

2020/21

RISING STAR PROJECT

APPLICATION

QUARANTINE MUSICALS

EXPLORE A CAREER. LEARN FROM A PROFESSIONAL.
BUILD A COMMUNITY.

WRITERS

COMPOSERS - LYRICISTS - PLAYWRIGHTS

CREATIVE & ARTISTIC

DIRECTORS - MUSIC DIRECTORS

PERFORMING ARTS

CAST - MUSICIANS - STAGE MANAGEMENT

ARTS ADMINISTRATION

MARKETING - ARTS ADVOCACY - DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Since 2011, Rising Star Project has opened the doors of The 5th Avenue Theatre to teenagers throughout Washington State. This season, Rising Star Project offers students (age 14-19) the chance to develop professional skills through the process of creating and developing original 10-minute musicals. A student team of young directors, stage managers, and performers will present the original work of their peers at The 5th Avenue and in select venues throughout the community. All participants will be trained and mentored by dedicated theater professionals at The 5th Avenue Theatre.

What happened to the mainstage production?

Every other year, Rising Star Project focuses on students who are interested in writing and developing new musicals—introducing them to The 5th Avenue Theatre’s New Works development process. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic,

2021 will also be a season dedicated to creating original new work via digital platforms and contributing to the exciting body of innovative musical theater performances that is growing within the parameters of social distancing.

Rising Star Project will produce a mainstage production in a future season when rehearsals and performances can once again be conducted safely. Until then, all students are strongly encouraged to apply multiple years, in order to fully understand the unique and epic effort it takes to create a musical.

This application includes descriptions of participant roles, a calendar of key dates and events, and general information about the program. All prospective participants must submit an application and plan to interview (or audition) for a specific team.

APPLICATION DEADLINES + AUDITIONS + INTERVIEW DATES

NOVEMBER 9	APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR ARTS ADMIN, WRITING & CREATIVE TIMES, AND STAGE MANAGEMENT
NOVEMBER 10	CAST AUDITIONS SIGN-UP ONLINE AUDITION SIGN-UP OPENS & ONLINE SUBMISSIONS INFO RELEASED
NOVEMBER 11 - 13	ARTS ADMIN INTERVIEWS (PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS ATTEND ONE SESSION)
NOVEMBER 16 - 20	CREATIVE INTERVIEWS (PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS ATTEND ONE SESSION)
DECEMBER 2 - 5	GENERAL AUDITIONS + APPLICATION DEADLINE BY APPOINTMENT OR SUBMISSION (PROSPECTIVE CAST)
DECEMBER 7 - 11	STAGE MANAGEMENT INTERVIEWS (PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS ATTEND ONE SESSION)

IMPORTANT PROJECT DATES 2020/21

Please review full calendar for a detailed calendar of events, workshops and rehearsal dates. **All scheduled events will take place online through digital platforms.**

FEBRUARY 9	PARENT ORIENTATION { 6:30PM – 8PM }
FEBRUARY 21	FULL COMPANY MEETING #1 + FIRST TABLE READ { 10AM – 2PM }
MARCH 20	FULL COMPANY MEETING #2 - ORIENTATION { 10AM - 3PM }
MAY 14 - 15	PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS STREAMED ONLINE { TIMES AND PLATFORMS TBD }



WHY JOIN THE PROJECT?

If you're passionate about the arts and theater, if you're looking for an opportunity to be immersed in a positive professional work environment, if you're eager to collaborate with a group of peers from across our region—you should apply for Rising Star Project. This is your opportunity to begin building skills to help you along the path toward careers and higher education. Past Rising Star Project students have also fulfilled their service learning and community service requirements through participation. And (even though expectations are high and the work is hard) you'll no doubt have some fun along the way.

THE QUARANTINE MUSICALS PROCESS

In November 2020, teams of student writers and composers will begin developing original 10-minute musicals under the online guidance and mentorship of theater professionals.

