Duke Ellington School of the Arts
SY27-28 Audition Procedures – Cinematic Arts & Media Production (CAMP)

GUIDELINES

All students must complete a portfolio. All portfolio materials must be submitted by the February 1st deadline. Following the portfolio review, selected students will be invited to audition.

All auditions are closed to parents/guardians, family members, or peers. If you leave for non-emergencies during your audition, you may be disqualified from completing the admissions process.

If you have any questions, conflicts and/or health concerns, please contact the Admissions Office at admissions@ellingtonarts.org for further assistance.

What We Are Looking For

Cinematic Arts & Media Production (CAMP) is the storytelling department, across a range of platforms, but with a focus on writing as the core. We are looking for students who are intelligent, respectful, humble, and intellectually curious about the world and how it works. The prospective student should be confident about their voice and aware of the need for effective communication. The student must read constantly and have an awareness of current events. Prospective students must engage with technology and have an awareness of the possibilities of emerging platforms as a means of storytelling.

What to Upload/How to Prepare

There are three (3) requirements for the CAMP audition – submission of written samples, short film/video recording, and a photo essay. If selected to proceed, you may be asked to participate in an interview or workshop.

1. **WRITING SAMPLES**

Portfolios will be submitted electronically through the Microsoft form.
https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/dK6KrjVfUn

Your portfolio must contain the following:

- Title page with the auditioner's name, address, telephone number, school year 26-27 grade, and a recent headshot, if available, of the auditioner.
    - Though highly recommended and encouraged, not having a headshot will not negatively impact an auditioner's eligibility and determination.
- Titles for each written piece
- Samples of your best writing, which MUST include two (2) pieces from the following four categories:
    1. At least one original poem
    2. An original short story of no more than 300 words
    3. An original work of cultural critique/review (movies, books, art, music, culture)

4. A one-page personal essay on why you write and what motivates you creatively

Note: *We strongly encourage submissions that accurately reflect your creative spirit, even if independent of schoolwork.*

Choose one of the pieces from your portfolio and write a reflection on your writing process of taking the piece from a rough draft to a more polished draft.
Be sure to include the following:

- Where you revised and why. In other words, identify what could be improved in the current draft and how you made those improvements. These areas might include pacing, word choice, character depth, dialogue, descriptive details, organization, mechanics, narrative voice, etc.
- Submit anything you learned about your strengths and areas of growth as a writer through the revision process

2. **MAKE A (VERY) SHORT FILM**
   Create a short video or compilation of videos of 60 seconds or less. (A single film or individual videos). Video may be creative, narrative, or experimental. Whatever tools are currently available to you will be sufficient. Please refrain from making additional purchases.
   Beyond creativity, we want your work also to have these elements:
   - *Unique camera movement.* You must employ a method of camera movement: track, tilt, pan, etc. You can run with the camera, spin the camera, etc. Any movement is fine if the subject is in the frame and the camera is moving.
   - *Unique lighting.* Whether it be a face half in shadow, light passing through leaves, Rembrandt lighting, silhouette, or whatever piques your interest, we must see you utilize lighting in your video – outside of standard natural or three-point lighting.
   - *Unique composition.* Take advantage of an unusual angle, interesting framing, or something interesting in the foreground or background of a subject - everything in the frame matters to a filmmaker.

3. **PHOTO ESSAY**
   With your own photographic tools – no need to purchase any resources to complete this task, tell a compelling visual story using photos only. Provide no less than five (5) pictures that work together to capture a moment, explore a narrative, or represent a creative concept as a body of work. Let the images speak. Do not provide captions.

OPTIONAL:
Submit a printed or electronic sampling of any creative media work you may have completed or are working on, such as (but not limited to):

- A blog
- A podcast
- A website
- Any film, documentary, or short footage you have worked on

- Digital or traditional photography
- Physical piece? Take a picture and have that item with you, if feasible, during your audition interview

AUDITION

The Audition Process Itself

The CAMP audition has three phases:

1. For the first phase, you must submit your audition portfolio/writing samples electronically by the MSDC lottery deadline (see Writing Samples section of document).
2. In phase two, following the portfolio review, selected students will be invited to participate in an in-person interview which will be scheduled via email. The interview involves a conversation with department faculty about your submitted work and the reading assignment. The audition interview will also include an in-person writing component.
3. For the final phase, if selected to continue you will take part in a special CAMP workshop held in-person (or by Zoom as a work around for extenuating circumstances). Auditioners will participate in writing and group review exercises. For those selected, participation in the audition classwork is mandatory for continued consideration as a CAMP candidate.

Have a Successful Audition

- Review/edit the portfolio items you will submit so we see your best work.
- READ. Great writers are constantly reading.
- Be prepared to discuss where you want to go in life, what you hope to accomplish.
- Engage – be an active participant in the audition class exercises.

Notes

- For your My School DC application online essay, please be sure to include your personal goals as an artist and any experiences you may have had that could impact your decision to pursue this course of study in the essay.
- If possible, it is highly suggested to please include an “Art/Other” recommendation as one of your three (3) in the MSDC Application. This should be submitted by a teacher or staff member who has read/viewed and critiqued your work related to your submission. Students will be penalized for missing recommendations.

Please note 504 and IEP accommodation is available. Please contact admissions@ellingtonarts.org with any questions or concerns.