

A STRAIGHT-TALK CHECKLIST

Should You Go to Drama School?

Before you spend the money and the years, **find out if you actually need it.**
Six honest questions most people skip.

One room. One panel. One moment.

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This will not tell you **"yes, go."** Anyone who does that before knowing your situation is selling you something. This is the tool I wish I had during the decade I spent getting one or two auditions every few months, before I finally trained. Check every box honestly. Your answers decide this, not mine.

1 GOOD REASONS TO GO

Check the ones that are true for you.

- I keep hitting a ceiling I cannot break through on my own.
- I am not getting in front of the casting directors or agents I need, and I have tried.
- I want deep technical training in voice, speech, movement, and text, not just audition tips.
- I learn best with structure, repetition, and direct feedback over time.
- I have seen the work of trained actors I admire and recognized a gap I want to close.
- I want the network, the showcase, and the doors a strong program can open.

More than two checked? Training may be a real lever for you, not just a credential.

2 REASONS THAT ARE NOT ENOUGH ALONE

Be honest. Check any that are secretly driving you.

- I think a degree will make me feel like a "real" actor.
- I am avoiding the harder, cheaper work of auditioning, local training, and self-taping.
- Someone else thinks I should go.
- I want a guarantee of success. (No program gives one.)
- I have not actually tried the free and low-cost paths yet.

Checked any of these? Not disqualifying, but do not let them be the main reason. The money and time are too significant to spend on a feeling.

3 THE MONEY REALITY CHECK

- I know the real total cost, not just one year of tuition.
- I have a plan for living expenses during training, not only tuition.
- I have looked into scholarships, assistantships, and funded programs.
- I understand I may audition more but earn less for the duration.
- I would not be putting myself in a hole I cannot recover from.

Any boxes unchecked here are your homework before you apply, not after.

4 ARE YOU READY RIGHT NOW?

- I have two contrasting monologues I could shape to a high level, or I am ready to find them.
- I can handle rejection from a panel without it ending me.
- I have the time this season to prepare properly, not last-minute.
- I am applying because I want to grow, not only because I want to get in.

★ HOW TO READ YOUR ANSWERS

Mostly Part 1, clean on Part 3: You have a real case for going. The question is not "if" but "where and how to get in."

Strong Part 1, shaky Part 3: The desire is right, the timing or money is not yet. Build the plan first.

Mostly Part 2: Pause. Try the paths that cost less first. You may not need this, and that is a win.

There is no wrong outcome. Deciding not to go, on purpose, with clear eyes, is just as strong a move as getting in.

Your Next Step

Want the full picture? What the application really asks, how to choose and shape your monologue, what happens in the room, the callback, and the final call. I put all of it in one short, honest book.

The Drama School Playbook — *now on Amazon, paperback & Kindle*

And if you want a real person in your corner before an audition, coaching details at sekoulaidlow.com/coaching

You don't need to be perfect. You do need to be prepared.