In Spring 2021, student directors, music directors, stage managers, and actors join the project—working together to “workshop” the original scripts and songs. During the workshop process, the writers and composers hear their work read and sung aloud and make revisions based on input from fellow participants.

At the end of the workshop process, scripts and music are finalized and all participants work together to mount staged readings of the work to be streamed for a digital audience.

“The best part of this process is seeing everyone else’s plays put together. It was refreshing after working on one script and set of songs for so long to be able to watch something else fresh and new. And because it was so new, everyone was excited about it, and the whole atmosphere was just positive and great.”

- 10-MINUTE MUSICALS WRITING TEAM MEMBER (2016)

“The best part of this process was making friends through the sheer ridiculous fun of acting a new show every day.”

- 10-MINUTE MUSICALS CAST MEMBER (2016)

“I think it has been amazing—seeing the final presentation and seeing these stories and feeling something I have never quite felt before: that a group like this could be given the power to tell our stories. This permission that I have been given feels like it is going to last me for the rest of my life. I am allowed to tell whatever stories I want and write music with whatever sounds I want and musical theater can be whatever I want it to be.”

- RISING STAR PROJECT WRITING TEAM MEMBER (2018)

This program definitely solidified my passion for theatre in all forms, whether it be online or in person. And in securing my passion, in a way it also secured myself. Obviously my whole being doesn't revolve around the performing arts but it really is a huge part of who I am.

- RISING STAR PROJECT CAST MEMBER (2020)

THINGS TO CONSIDER...

Rising Star Project is a BIG commitment—in terms of both time and energy. Being part of a fast-paced new works process means EVERY person is crucial and EVERY minute counts. Here's what past participants say:

“The most challenging part of The Rising Star Project was time management—balancing schoolwork with the demands of my position at The 5th. It was hectic and there wasn't always a lot of sleep. It was a challenge getting there around everything else... It takes work. But I wanted to put the work in...because I loved it.”

“RSP was just challenging all around, a lot is expected of stage managers and I was pushed to be my best constantly. The entire job was a challenge, but I wouldn't have had it any other way because I grew so much.”

THE RISING STAR PROJECT MISSION

Rising Star Project uses the resources and professional knowledge that exist at The 5th Avenue Theatre to help young people achieve a fulfilling career, a stronger sense of self, and confidence in their ability to inspire positive change in the world. Within this mission, we endeavor to:

- 1 **take a proactive role in creating** a theater community which is inclusive and representative of our region;
- 2 **provide** students with direct **mentorship** from working theater professionals, introducing them to the diversity of viable careers in the theater industry;
- 3 **create a learning environment** that is collaborative and authentic in regard to professional practices and expectations;
- 4 **connect students to American musicals** not only as vehicles for self-expression, but also as significant artistic achievements, rich texts, and unique expressions of our nation's history and heritage; and
- 5 **support classroom learning** by providing quality Arts-based education experiences for students—both at The 5th and in residence throughout the community and in areas where opportunities for arts education are limited.

TUITION

Rising Star Project is an educational program offered **tuition-free** to Washington State students. *Please note that participants are responsible for expenses associated with day-to-day transportation and meals.*

Rising Star Project is made possible by a generous grant from **The Sheri and Les Biller Family Foundation** and with additional support from **Potelco, Inc., The Hearst Foundations, Susie and Phil Stoller, The Sabrina Roberts Memorial Fund, Rex and Angela Bates, The Herman and Faye Sarkowsky Charitable Foundation, Freestone Capital Management, GM Nameplate, Jean K. Lafromboise Foundation, RealNetworks Foundation, Schultz Family Foundation, and Promotion Arts** (in-kind).

ELIGIBILITY

This program is available to all Washington State students ages 14-19. Eligible participants are within this age range for the majority of the project timeline.

LOCATION

Until further notice, all Rising Star Project events and activities will take place online using digital platforms (e.g. Zoom, Slack, Google apps, etc.)

