

Advice to Those Auditioning

Students considering auditioning for productions, colleges, universities, or professional theatre programs should carefully prepare their audition. Below is a list of suggestions designed to assist students in preparing for auditions.

Monologue Selection

- Choose material that shows you at your best and that allows you to play an objective (make choices and discoveries).
- Avoid pieces that build to a punch line. (Auditions are not stand-up comedy!)
- Don't choose material for shock value. You won't shock the judges, but you can show them that you are not capable of making good decisions.
- Choose material in an age range that you might actually play on stage.
- Avoid monologues that are in dialect, overdone, or poorly written.
- Avoid material that forces you to play crazy, really confused, or really angry characters.
- Don't sing if you don't really sing. It shows that you don't understand your own abilities and limitations.
- Time limits are given for a reason. Going over a time limit shows that you can't take direction.

Presentation

- Wear clothing that looks good on you, are comfortable, and allow for a full range of motion. Avoid short skirts and clothing that is too tight or too loose. Make sure your hands can be seen. (Wearing colored clothing will help you avoid blending in with a black curtain or backdrop.)
- Make sure your face can be seen – keep your hair out of your eyes.
- If your shoes are difficult to move in, you won't look comfortable on stage.
- Do not ever chew gum while auditioning.
- Be pleasant during the entire process: people are watching you the whole time. (This includes when others are auditioning and when you walk on and exit.)
- Speak audibly! There is no point in auditioning if you cannot be heard.
- Don't apologize or be apologetic.

- Make sure that when you introduce yourself, the judges see the real, friendly you.
- Don't give up or get angry if you mess up or drop a line. Consider how you would handle dropping a line in a show. The judges want to see you recover.
- If the accompanist plays the song differently than you rehearsed, don't get angry at him or her. Go with it! There is no need to explain afterwards.
- Don't ask to start over. Commit. Stay in the moment.
- Don't be arrogant! Be positive and confident without being pompous.
- Remember, in an audition you are selling yourself. Do it well!

Preparation

- Rehearse! Do a mock audition for other people.
- Take a moment to feel out the audition space before the audition.
- Do not use audition time to prepare (with your head down, eyes closed, deep breathing).
- Take a few deep breaths before you go on: oxygen to the brain is always useful.

Acting

- Don't look at the floor. If your character needs to think, find another way to do it.
- If you are talking to another character, place that person and talk to them. If they are sitting in a chair, you don't need the chair. If you choose to use the chair, place their head where it would be. (Generally, their head won't be in the seat of the chair!)
- Articulate – don't forget about word endings!
- It is more interesting to see someone fight tears than to give into them – an audition where the actor chooses to show a range of crying is not interesting.
- Never move just to move. Make sure all activity is connected to the text and motivated by the character's intention. Pacing is not energetic or interesting.
- Unless your piece is directed to a general audience, you shouldn't play your material directly to individuals in the audience.
- Do not point to yourself each time you say "I," "me," "my," etc. Likewise, do not point to your implied scene partner when you say "you," etc.