

Ovation Academy Junior Theater Festival Company

AUDITION Submissions due no later than **July 15, 2026**



Company Member Commitment and Eligibility:

Representing Ovation Academy at JTF is an exciting honor that requires dedication, preparation, teamwork, and professionalism. Our Company Members are expected to uphold a high standard of excellence both in rehearsals and while traveling as Ovation ambassadors.

Eligibility Requirements

- Performers must be ages 8–18 as of Summer 2026
- Company Members must participate in a minimum of **two Ovation productions** during the 2026–27 season
 - Production exemption may be granted for professional show commitments or participation in a BRAVO production
- At least **one Ovation/Encore production** during 2026–2027 is required
- High school performers must participate in at least one Encore production during 2026–2027
(*examples: Hadestown, Legally Blonde (summer), Fall 2026 production, Spring 2027 production*)
- Students must participate in:
 - Dance Technique
 - At least one additional Ovation class, workshop, or 8 private lesson (voice, dance, or acting)

Festival Participation: Company Members will represent Ovation Academy at one of the following:

- **2027 Junior Theater Festival – Sacramento, CA**
Ages 8–13 or 13–18
- **2027 Junior Theater Festival – Atlanta, GA**
Ages 13–18 or 8–13

Festival age group assignments will be finalized after reviewing interest and scheduling conflicts to best accommodate school and performance commitments

Performers are expected to:

- Come prepared and practice material at home

- Demonstrate respect for directors, fellow performers, volunteers, chaperones, and festival staff
- Maintain a positive attitude and strong work ethic throughout the rehearsal process
- Make responsible choices during rehearsals, performances, and travel

Rehearsal Attendance Policy: *Attendance is critical to our success — musical theater is our team sport!*

An initial rehearsal schedule will be provided at callbacks. Please note:

- Rehearsal schedules are subject to change and updated weekly
- Additional rehearsals may be added during high-volume festival preparation periods like showcasing
- Any missed material must be learned independently using rehearsal videos

Beginning December 1, we ask that JTF take priority over outside extracurricular activities, concerts, and events whenever possible.

Conflict Policy

- Each Company Member is allowed **two unavoidable conflicts**
- All known conflicts must be communicated as early as possible

If you are interested in JTF but have unique scheduling circumstances, please reach out to Ms. Reynolds or Ms. Alex. We want every student to experience the growth, magic, and opportunity JTF provides!

AUDITION SUBMISSION

What to Submit for Your Video Audition:

- Your name, Age, Grade in Fall 2026
- A brief introduction sharing: A little about yourself; Why you are interested in JTF. Keep it short — approximately 10–15 seconds.

Most importantly: **Be yourself and let your personality shine through!** And don't forget to SMILE 😊

1. Prepare **One Song**:

- 16–32 bars or approximately 30–60 seconds or a musical theatre style selection
- Briefly introduce: the show and song title; Your character; The context of the song

Tips

- ★ Sing with an instrumental or karaoke track (YouTube karaoke tracks work great)
- ★ A small external speaker often provides better sound quality than playing music directly from a laptop or phone
- ★ Musicnotes.com is a great resource for sheet music and adjustable-key accompaniment tracks

2. Prepare a **SCENE OR MONOLOGUE**

- One memorized, age-appropriate scene or monologue. Approximately 30 seconds

We are looking for truthful storytelling and emotional connection.

If performing a scene

- Have someone read the other lines off camera
 - Keep your focus near the camera
 - Show us a clear emotional journey
- ### 3. **DANCE:** include one recorded dance combination in your audition video
- The **Beginner Combination** is recommended for students under 11
 - The **Advanced Combination** is required for students ages 12+

Instructional videos are available online. We strongly encourage students to begin learning choreography early

SPECIAL SKILLS (Optional) Show us something unique that makes you YOU!

Examples may include: Playing a Musical instruments; Tap, ballet, jazz, or specialty dance styles; Gymnastics; Leaps and turns; Juggling; Any creative or unexpected talent

Short 10 second clip. Be creative and have fun with it!

How to Submit Your Audition

1. Select Your Material

Choose material that excites you and allows you to feel confident and prepared. Need help? Ovation Office can connect you with an audition coach.

2. Record Your Audition (Pro Tips):

- Record horizontally
- Use a plain background
- Position the camera at eye level

3. Edit Your Clips Into One Video File

iMovie is a simple and user-friendly option.

Students are encouraged to edit the video themselves — it's great experience for future auditions!