If you are interested in submitting an application, but do not currently have access to broadband internet or video-ready devices, please contact us.

CONTACT US

Don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions about Rising Star Project or the application process:

risingstarproject@5thavenue.org

AUDITION SIGN-UP

Available **November 10** at:

<https://www.5thavenue.org/education/theater-careers/rising-star-project/>

TEAMS & ROLES

This year, Rising Star Project focuses on career exploration and the development of original musicals through a professional workshop and rehearsal process. In this unique period in history, theater-makers across the world are exploring new platforms, creating innovative ways to reach audiences, and reflecting growing movements toward social justice and equity. Against this backdrop, professional mentors will work with students to learn skills and execute tasks which immerse students in the nationally recognized new works initiatives of The 5th Avenue Theatre. Students have the opportunity to apply for vocational teams in the following areas:

ARTS ADMINISTRATION

A professional musical would not be possible if not for dedicated teams who are responsible for casting, producing, securing funding for, and marketing the production.

THE PRODUCING + COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TEAM is mentored by the Casting Associate, Associate Production Manager, Company Manager and Education staff. Projects include facilitating general auditions and casting, supporting the Rising Star Project cast and company, and coordinating community engagement initiatives and events. Strong candidates have a strong interest in the theater industry or business (thespians, FBLA), are good collaborators, have leadership experience (student government, team athletics), and are comfortable working with deadlines.

THE ARTS ADVOCACY + DEVELOPMENT TEAM is mentored by members of The 5th's development department and is responsible for raising awareness and raising funds for the Rising Star Project production. This team will set a fundraising goal and then create and execute various campaigns to reach their goal. Strong candidates are interested in professional networking and Arts advocacy, are involved in fundraising and service clubs (Key Club, ASB), and are passionate about the Arts and its impact on our community.

THE MARKETING + PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM is mentored by the Senior Marketing Manager and the PR & Communication Manager—with opportunities to shadow graphic designers and production photographers. Projects include writing press releases, designing marketing, and documenting the 10-minute musicals process. Strong candidates are interested in marketing and advertising careers, are involved in marketing clubs (DECA), and are strong writers or have graphic design, photography, and digital video production skills. Specific roles on this team include: **Production Photographer, Videographer, Graphic Designer, Public Relations**

WRITERS

COMPOSERS, LYRICISTS, SONGWRITERS Musical theater employs many kinds of songwriters who contribute music to a new show. Some write music only, others write lyrics only, and many do a combination of both. Student composers and lyricists will participate in songwriting intensive workshops before collaborating with peers and creating an original 10-minute musical. *For this project, the ability to read and write music notation is not required, but helpful.*

PLAYWRIGHTS (BOOK WRITERS, LIBRETTISTS) A musical theater book writer (or librettist) writes dialogue and scenes, but is also often responsible for shaping the dramatic arc of a show and for coordinating how music is integrated into a story. Student book writers will participate in workshops, collaborate with peers and create an original 10-minute musical.

CREATIVE TEAM

The Creative Team is responsible for leading the cast and company through the workshop and rehearsal process, and for creating a final staged reading presentation.

DIRECTORS Each original 10-minute musical will be directed by a student director under the mentorship of a professional director. Strong candidates will have specific interest in pursuing a career as a professional theater director as well as developed knowledge and expertise, and demonstrated experience in a leadership position.

MUSIC DIRECTORS Each original 10-minute musical will have music direction from a student musical director under the mentorship of a professional music director. Strong candidates will have specific interest in pursuing a career as a professional musical director as well as developed knowledge and expertise, and demonstrated experience in a leadership position.

PERFORMING ARTS

THE CAST Actors who are cast in a new works process take on a very distinctive role. They are responsible for bringing the writers' work to life—but in a way that allows the text to communicate as clearly as possible. The actor's performance and occasional feedback should help a writer understand how the story can be told more effectively. New Works actors need to adjust quickly, embrace changes, and be willing to try multiple approaches with constant enthusiasm. General auditions for student performers will take place **December 2-5, 2020** online or through submitted audition videos. Strong candidates will demonstrate commitment to the project schedule and a passion for collaboration.

