Theatre Opportunities in Louisville

The Alley Theater. The mission of Alley Theater is to produce progressive theater and to provide an affordable venue for both traditional and experimental artists. The Alley Theater strives to include the entire community in its audiences and on its stage.

The Bard’s Town. The Bard's Town Theatre is THE Louisville theatre devoted to the development and production of new works. Whether a world premiere or a successful show from New York or Chicago that has yet to be seen in Louisville, The Bard's Town Theatre delivers the goods.

Bellarminie Theatre Program. The Bellarmine University Theatre Program celebrates the creativity of the human spirit. As a vital part of an international liberal arts community, the Theatre Program concentrates on developing imaginative, knowledgeable, skilled and responsible artists, teachers, scholars, students and audience members for the future of theatre.

The Coffee Cup Theatre Company. Located in New Albany, the mission of Coffee Cup Theatre Company is to serve the community with quality entertainment and exceptional theatre education.

The Drama Studio. A semiprofessional civic theatre in our 5th season and holding performing residence in the St Genesius Theatre located in The Southern Indiana School for the Arts (SISA) in Clarksville, Indiana, The Drama Studio is a unique theatrical experience offering classic and contemporary theatre in an intimate setting.

Eve Theatre Company. Eve Theatre Company, a non-profit performing arts organization based in Louisville, Kentucky, creates opportunities for women of all ages to give voice to and develop their talents in any and all aspects of theatre arts. Through performance and production across all genres, Eve explores the human experience from a female perspective and gives birth to a stronger, more vibrant community.

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society. The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Louisville is dedicated to performing and promoting the comic operas of Gilbert & Sullivan. Membership includes singers, instrumentalists, and fans that enjoy the topsy-turvy works of G&S.

Little Colonel Players. Founded in 1956, the Little Colonel Players mission is to foster the art of drama by presenting plays of an educational as well as entertaining value to its members and the public. LCP is located in Pewee Valley.

Looking for Lilith. Looking for Lilith is a theatre company that is dedicated to re-examining history through women's perspectives, both past history and history in the making today, in order to reveal and celebrate women's contributions. The ancient story of Lilith embodies our struggle.

Louisville Repertory Company. Since 1992, the Louisville Repertory Company has been taking the Louisville community on an annual journey from the classic to the contemporary, through the power and excitement of live performances.
**Pandora Theatre Company.** We believe in the transformational power of theatre. To fulfill this vision, with the curiosity of Pandora herself, we will seek to engage, entertain, and inspire our audience, our community, and the greater human community, by presenting bold, cutting edge, unique, and rarely seen theatrical pieces that speak to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Community.

**Savage Rose.** Savage Rose is a Louisville-based theatre company devoted to the production of classic works.

**Stage One Family Theatre.** The purpose of this company is to present such entertainment as will inspire children with love and appreciation for live theatre.

**Theatre [502].** Theatre [502] connects Louisville artists and Louisville audiences through great theatre, with a passion for the recent and relevant and an obsession with quality.

**Clarksville Little Theater.** One of the oldest community theaters in the United States, CLT presents a broad range of theatrical experiences, including comedies, dramas, and musicals. They sponsor five productions a year and a summer camp for children.

**Bunbury Theatre Company.** Since 1985 the mission of The Bunbury Theatre has been to create enriching, diverse, live theatrical experiences for the community and its artists in an intimate and professional setting.

**University of Louisville Theater Department.** Providing bachelor’s and master’s degrees in theatre, the department provides training and performance opportunities for actors, directors, designers, technicians, and teachers.

**As Yet Unnamed Theatre Company.** As Yet Unnamed produces several musicals per year, both old and new, serious and comical.

**Whodunnit Murder Mystery Theater.** Whodunnit produces real mysteries, with clues and carefully crafted story lines. Offerings have included ghost stories, lively holiday musicals, a new Mystery Cabaret, courtroom dramas, comedies, costumed extravaganzas set in the 1920s and 1930s, among others.

**Wayward Actors Company.** Wayward Actors Company is dedicated to producing classical, contemporary and absurd theater that enlightens and entertains, provoking the audience to re-evaluate their perceptions of social, economic and moral issues.

**Actor’s Choice.** Actor's Choice Theatre is a semi-professional theatre group that performs in, and around, the Louisville area. Its mission is to provide the opportunity for area directors to present theatre that they are passionate about.

