



## Sample Personal Statement for Common App (Bachelor's in Performing Arts)

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As the curtain went up, my heart started beating faster. I had butterflies in my stomach from the excitement and I just prayed that I wouldn't forget my lines. As the lights came on, I moved to the center of the stage and screamed at the top of my lungs 'Hello everyone, I am here to tell you a story about the smart fruit seller who tricked the bear'. My first experience being in a play is something that I still cherish. In grade V, I was part of a one act play about a fruit seller and a bear. I realized that I had a flair for theatrics after this incident. I would often mimic actors from movies and deliver dialogues in front of the television but all my family members were surprised to see me perform at a live play. My parents were really supportive and helped me nurture my talents by enrolling me at an after school acting class.

Pretending to be somebody else came easily to me as I never really had a good idea of who I was. Mimicry was one of favourite hobbies and I would often impersonate fictitious characters and superheroes from comics that I had read. By the time I was in high school, I had made a name for myself as an actor. I would appear in almost all plays presented at annual meets and other special events. I got my big break when I was in grade X. At the inter-school drama competition, my class had presented the play 'The Refund' by Fritz Karinthy and I played the role of Wasserkopf. I was selected as the best actor for my performance. I have also played the lead role in other plays like 'The Monkey's Paw', 'The Never Never Nest' and 'Summer at the Lake'.

Over the years, I have also had the opportunity to collaborate with the renowned dramatist Girish Karnad on his play 'Naga Mandala'. This was a fantastic experience as I was able to learn the nuances of dialogue delivery, intonation, scene study, movement, and improvisation from acting coaches. As a developing actor, I approach each new part with excitement and a hunger for new experiences. My time is spent preparing for roles, memorising lines, and customising each different storyline and character. One might assume that this commitment is egoistic. That is far from the truth, given how theatre has liberated and altered me. I perform in the hopes of inspiring others to shift their perspectives and become individuals who are empathetic.

I admire how, as a performer, I can take on many characteristics and portray them in a unique way. This, I believe, permits me to be more sympathetic and compassionate toward the people I encounter in my life. It has given me greater conviction and inventiveness in whatever I do. I believe that acting is a form of self expression that can be utilized to encourage people. I am a huge fan of method actors like Danile Day Lewis and Leonardo Dicaprio whose performances have been so influential. I aspire to follow in their footsteps and become a veteran actor in both cinema and theatre.