CAST AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

This season, students will be asked to either audition online (via a platform like Zoom) or to upload and submit an audition video. Instructions and audition appointment options will be made available on November 10, 2020.

All students should prepare and memorize two contrasting musical theater songs AND one monologue no longer than one minute in length.

AUDITIONS SONGS should be about 32 bars each and not longer than one minute each. Each song can be in any style and should showcase your voice and personality.

AUDITION MONOLOGUES should be memorized and **no longer than one minute in length.**

Please also submit a headshot or school photo and a resume listing any performance experience, classes, or private lessons. Please read the AUDITION SHEET on page 9 for more details.

Feel free to contact us if you have any questions about these requirements, especially if this is your first time auditioning for a musical. You can do it!!

REHEARSAL MUSICIANS & ACCOMPANISTS are present during workshops, rehearsals, and help to create recorded tracks that are used in the final presentations. Ideal candidates are interested in professional music careers, have experience playing in advanced ensembles, have an interest in learning diverse musical styles, and have some experience with digital recording and editing tools. ***Students who are interested in learning about the role of a rehearsal piano accompanist are strongly encouraged to apply.***

Musicians should submit a complete application including a music resume. Strong candidates will be invited to also submit a video audition or over a video conference.

This year's project will need musicians who play the following instruments: piano, bass, drum set, guitar.

THE STAGE MANAGEMENT TEAM is responsible for rehearsal preparation, coordinating rehearsals, tracking changes to the script and score, running rehearsals, and overseeing any technical aspects of performances. Ideal candidates are passionate about being organized, experienced leaders, detail-oriented, willing to learn digital tools and meeting platforms, and interested in learning one of the most crucial roles in the theater-making process.

2020/21

RISING STAR PROJECT APPLICATION

QUARANTINE MUSICALS

APPLICATION DEADLINES

NOVEMBER 9 { All TEAMS except CAST }

DECEMBER 2-5 { CAST – due at audition }

THIS APPLICATION WILL BE AVAILABLE TO COMPLETE ONLINE: 5THAVENUE.ORG/EDUCATION/THEATER-CAREERS/RISING-STAR-PROJECT

STUDENT NAME, GENDER PRONOUNS, DATE OF BIRTH, CURRENT SCHOOL, GRADE LEVEL, PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME(S), HOME ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP, HOME PHONE, ARE YOU FLUENT IN AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE?, PARENT/GUARDIAN MOBILE PHONE(S) OR PARTICIPANT IF 18+, PARENT/GUARDIAN E-MAIL(S) OR PARTICIPANT IF 18+, STUDENT E-MAIL

WHAT TEAM(S) ARE YOU APPLYING FOR? PLEASE REVIEW DESCRIPTIONS ON PREVIOUS PAGES AND CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.

ARTS ADMINISTRATION

- PRODUCING + COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
ARTS ADVOCACY + DEVELOPMENT
MARKETING + COMMUNICATIONS
MARKETING FOCUS (OPTIONAL):
PHOTOGRAPHY GRAPHIC DESIGN
VIDEOGRAPHY SOCIAL MEDIA

CREATIVE

- DIRECTING
MUSIC DIRECTION

WRITERS

- PLAYWRIGHT (BOOKWRITER/LIBRETTIST)
SEE WRITING SAMPLES SHEET ON PAGE 10
COMPOSER/LYRICIST/SONGWRITER*
PLEASE APPLY ONLINE:
www.risingstarproject.org/apply

PERFORMANCE

- REHEARSAL MUSICIAN
CAST -
SEE AUDITION SHEET ON PAGE 9
STAGE MANAGEMENT

SCHEDULING CONFLICTS PLEASE REVIEW PROJECT CALENDAR AT 5THAVENUE.ORG/EDUCATION/THEATER-CAREERS/RISING-STAR-PROJECT

LIST ALL CURRENT CONFLICTS BELOW.

