OKLAHOMA ARTS INSTITUTE QUARTZ MOUNTAIN

2027 Acting Applicant Guide

How to Apply:

To apply for the acting program, applicants must **choose two monologues, no longer than one minute each**, from the selected list of plays at the end of this guide. Applicants will record their audition to submit online as part of the OSAI application. Applicants must choose one of the following combinations:

1. **Two contemporary monologues:** One comedic monologue and one dramatic monologue, both from contemporary plays.
2. **One classical and one contemporary monologue:** One monologue from a classical play and one monologue from a contemporary play.

All audition performances must be the applicant's own original work. Applicants may not use artificial intelligence (AI) or other software tools to generate, alter, or enhance their audition performances. This includes AI-generated performances, digitally modified voices or facial expressions, and other software-based enhancements. Because students will not have access to these tools during the Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute at Quartz Mountain, it is important the audition process accurately reflects each applicant's independent acting abilities, creativity, and individual artistic choices.

Audition Attire:

- Comfortable, neutral attire. A simple, solid-colored shirt with jeans, pants, or a long skirt, and flats or sneakers are recommended.
- Don’t wear garments that distract from your performance. High heels or other clothing that inhibit your movement are strongly discouraged. Examples of inappropriate audition attire include garments that are bulky, graphic, shredded, torn, too revealing, or too tight (e.g., crop tops, ripped jeans, shirts with characters/logos/words, or short shorts/skirts).

Choosing a Location:

- Choose a neat, neutral background for your video.
- Eliminate any moving/noisy elements in the room that might distract from your audition (e.g., circulating fan).
- Face the primary light source in the room (e.g., a window) to ensure you are well lit from the front. The darkest part of the room should be behind you.
- Position your camera at eye level. While performing, find a focal point behind the camera so the evaluators can see your face, but don't look directly into the camera.

OKLAHOMA ARTS INSTITUTE
QUARTZ MOUNTAIN

Recording Guidelines:

- Do NOT use any chairs, props, or costumes during your audition video.
- Applicants are recommended to use a smartphone to record the audition.
- Be aware of the frame of your video; that is your acting space. Treat it as a three-dimensional area, not just a flat screen. Before recording, walk the space so you know exactly what is visible in the camera, and make sure you're using the full depth of the frame.
- Applicants should video record monologues from contrasting perspectives. (i.e., One monologue must be shot with a wide angle so evaluators can better assess body movements, and one monologue must be shot close up so evaluators can better assess facial expressions.) You may choose the preferred angle and order of the two monologues.
- Do NOT introduce yourself or give any other identifying information in your video recording.
- Before you begin, state the monologues you will be performing (including character names and titles of plays), but *do NOT state your name or any other identifying information.*
- To ensure evaluators can clearly hear and see your authentic performance, no added lighting effects, filters, background music, sound effects, artificial intelligence (AI), or other software-based enhancements are permitted in your monologue recordings. Your video must accurately represent your natural voice, facial expressions, and physical performance.

Example of a wide-angle shot:

Example of a close-up shot:

Video Upload Tips:

You may upload each monologue to your application separately, but each video should be unedited. Please label each file with the title of the play.

Some phones—especially iPhones—save videos in formats that our application platform can't read, which can cause your file to upload backwards, upside down, or not at all. If your file won't upload, it is almost always because of the file type.

For videos, MP4 or MOV files are best.

If you took your audition videos on an iPhone, your phone may save it as HEVC (video) file, and these often won't upload correctly on our application platform. We recommend first converting it to MP4/MOV file, then uploading. See tips for converting your file/s below.

Option 1: Use a converter website

- Search for "HEVC to MP4" (videos).
- Upload → convert → download → then upload to your application.

Option 2: Use a computer

- Move the file to a computer; videos usually convert automatically when moved to a computer.

Evaluation Criteria:

Characterization – 30%
Does the applicant connect emotionally with the character in a believable manner? Does the character seem to have clear objectives and choices?

Vocal Quality – 15%
Does the applicant demonstrate a facility with projection, articulation, and vocal variety?

Physicality – 15%
Is the applicant's movement integrated into the characterization in a believable and expressive manner, with clear staging and purpose?

Professionalism – 20%
Did the applicant seem prepared for the audition? Did they follow guidelines?

Potential – 20%
Could the applicant achieve excellence with appropriate training at OSAI? Does the applicant seem to show an artistic ability that may or may not yet be developed?

Read general information about our evaluation process here:
https://oaiquartz.org/application-selection-process

OKLAHOMA ARTS INSTITUTE
QUARTZ MOUNTAIN

Selected Plays

Applicants must choose two monologues, no longer than one minute each, from the list of plays that follows. You may perform either one comedic and one dramatic monologue from contemporary plays OR one monologue from a classical play and one from a contemporary play.

- Monologues must be memorized.
- Monologues should be delivered in your natural voice (i.e., no character accents).
- Choose monologues from the selected list of plays that mean something to you or are relatable to you.
- Rehearse your monologues out loud. A friend or family member can help you memorize by following along with the script while you recite it.
- Engage your body and voice so you are expressing what your character is doing and feeling. Your pace should be appropriate to the piece. Speak clearly and at a volume at which you can be heard.
- Monologues may not make sense out of context, so applicants are strongly encouraged to read the full play before choosing and preparing monologues. Applicants are responsible for accessing and reading the complete play before preparing monologues.

Contemporary Plays:

Applicants must choose at least one contemporary monologue.

OAI cannot provide full scripts of the contemporary plays listed below, as they are copyrighted works. How to access contemporary scripts legally:

- Borrow a copy from your school or local public library.
- Ask a drama teacher if the school owns an acting edition.
- Purchase or rent a script through the publisher (e.g., Concord, Dramatists, Samuel French).
- Purchase a print or e-book copy from a bookseller (e.g., Amazon, Bookshop).

A Raisin in the Sun – Lorraine Hansberry

Almost, Maine – John Cariani

Brighton Beach Memoirs – Neil Simon

Fences – August Wilson

Fools – Neil Simon

I and You – Lauren Gunderson

Little Women – Kate Hamill

Our Town – Thornton Wilder

Pride and Prejudice – Kate Hamill

Puffs – Matt Cox

The Diary of Anne Frank – Frances Goodrich & Albert Hackett (revised by Wendy Kesselman)

The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds – Paul Zindel

The Giver – Eric Coble (adapted from Lois Lowry)

The Glass Menagerie – Tennessee Williams

Classical Plays:

Classical plays listed below are in the public domain, and they may be read online for free. Links are included below.

As You Like It – William Shakespeare

Candida – George Bernard Shaw

Henry IV, Part I – William Shakespeare

Julius Caesar – William Shakespeare

Much Ado About Nothing – William Shakespeare

The Importance of Being Earnest – Oscar Wilde