

## **DIRECTORS' TIPS .....Audition Skills**

**Audition, n, A trial performance to appraise an entertainer's merits.**

As the definition suggests, an audition is an opportunity for an aspiring actor to demonstrate what he/she can do for the directors if cast in a production. It is the first (and sometimes only) chance to show you can act (not just be yourself) **AND**, as importantly, to demonstrate that you can take direction. To increase the chance of having a positive audition experience, here are a few things to do (and some not to do) in preparation for and at an audition.

**Before you even go to an audition:**

- θ **Review whatever source material you can get your hands on – e.g., books/videos upon which the script is based; on-line reviews.**
- θ **Think about the characters – what characteristics and mannerisms make them entertaining, what you might do differently.**
- θ **Create different characters – in front of a mirror, in front of family/friends, on video!**
- θ **Build memorization skills – you won't necessarily be expected to memorize, but when you can, it helps.**

**At the audition:**

- θ **Bring energy and creativity to the audition – be rested and relaxed.**
- θ **Take all the time you can to study the “sides” (script selections to be performed) - memorize as much as you can, develop interesting characters, give life to your characters, practice looking up from the script and acting out the sides with others.**
- θ **If necessary, ask questions about what the director may be looking for – don't assume it is the same as you have seen before.**
- θ **LISTEN to what the director says – they are looking to see that you take direction well and are responsive to what you're asked.**
- θ **Don't be afraid to be “out there” when a character can support it – show your range and your willingness to be entertaining.**
- θ **Don't be shy – we're all friends, or at least we will be by the end of the show!**