Be sure to include any potential scheduling conflicts between December 2, 2020 and May 15, 2021. We will do our best to accommodate conflicts—however, some conflicts may make a candidate ineligible for participation.

LIABILITY WAIVER PLEASE REVIEW THE FOLLOWING WAIVER AND SIGN BELOW.

I, _____, choose to participate in The 5th Avenue Theatre's RISING STAR PROJECT: Quarantine Musicals. By signing this waiver, I am stating that I will not hold The 5th Avenue Theatre responsible for any injury that may occur from participation in this program.

STUDENT SIGNATURE & DATE, PARENT SIGNATURE (IF UNDER 18) & DATE

APPLICATION CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE >

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

A COMPLETE RISING STAR PROJECT APPLICATION WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

APPLICATION FORM

LETTER OF INTEREST

As part of your letter, please reflect on the project mission (on page 4). Describe how you relate to at least one aspect of the mission and use specific examples from your life and experiences.

WORK SAMPLES (WRITERS ONLY, SEE PAGE 10)

CURRENT RESUME

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION*

Written by an adult who is not a member of your family (e.g. a teacher, employer, or advisor). Letters can be submitted separately.

AUDITION FORM (CAST ONLY, SEE PAGE 9)

Cast applicants may submit their completed application in advance OR bring their completed application to their audition appointment. A completed AUDITION FORM should be submitted at auditions—if you mail in your application in advance, bring a completed copy of your AUDITION FORM to your audition appointment.

QUESTIONS? NEED HELP?

CONTACT US!

We know that submitting applications and auditioning can be intimidating and confusing. Don't hesitate to contact us if you need help...

risingstarproject@5thavenue.org

ORLANDO MORALES

Director of Education and Engagement
omorales@5thavenue.org

AUDITION SIGN-UP

Available **November 10** at:
5thavenue.org/education/theater-careers/rising-star-project

SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

Applications can be submitted by mail, sent electronically (PDF files), or submitted at auditions (cast only). You may also apply via our online form. **If possible, all composers, lyricists, and songwriters should apply online.**

➤ **APPLY ONLINE:**

5thavenue.org/education/theater-careers/rising-star-project

➤ **PDF FILES** of scanned applications and/or letters of recommendation should be e-mailed to:

risingstarproject@5thavenue.org

➤ **CAST APPLICANTS** should submit applications in advance of their audition appointment OR when also submitting an audition video.

*LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION can be submitted separately.

CAST APPLICATION & AUDITIONS

This season, students will be asked to either audition online (via a platform like Zoom) or to upload and submit an audition video.

Check 5thavenue.org/education/theater-careers/rising-star-project on **November 10** to sign-up for an audition appointment online or read audition video guidelines.

All audition dates are subject to change.

CAST AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

All students should prepare and memorize two contrasting musical theater songs AND one monologue no longer than one minute in length.

AUDITIONS SONGS should be about 32 bars each and not longer than one minute each. Each song can be in any style and should showcase your voice and personality.

AUDITION MONOLOGUES should be memorized and **no longer than one minute in length.**

Please also submit a **HEADSHOT** or school photo and a **RESUME** listing any performance experience, classes, or private lessons. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions about these requirements, especially if this is your first time auditioning for a musical.

