Audition Tips

Choosing appropriate material/ deciding if this audition is right for you:

  Read the audition notice to find out what the director is looking for.  Notices will be very specific for characters (gender, age, ethnicity, vocal range, body types).  If you do not fit any of the qualities the director included, it’s probably not a good idea for you to go.  It wastes your time and the director’s time.

  If you do fit some or all of the character’s qualities, you should next look within the audition notice for what material the director wishes you to bring. This is usually very specific, as in 16 bars of an up-tempo song, or a 1-minute comedic monologue.  You must prepare exactly what the director is looking for.  Part of this comes down to simply being able to follow directions.  It’s also professional and respectful to do what the director asks.

  Make sure your material is memorized and prepared.  In other words, do your homework; work on a character analysis and be able to do that monologue or song in your sleep!  Try doing your audition rehearsals in different types of environments (quiet, loud, busy etc.)… you never know what type of environment you may encounter when you go into an audition.  It’s also a good idea to rehearse your material in front of other people.

  Choose material that is appropriate for the show/ character you are auditioning for.  You should be familiar with the show you are auditioning for as well.

  Prepare your headshot and resume! Make it look neat and well organized (and make sure it looks like you), and do not be trying to make copies of your headshot or resume the day of your audition… have it ready to go at least the night before!

The Night Before:

  Get a good night’s sleep.

  Have your resume and headshot ready.

  Make sure to know what you are going to wear and have it laid out before you go to bed.

  Review your material once or twice, but don’t change anything at this point.

  Make sure you have directions to get to your audition location.

The day of:

        Eat a good meal before your audition (not necessarily right before your audition, but don’t skip breakfast!).

        Dress appropriately.  Look nice for your audition, **men** this means a button down shirt and nice pants (maybe dress jeans), **women**, a comfortable dress or nice pants and a shirt.  Remember this is an interview and first impressions mean everything!  If the audition advertisement mentions being dressed for movement, then wear movement clothes. If it says, “be prepared for movement,” then bring movement clothes AND movement shoes with you.

        Get to your audition about 15 minutes early.  You don’t want to be too early, but you also do not want to be late.

        If you have time, do a relaxation exercise. Close your eyes, breathe deeply, and soothe your nerves. At this point, accept where you are with your piece and decide that you will your absolute best!

The audition itself:

  Always be nice to the monitor (often times a director will ask the monitor how they were treated by an actor before offering the actor a role).  Remember, when you enter into an audition situation, you never know who is doing what. Perhaps the first person you come in contact with is the director or casting agent… it’s always a good idea to be polite to EVERYONE!

  When you walk into the room, say “hello” and be prepared for the people behind the table to either be talking to each other, preparing paperwork, or to be ready to talk to you for a few minutes.  Be prepared to have a short conversation with the people behind the table (but don’t let it throw you if that does not happen).

  If this is a singing audition, you should walk over to the piano and hand your music to the accompanist.  Be very polite, and make sure to give your tempos, any cuts or musical liberties you are taking.  It is a good idea to sing a line to help the accompanist feel your tempo and rhythms.  Let him/her know how you plan to cue them (will it be a head nod, or a line of spoken text?).  If you are saying a line, please write it clearly at the top of your music.  Always say thank you to the accompanist before and after you sing!!

  Make sure to slate.  Make sure to know how to appropriately pronounce the author or composer/lyricist of your piece.

  When you are ready, begin your piece.  Only begin when you are ready- do not feel rushed.

  When you are done, say “thank you” and make sure to personally thank your accompanist again as you leave (even if he/she was the worst accompanist in the world).

 After the auditon:

  Just breathe and remind yourself you did the best you could.  You can’t go back and change anything now, so LET IT GO.

  If you are called back, it’s a good idea to wear the same thing you wore to the first audition (especially if it was a large casting call).

Audition Don’ts:

 Do not use anyone behind the table as a scene partner.

 Do not make apologies. Not even if you mess up. Definitely DO NOT apologize if you are not in good health that day.

Do not look at the accompanist once the music starts.

Do not seek feedback from anyone on the audition panel.