

OPTIONAL PRE-SCREENING FOR NON-NATIVE SPEAKERS OF ENGLISH

The Yale School of Drama trains actors who are already fluent in English. English speaking is a vital technical foundation for the training we offer. The nature of our voice, speech, dialect, and text work requires Acting students to be fluent and articulate in spoken English when they enter the program. A high degree of English proficiency is required for anyone seeking training in the Yale School of Drama acting program.

Because we understand that travel to the United States for an audition can be a significant burden, we offer non-native speakers of English the option to submit a video recording of themselves reading a specified English passage for advance review by the admissions committee.

The taped recording does not replace the in-person audition.

The **optional** pre-screening will allow the admissions committee to offer non-native English speakers an honest assessment, in advance of scheduling an audition trip, as to whether their language skills appear to be adequate for the demands of the acting program. If the spoken English is not strong enough to warrant an audition, the applicant will be informed.

The passage to be read in English is entitled “Mary and the Fool.” The recorded reading may be submitted in any of the following ways:

1. Submit the video electronically through the online application. Video files are accepted in QuickTime, AVI, FLV, MP4, or WMV format.
2. Post the video to YouTube and provide the link in the portfolio section of the application. This will embed the video in the application. If the video is removed from YouTube or marked as “private,” it will not be viewable by the admissions committee.
3. Mail a DVD to Registrar/Admissions Administrator, P.O. Box 208325, New Haven, CT, 06520-8325. If using an express or courier service, send to 149 York Street, New Haven, CT, 06511.

Videos must be submitted by December 1st in order for the Admissions Committee to review your optional pre-screening before you submit your application by the Acting department application deadline of January 2nd.

Applicants who submit a pre-screening video will be notified by December 16th as to whether or not they should proceed to schedule an audition.

Mary and The Fool

A poor Fool, sitting high on a mountain, heard a mournful tune coming from the forest below. His pulse quickened. He had the gift of second sight and knew at once that the voice came from the orphan princess Mary. Mary's strict and evil uncle had placed an ugly curse on her, banishing her from the town. Her once merry and golden eyes had turned sad and orange. Thick fur had grown all over her body. The poor woman was doomed to wander unless she could solve the riddle of her uncle's curse. The fool knew in his heart that he must save her. He hurried down the mountain, drawn by the princess' singing. He found her standing at the edge of a cliff. As soon as he saw her, he burned with desire, fell to his knees, and asked her to marry him. Wouldn't you know, that when he dared to look up, she calmly graced him with golden eyes. Her fur gently fell to her feet, revealing a glistening human form. The irreversible riddle had been solved by a fool's true love.