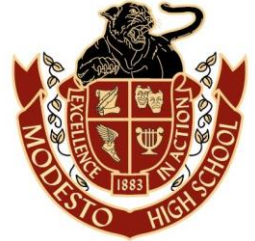


“Destinations” Interview Questions



Name: Alyxaundrea Munson

Destination: California Institute for the Arts (CalArts), Valencia

Career goal: Actress, singer, dancer, writer, director, producer, whatever comes my way

What is your favorite subject/class & why? I’ve always loved English – the past two years in IB English especially. I’ve found my favorite books and favorite authors in the books we’ve read and studied in class. Some of the most fulfilling conversations I’ve had have been in an English classroom, where a teacher gave us a starting point and then let the students run with it. It’s a bit tedious sometimes, as any class can be when you have an IB workload, but English has been a boundless source of inspiration, intellectual and artistic stimulation, and true learning.

Who is your favorite teacher & why? I have two! Mrs. Johnson and Ms. Pereira are fantastic teachers. Mrs. Johnson is very special to all the IB students. She is always astonishingly generous and supportive of us, and she’s been so helpful to me in making sure that my university auditions and participation in the YoungArts Los Angeles program worked out with IB. She is our IB fairy godmother and I’m going to miss her terribly. Ms. Pereira was my English teacher junior year and was my advisor when I wrote my Extended Essay for IB. Her class is my favorite that I’ve ever taken. She taught us that our thoughts and insights and opinions are valid and showed us how to share those ideas and connect with other students through literature. She’s so kind and open-hearted; any student is lucky to be in her class.

What is your favorite high school memory? I had the incredible opportunity of participating in the 2015 YoungArts LA program. It was a collection of high school students who were 2015 YoungArts winners in ten different disciplines: cinematic arts, dance, design arts, jazz, music, photography, theatre, visual arts, voice, and writing. I was there for musical theatre and I sang “On the Steps of the Palace” from *Into the Woods* by Stephen Sondheim. We had a week of working with wonderful directors, mentors, and master teachers, and each discipline had a showcase of their work on different nights of the week. I met some amazing friends, learned from really amazing teachers and leaders in the industry, and came out of it with so much more knowledge and inspiration than I could have hoped for. It was a life changing experience and I’m so honored to have been selected to participate. It’s definitely a part of high school that I will never forget.

Who/what is your biggest influence & why? My family is my biggest influence and inspiration. They’ve always been completely supportive of anything I want to put my heart

into. They are a constant reminder of the kind of person I want to be – kind, compassionate, and imaginative.

What is the most important lesson you learned? Nothing is impossible. You want something? Go after it. Go after it with hard work, hope, and optimism. Do your absolute best. Regret is far worse than rejection or failure.

What advice do you have for incoming freshmen? Challenge yourself. You will make the most wonderful, enlightening discoveries if you challenge yourself. If that means taking a more demanding class, or trying out for a sport you've never played, or learning to read music, or auditioning for a play, don't be afraid to do it. You will discover things about yourself that you didn't know were there to discover. You may find you have a passion for something that you wish to pursue. So don't be afraid to do what feels right for you, and challenge yourself.

Why did you select your destination? I selected CalArts because I feel that it's an environment that is conducive to the kind of art I want to create and be a part of. When I visited the campus before I was accepted, it was really welcoming and felt very much like a world I wanted to be a part of. I'm so lucky that I'm allowed to now. There are a lot of resources available to me in the surrounding area of LA, like the shows that go to the REDCAT (Roy and Edna Disney CalArts Theater) and allow for theatre students to participate and learn in a working environment. They encourage innovative thinking and cross-discipline collaboration in the arts which is something I'm intrigued by and excited about.

How did Modesto City Schools prepare you for your future? I'm very grateful to have had the opportunity to get an IB education at a public school. A solid academic foundation is very important to me.

In what extracurricular activities did you participate (clubs/music/chorus/athletics)? I didn't have much time outside of IB, but I did participate in a couple Modesto High Drama Department productions and a few talent shows. These were huge fun and a lot of my friends participated as well. Outside of Modesto High, I used to be a member of Central West Ballet and I recently did a musical with Modesto Performing Arts.

What is your favorite quote or saying? "Nothing is impossible, the word itself says 'I'm possible!'" -- *Audrey Hepburn*