4. Upload Your Video

Upload your audition to YouTube as **UNLISTED** (*Anyone with the link can view it.*)

Do NOT upload as PRIVATE or directors will not be able to access it. Vimeo or Google Drive links also work

5. Complete the JTF Company Member Audition Form to include:

- Your audition link; Headshot; Known conflicts. The form is on the Ovation website.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Wednesday, July 15: Audition submissions due
- Friday, July 24, 2026, Callback list released
- By August 20: Company Members and JTF casts announced
- Saturday/Sunday: August 8 or 9, 2026, 9:30am: Callbacks
- Thursday, September 3, (6:30–8:00 PM), **JTF Information Meeting**

At the information meeting, families will receive: Festival schedules, Expectations and rehearsal information, Payment schedules, Travel details; Q&A session

Questions?

If you have any questions about the JTF submission process, please reach out!

- **Alex Hairston Reynolds**, Managing Director - teamovation@ovationacademy.org
- **Tina Reynolds**, Ovation Academy Owner - tina@ovationacademy.org

JTF FAQs

WHAT IS JTF?

The [Junior Theater Festival](#) is the largest celebration of musical theater for young people and is produced by [Music Theater International](#) and [iTheatrics](#).

WHEN IS JTF?

JTF Atlanta is January 15-17, 2027 in Atlanta, Georgia

JTF West is February 5-7, 2027 in Sacramento, California

WHAT IS THE REHEARSAL COMMITMENT FOR COMPANY MEMBERS ATTENDING JTF?

Sep/Oct - Participate in Fall Production, Training Class or Private Lessons (unless exemption approved)

Nov/Dec - JTF Rehearsals begin (1-3x wkly - off several weeks for Nov/Dec holidays)

Jan/Feb - JTF Rehearsals (3-4x wkly, at least 2 for the full company + additional principal/small group rehearsals)

***This varies depending on if your group is going to ATL or SAC.*

WHAT DOES A GROUP DO AT JTF?

Groups perform a 15-minute selection from one Broadway JR or KIDS Collection show for adjudication, participate in workshops specifically designed for student performers, and watch outstanding performances by their peers and musical theater elite. We've enjoyed performances by Brittany Mack (Six), Stephanie J Block (Wicked), the original cast of Mean Girls, Cynthia Erivo, Pasek and Paul, Ben Platt, Adam Jacobs, Michael Wordly and so many more incredible folks!

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF JTF?

JTF gives everyone who attends the opportunity to experience the transformative power of musical theater through watching performances, attending workshops, and making connections with other musical theater groups from around the world. Ovation Team Training and Company Membership pushes all actors to work hard, work together, polish and hone their artistic skills and strive for excellence. We become a family!

WHO ATTENDS JTF?

Any elementary, middle, or high school, after-school, private academy or community theater group that has done or is planning to do a Broadway JR. or KIDS collection show. **All shows must come from the [Broadway JR or Kids Collection](#).** Parents are encouraged to attend as chaperones - your child must stay with you or you can arrange for another adult to chaperone your child. Ovation does not provide any overnight supervision for performers.

WHAT SHOWS WILL OVATION ACADEMY'S COMPANIES BE PERFORMING IN 2027?

This will be announced later, as we are waiting on some information from the festival organizers that will impact our final show selections. Thank you for your patience!

ARE THERE OTHER REQUIREMENTS OF JTF MEMBERS?

JTF member is expected to complete a **minimum of two meaningful experiences between Fall '26 and Summer '27**. One must be with Ovation, the second may be from outside of Ovation but must be communicated to us for our records. There are several ways to fulfill this requirement:

- 2 Broadway Academy or Encore Productions or Summer Camps, OR
- 1 show + 1 training class, OR
- 2 training classes, OR
- 1 show + 8 or more private lessons, OR
- 16 or more private lessons
- 1 school production + 1 Ovation show, camp, or 8 private lessons
- 1 professional theatre or television credit

We also encourage JTF members to attend Ovation performances and be enthusiastic supporters of their peers!

WHAT ARE THE COSTS OF JTF?

JTF is a 5 day, 4 night trip (Thu PM - Mon AM). Families are responsible for purchasing airfare, discounted hotel rooms through Ovation, meals and their JTF festival fee. **Company Member costs for travel and tuition have historically totalled approximately \$2,500, encompassing ALL training, festival and travel fees.** Payments are typically spread out across 6 months, and we do everything we can to create a payment plan that works for your family.

IS THERE A ONE-DAY PASS?

No, there is not a one day pass available. Everyone who plans to attend the festival must pay the full entrance fee for a festival wristband in order to attend any and all events throughout the festival, including adjudication.

HOW STRICT IS FESTIVAL SECURITY?

Every person who attends JTF is required to wear a wristband at all times at the festival. This allows festival staff to ensure only those registered with a group gain access to festival events, maintaining the safety of all in attendance.

WHEN WILL SPECIFIC ROLES FOR THE PERFORMANCE BE ASSIGNED?

Likely in October or November when rehearsals begin for the 15-minute adjudication. Every student selected to attend JTF plays an important role. We believe strongly at Ovation that you learn just as much being in the ensemble as you do in a principal role. #NotAboutTheRole,ItsAboutTheGOAL