

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:

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

At the audition:

- ❖ Bring energy and creativity to the audition – be rested and relaxed.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ If necessary, ask questions about what the director may be looking for – don't assume it is the same as you have seen before.
- ❖ LISTEN to what the director says – they are looking to see that you take direction well and are responsive to what you're asked.
- ❖ Don't be afraid to be "out there" when a character can support it – show your range and your willingness to be entertaining.
- ❖ Don't be shy – we're all friends, or at least we will be by the end of the show!