**CenterStage.** Located at the Jewish Community Center, CenterStage produces 6-7 Broadway-style musicals each season and provides theatre education opportunities through CenterStage Academy and CenterStage Acting Out.
Auditioning Tips

Understand that if you are cast for a play or film, you will be expected to dedicate an enormous amount of your time and energy to the project. If you work full time, have other major projects, go to school, want to or a family to take care of, this may not be the best time to pursue a role in a production. If you have the time (usually around 3-4 hours a night) for rehearsals, fittings, and performances, you should be okay. Don't forget that in addition to that 3-4 hours at night, it takes loads of time - outside of rehearsing - to memorize a play, monologues, and stage direction. You should always be prepared, mentally and physically, to give the project more than just rehearsal time.

Make sure you are a team player. Other actors don't take kindly to anyone who has an ego the size of Greenland, who projects an attitude that says, "I'm the star." Especially in a community or university theater environment, there is simply no room to think you're better than anyone else. After all, this is supposed to be a fun experience, and since no one is being paid (much at least) to be there, no one owes you anything, even if you do get the lead role.

Audition Notices. Watch the Courier-Journal, especially the Sunday edition, in the Arts section for audition notices. One of the best places is the website of the Theatre Alliance of Louisville (TAL), http://www.theatreallianceoflouisville. TAL is composed of a group of local theatres that work together to support each other and to provide one-stop shopping for actors, directors, tech people, and any others interested in the theatre community in Louisville.

Understand that if you find a call for actors, look at the character types and see if you fit. If you are a 40-year-old white male, you probably won't fit into a role for a 20- to 25-year-old Hispanic male. If you are a guy trying to audition for "The Vagina Monologues," you probably won’t get cast. See if you can get a copy of the play to read before you audition.

Prepare. Understand what is expected during the audition. Does the notice ask you to bring a headshot and resume? Does it ask you to prepare a monologue or a musical number? Will you be expected to dance? Is it a cold reading?

Where do you get a headshot? The TAL website lists photographers who do headshots; they are usually expensive, maybe $150 - $250. For that amount, you get a CD of the photos and the rights to the photos. For a headshot, you will want good makeup and hairstyle, male or female. A less expensive alternative is Motophoto. Their product is not as good, but it’s acceptable.

What about a resume? Often, resumes are printed on the back of the headshot. List your theatrical experience, divided into categories: plays, musicals, films, etc. List the name of the play, etc., and then your role in it.
Where do I find a monologue? My best advice is to go to the Internet and search for monologues that are suitable for you. Make sure they are gender and age-appropriate and that they fit the production you’re auditioning for: is it a drama or a comedy?

What musical number should I prepare? That depends upon the production, but I always like to hear something that demonstrates an ability similar to the type of songs that are in the production. If there are lots of ballads, sing a ballad. If a country style is part of the show, do that.

What is a cold reading? A cold reading means that everyone just reads from the script. Even if it’s a cold reading, the smart actor has read the show ahead of time and is familiar with the plot and the characters.

**During the audition.** So the audition has started and you've done all the paperwork and all your prepping. Sit quietly and wait your turn. Make sure to listen; in some auditions the Stage Manager or Director will give you added instructions that weren't on the notice. Those may be vitally important, such as time limits on monologues, or the procedure in which they will audition. Wait for your name to be called and then proceed to the stage. Before saying anything, make sure that you have their full attention. You don't want to begin while they are still writing or talking to one another about the previous actor. Wait until you've achieved eye contact with all of them so that they can listen to you from the very beginning. Be confident but friendly.

**Post-Audition:** This is probably the toughest part of the audition, even more so than monologue hunting. This is the time when you feel most helpless - your fate, at least for this role - is now out of your hands. After the audition you can either stick around or leave; just make sure you know where the call back list will be posted or, if there are no callbacks, where the final cast list will be posted and when. If you need to leave, be courteous to the other actors and leave quietly. Once home, don't stress about the audition. Most times actors post-audition will psyche themselves out by analyzing each and every part of the audition, then agonizing until they see the cast list. One word: DON'T. Sometimes there will be many days in between audition and final casting, and sometimes there is even a second audition for call backs to narrow down the field. If that's the case, then be prepared to work with other actors in scenes from the play, and possibly even read for characters you don't want the roles for. But whatever you do before the cast list goes up, don't stress out. It's out of your control, and if you don't get cast, it's not because you are a bad actor. A more likely reason is that the director couldn't find a place for you in his or her vision of the production.

When I audition folks, I’m looking for the actor that comes closest to my concept of the role. That’s all.

Unfortunately, sometimes you won’t get a notice at all. You just hear nothing. It’s a terrible thing to do to actors, but it happens frequently, so don’t think it’s your fault. Take a deep breath and go to the next audition.