

AUDITION TIPS

Auditioning

1. Know the Show.
 - In musical theatre, there's no excuse for not being familiar with the show you're auditioning for. Remember that the better you know it, the better you'll audition for it. Read the synopsis, listen to the cast album, and read the script. If there's an available movie of the show, watch it. Some people strictly warn against this, but as long as you bear in mind that the stage version is often quite different, and as long as you remain flexible in your understanding of the characters and the story, there's no reason not to watch the movie once. It will give you a basic idea of what the show's all about.
2. Enter with confidence.
 - Believe it or not, the way you walk on stage can either make a great impression on the director, or a very bad one. Keep good posture, your chin at a natural level, don't stare at the floor. Walk with confidence, even when you're terrified.
3. Don't apologize.
 - This goes along with having confidence. Never tell them you don't know the song well, or the show well, or that you're not in good voice today. etc., etc. Because what that really tells them is that you don't care enough about your craft-or about their show-to prepare properly.
4. Dress Well.
 - Dress for an audition the way you'd dress for a nice date. In general, avoid jeans and sweatshirts, and don't dress in an evening gown, either. Don't wear clothes that are so big and floppy nobody can tell whether or not you have a beer gut. Don't wear uncomfortable shoes, or something that's too tight; that's the last thing you need when you're already nervous.
 - For a dance audition, make sure you have appropriate shoes and are wearing something you can move in.
5. Be friendly.
 - You don't want to be overly talkative (auditions take a long time, and everyone wants to be done as soon as possible), but you shouldn't be antisocial, either. Smile and be personable. The director wants to know he'll be spending the next few months (or weeks) with people that are easy to get along with. Although you want to be friendly with the other auditioners, avoid conversation in the auditioning room, and don't get so engrossed in chit-chat that you end up having no time to center yourself and concentrate before you audition.
6. Sing out Louise.
 - When you sing, just stand there and sing. Don't wander around the stage. Use hand and arm movements only if they are natural. This is no time to be shy, so sing out, as if you were giving a performance; and just like a performance, don't forget to *feel* your song. Good acting is vital to good singing.
7. Be flexible.
 - Don't complain or make apologies; just try to do your best when the director asks something of you. If you're asked to sing a different song, or the same song with a different attitude, take just a moment to consider how you'll do this, and then go for it.
8. Be patient.
 - Auditions are, unfortunately, a long grueling process.
9. Don't be afraid to ask questions.
 - Don't make yourself a pain in the behind, however.

AUDITION TIPS

Keeping Your Voice Healthy - Vocal Health For Singers

- Wearing jeans/pants that are too tight or tightening your belt that extra notch puts a lot of pressure on your abdomen, preventing it from expanding to its full capacity.
- Avoid causing strain by warming up your voice before rehearsing or performing. Recognize that all singers have different needs - some singers take longer to warm up than others and the standard warm-up provided by your choral director may not be enough for you, so always take the time to plan and execute your own warm-up.
- Coughing or clearing your throat may clear the phlegm but also can cause irritation to your vocal cords. Coughing and / or clearing your throat can also become a bad habit. Instead, try swallowing, taking a drink of water, pausing or taking a deep breath. If clearing your throat is the only thing that will work, do it as gently and as quietly as possible.
- Being out in the cold can cause you to clench your teeth, causing tension in the jaw muscles. Keep your mouth closed and try not to talk too much while outside in cold weather. Wear a scarf to keep the jaw warm. Avoid talking when overtired (repeat yawning strains the muscles) or when upset. Most people tend to raise their voice when they get agitated or upset, straining their vocal cords. To relax your jaw and throat muscles, take a few deep easy breaths through the mouth, letting the air out with a soft sigh.
- You cannot expect your instrument to work if you don't take care of it. Make sure you are getting enough sleep, eat properly and keep your body hydrated.
- Smoke, speak in a hoarse whisper, sing after drinking alcohol (your vocal cords have been numbed, and you may not feel their fatigue), clench/grind your teeth.

AUDITION TIPS

Dance 101: Dancing for Beginners

- So you can sing, you can act... but your dancing leaves a little to be desired. Well, actually, you have two left feet. What can you do? Lots. Come on in, everybody, don't stand against the wall. Take your shoes off at the door, you can't dance in loafers. Psst. I'm going to let you in on a little secret. **Anyone** can dance, as long as they remember five simple rules.
 - All is not lost just because you didn't start dancing when you were five. In most major cities, there are beginner classes for any age group. If you're not ready to commit the time and money for regular dance classes, try drop-in classes or learn on your own. There are many valuable resources available to teach yourself Jazz, Ballet, or Tap.
 - Yes, you should try your hardest, but if you're not top notch, so what? You're getting exercise, you're burning calories! Feeling better about yourself will help be more confident, and confidence helps you look better than you really are.
1. If you only get one step correctly in the whole dance, it should be the last. Finishing in the right position with a big smile on your face is a hundred times more effective than getting a few dance steps right in the middle somewhere that nobody saw. Finishing in the right place also shows that you don't give up when you make mistakes.
 2. Looking at your feet doesn't show the audience (or audition panel) that you have a lot of confidence in what you are doing. Look up! While you shouldn't stare auditioners right in the eye (this tends to make them nervous) it's perfectly great to smile in their general direction. Try not to stare straight ahead -- tilt your head back just a little and look up -- it gives the illusion that your posture is straighter, and it also makes you look more confident.
 3. Dancing for an audience is all about personality. You can never be too "big." Kick big. Smile big. Be dynamic. People like to watch interesting people dance, not boring people with perfect turnout.
 4. When dancing in most musicals, the most important thing to remember is smile, smile, smile. But a real smile. There is nothing that annoys me more than a performer who smiles and doesn't mean it. Enjoy what you're doing, and the smile will be sincere. An open-mouthed smile is fine too, because it makes breathing easier.
 5. Dancing takes practice, and lots of it. But learning the steps is only half the battle. You have to sell yourself and the dance as being the most entertaining thing to ever hit Broadway.