ALL CAST APPLICANTS MUST SUBMIT A COPY OF THIS FORM

AUDITION DATE

RSP: 2020/21 QUARANTINE MUSICALS

5TH AVENUE THEATRE – AUDITION SHEET – CAST APPLICANTS ONLY

NAME				PARENT NAME				
GENDER	M	F	X	AGE	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	HAIR	EYES
PARENT PHONE (BEST)					ALT PHONE			
ADDRESS					CITY		ZIP	
PARENT E-MAIL					STUDENT E-MAIL (OPTIONAL)			
HOW MANY MILES AWAY DO YOU LIVE FROM THE THEATER?								
VOICE TYPE: SOPRANO - MEZZ - ALTO - TENOR - BARITONE - BASS - NOT SURE						VOCAL RANGE		DO YOU READ MUSIC? Y N
DO YOU DANCE? Y N		YEARS OF DANCE EXPERIENCE:		BALLET	MODERN	JAZZ	TAP	OTHER
LIST ANY SCHEDULING CONFLICTS:								
PRODUCER / DIRECTOR NOTES								

WORK SAMPLES

Writers (composers, lyricists, playwrights) must submit at least one sample of your recent work. **Two samples are highly recommended.** For each sample, please also include the following:

- A brief description of the context for your work sample (characters, brief description of the dramatic context, etc).
- A brief statement about the inspiration behind the piece. *What was your process for creating it? If it is a piece that was created in collaboration with another person, please describe your contribution.*

MULTIPLE ROLES: *If you are applying for multiple writing roles (i.e. composer AND playwright) please include a writing sample for each role (i.e. a demo AND a script excerpt).*

COMPOSERS please **apply online** and submit a recording (MP3, M4A, AIFF) and/or sheet music for an original song that you have written recently. Recordings DO NOT need to be produced, "clean," or professional. Basic "demo" recordings are *more than acceptable*. Recordings can be loaded on a thumb drive or provided as a link to a website hosting the file (Soundcloud, Dropbox, Youtube, etc)

LYRICISTS please submit a copy of original lyrics you have written recently. You may also submit a recording. Please include the name of a writing partner (if applicable) in your writer's statement.

PLAYWRIGHTS please submit at least 10 pages of original work from a play or scene(s) that you have written recently.

➤ **SUBMITTING ONLINE**

You are welcome to apply for Rising Star Project online.

If possible, all composers, lyricists, and songwriters should apply online.

5thavenue.org/education/theater-careers/rising-star-project

PROJECT SCHEDULE & CALENDAR OVERVIEW

The Rising Star Project calendar is available at 5thavenue.org/education/theater-careers/rising-star-project and illustrates the time commitment that will be required of participating students. **EXACT DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. ALL POTENTIAL CONFLICTS MUST BE LISTED ON YOUR APPLICATION.**

Other details to note:

- **Arts Administration** teams must be available to meet with their team mentors or work on projects approximately 4-12 hours per week during active periods shown on the calendar.
- **Performing Arts** teams will be required to attend evening and weekend rehearsals March 24 through May 9. Students must be available during listed rehearsal times. Within 90 minutes of the end of a rehearsal day, students are e-mailed their individual “call time” and specific schedule for the next day’s rehearsal.
- **Writers** are required to attend “writers intensive” workshops December 14-15 and February 18-23—as well as attend weekly meetings on Tuesdays beginning in January.

The following colors are used to label and organize calendar events:

	ARTS ADMIN
	STAGE MANAGEMENT
	CAST
	CREATIVES
	WRITERS

"ALL COMPANY" EVENTS

RISING STAR PROJECT will stream final presentations May 15 - 16. Exact performance times and dates subject to change until January 31. All scheduled events will take place online through digital platforms.

The 5th Avenue Theatre strongly believes that musical theater is a *fundamentally collaborative* art form. The “ALL participant” events and milestones during Rising Star Project are undoubtedly the most revealing of what it takes to be successful in the world of professional theater. For this reason, in addition to rehearsals, shadowing, and mentorship sessions, we ask that ALL Rising Star Project students also attend the following:

- **COMPANY MEETING #1** February 21 (10AM – 2PM)
- **COMPANY MEETING #2** March 20 (10AM – 3PM)
- **RUN-THRU REHEARSAL** May 2 (3PM)