

VALUABLE TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE AUDITIONING

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 (or start preparing one to submit via electronic methods):

- ❖ Review ALL information from the company about what to do for and expect what to 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 brilliant character ideas might you bring to the performance.
- ❖ Create different characters – in front of a mirror, in front of family/friends, on video! Challenge yourself and your boundaries until you see THE set of character traits you need.
- ❖ Build memorization skills – you won't necessarily be expected to memorize, but when you can, it helps free you to creatively express physically rather than be stuck in a script.

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, and if the option is available, 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 (or auditioning panel) 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!

Important points to remember – always!

- ❖ The director (and panel) are looking for the next person coming in to be the WOW they need for the production. They want to find YOU if you can be that. Show them you can!
- ❖ You are ALWAYS auditioning – ALWAYS! Even before you walk into the audition space, if someone from the company staff can see you, you are auditioning by your behavior, your mannerisms, your respect, your actions, your attitude, your demeanor, you name it! While you check in, you are auditioning. While you are waiting, you are auditioning. While you are practicing, you are auditioning. With what you are doing while you are supposed to be perfecting your audition, you are auditioning.
- ❖ Your audition is the one chance you have to prove that you can be of benefit to the production, that you are perfect for the role, that you have what it takes and are willing to give it your all. If you do not do everything you can to prove this when you are literally fighting against dozens or hundreds of other candidates – why would a director think you'll do better if he/she casts you in the role? Take the time to understand everything the audition piece needs (proper pronunciation of words and phrases, full understanding of references and concepts in the audition piece, proper inflections to relay the important messages in the piece, etc. In this day of the Internet and easy access to answers – laziness is the only excuse not to be polished.