump and one kick (or other suitable rotation, elevation, and extension that works for your body).
- **If needed, we can provide you with a dance tutorial.** This is a video breaking down / teaching you a combination that you can record yourself and send it as your dance audition. If you would like to request this, please contact Donald Laney, Head of Dance at dj-laney@wiu.edu. He will connect with you regarding more specific instructions.
- If you are getting the tutorial video from us, please wait to submit your whole audition until this piece is completed.
 - *See below for **Dance Tips** for showing us your best work regardless of your level of training.

Optional Wild Card Video

- If you choose to do this, think about it as an opportunity to show your personality or share something about yourself. This media can be *ANYTHING* you want - a special skill, an interesting story about yourself, a passionate speech, a great memory from your theatrical past, an instrument you play, etc... *"What do you want us to know about you?"*

- If you choose to do this wild card video, there is no time requirement, but we do ask that you please keep it to under five minutes at the most.

Other Important Materials

- [F26 / WIU Audition Form](#) - Please be sure to fill this out before or at the same time as you send your videos. As requested at the end, indicate on your PDF that you've completed this step and the date you did so.
- **Recommendation / Reference information** - Embedded in the form above, you will provide the names and email addresses of two references who are willing to speak to your readiness and potential success in a demanding conservatory style musical theatre training program. Once we have secured these recommendations and your materials, we will add your audition submission to our pool of candidates for consideration.
- Please include separate links to your **Headshot and Resume**. These should be clearly marked URL's on the submitted PDF.

Once we've reviewed ALL of your materials **we will reach out to you to schedule a virtual interview over Zoom**. This is our chance to get to know you a little better and you to get to know us as well and will last approximately 20 minutes. This interview will be with members of the BFA / MT faculty and current students in the program.

TIPS AND SUGGESTIONS

General Tips and Information...

...for making a great looking and sounding video! We truly want you to be successful in your work - so here's some things to help.

- You are encouraged to dress professionally for your audition.
- All of the work should be fully memorized and at the point of giving a solid performance.
- **Each piece should be filmed/uploaded as a separate piece of media, clearly marked & labeled. No continuous videos.**
- Students are encouraged to use standard technology/recording devices available to them (i.e. smartphones, tablets, etc.)
- Solid-colored walls are ideal, but any background that does not steal the focus from your performance is desired.
- Take care that your space allows for adequate lighting. Having a lamp or window directly behind you will cast a shadow over your face. Keep the lighting source behind your recording device or to the side of you so that your face is lit.
- When using pre-recorded music, place the music source (the speaker) closer to *you* than it is to the device on which you are recording. By having the accompaniment near you, your voice and music will reach the microphone on your device in a more balanced manner.
- Before filming, do a trial run to test both your audio & visual presentation. Watch your video back to ensure everything looks AND sounds okay.
- Ensure the camera portion of your device is at eye level. You can use a tripod built for a smartphone or tablet. If you do not have a tripod, consider using a stack of books on a desk or box. Filming in "landscape" (horizontally) is recommended.

Song Tips:

- The work must be fully memorized and performance ready.
- Make sure the songs are not too long - we encourage approximately 2 - 3 minutes.
- It's strongly recommended that your two songs are contrasting in some way - sustained melody vs. speech-like singing, belt vs. falsetto/mix, comedic vs. dramatic.
- Choose songs that will show your personality, your range, and your performance skills overall.
- Choose songs that you can knock out of the park no matter what time of the day you may be asked to sing. Something that is very comfortable for you to do your best work. This is a time to show us your strengths. We'll help you work on your weaknesses, once you're a student - that's our job!
- The job of a musical theatre performer is to connect to not only the well sung notes and musicality choices, but the story of the song as well. Treat it like a monologue - find the acting through the song.

Monologue Tips:

- The work must be fully memorized and performance ready.
- It is recommended to choose monologues that are age-appropriate (generally within 5-10 years of your actual age) and feel authentic to your culture, background, and lived experience. We will be watching for your connection to the material emotionally in addition to enjoying the work you're doing.
- It's strongly recommended that you have read the full text of the play or screenplay the monologue is from to help understand the character's arc and objectives.
- Active monologues are often better for auditions; an active monologue takes place in *real time* and focuses on what you want and puts you in direct communication with an imaginary scene partner. This is often more successful in an audition situation than pieces that are a story or retelling a memory.
- It's best if the monologue does not rely on props, costumes, make-up or any other technical elements beyond possibly a chair.
- It's best to stay away from work that requires a dialect.
- Additionally, it can be helpful to avoid monologues that rely on extreme emotions as it can be hard to believably justify those responses in a short piece.
- Since we only require a single monologue, we leave it to you to choose what shows you off best. Comic or dramatic is less important than what we see you do with the material.
- Please consider how it will pair with your song selections. We are asking for a single monologue, so choose wisely considering what your songs will show us in your acting skills as well as your vocal skills. The monologue should expand on your range as an actor.

Dance Tips

- Make sure you can execute all the choreography well. It is to your advantage to choose steps and movement that highlight your strengths instead of your weaknesses.
- You may use recent videos of you from a show or concert, but it must just be you in the frame.
- Your dance sample should be in whatever dance discipline you feel most confident. This may include, but is not limited to jazz, ballet, modern, hip hop, lyrical, contemporary, or dance styles beyond American and Euro-western styles.
- Please use steps, movement, and physical vocabulary that you are familiar with and can execute well. Fully move your body to the best of your ability.

Email Instructions - This is detailed information - please follow this format!

You will email your full submission to Lysa Fox, Head of Musical Theatre (l-fox@wiu.edu)

Subject of email: Your Name - BFA Musical Theatre Video Audition / F26

In the body of your email - even though some of this info is being given on some of the forms, this will help us with contacting you quickly if needed - thank you.

- Name
- Email Address
- Phone Number

Please indicate some general information about the best times to set up a Virtual Interview with you. Example: Are weekends best? After 5? Are you in performance right now and would like to wait until after closing? Give us a leaping off point to make this move quickly.

*Link to your PDF with the title renamed to indicate Your Name / Email Address

In the PDF:

- Name
- Email Address
- Phone Number

Headshot

*Link to Headshot - titled with your name

Resume

*Link to Resume - titled with your name

Slate Video

*Link to your slate (see notes on pg 2 for titling)

Song #1 Link

*Link to Song #1 (see notes on pg 2 for titling)

Song #2 Link

*Link to Song #2 (see notes on pg 2 for titling)

Monologue Link

*Link to Monologue (see notes on pg 2 for titling)

Dance Video Link

*Link to Dance Video (see notes on pg 2 for titling)

Wild Card Link (optional)

*Link to Wild Card Video (optional - see notes on pg 2)

*Please indicate that you have completed the WIU BFA Musical Theatre Audition Form and the date in which you did it.

*Please list the names / email addresses of your Recommenders / References.