



Audition Info

Audition Basics

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Audition Basics

Why are we doing auditions this way?

As much as we want you to have fun and engage in the arts, we also want you to learn something! We've had many of our alum mention that they were seriously underprepared for their college programs and other theater opportunities because they had never prepared a monologue before. This audition model is what you will see out in the real world, so we want to teach you how to be successful at it.

What should I keep in mind when auditioning?

- Be prepared! Come with all of your resume and audition paperwork filled out and ready to turn in.
- Be on time! Remember, in the theater, early is on time, on time is late, and late is unacceptable.
- How are you presenting yourself? Do you look put together? You want to look nice- not sloppy or formal- somewhere in between. Wear clothing that you're comfortable and feel great in!
- Be respectful. We are always watching you and making mental notes of your communication, your leadership, your attitude, your professionalism, your ability to handle your nerves, and more. We all want to work with people who are easy to work with.

What is the creative team looking for?

- Pieces that are appropriate for the show, are fully prepared (yes that means memorized!), and show off YOUR skills
- Confidence
- Big, bold choices
- Professionalism
- How well you fit the demand of the role

Audition Monologues

What is a monologue?

A solo speech where the character is either talking to themselves, the audience, or another character. Monologues can be found in plays, film, poetry, or written to stand on their own.

How do I find a monologue?

Start with the content that you devour- your favorite films, plays, and books are always great inspiration. A quick Google search will bring you thousands of monologues, and there are hundreds of books available with collections of pieces cataloged by gender, age, time period, writing style, and more.

How do I choose a monologue for my audition?

- Start with the show you are auditioning for- Who are the characters? What challenges are they facing? What is the mood of the show overall? Once you have the answers to these questions, you can begin to narrow the focus of your search by considering what monologues are reflective of them. Is Wednesday Addams a good match when you're auditioning for Cinderella? Would a piece with contemporary slang be appropriate for Shakespeare?
- Select a piece that fits YOU! Knowing and working your "type" is a huge part of being an actor. Things that might define your type include your age, gender appearance, ethnicity, your hair, physicality and your voice. Can you imagine the character Gaston being played by Tom Holland?
- It's best to NOT audition with a piece from the show you're auditioning for.
- Choose a piece that you love! Auditioning is really hard! Loving the piece you're performing makes it way more fun.

How do I cut a monologue?

Sometimes you have the PERFECT piece, but it's a whole page and you only have one minute, or it's dialogue between two characters. So how do you cut it down and make it fit the audition requirements?

- Divide the monologue into beats ('chunks' or sections that contain one main thought)
- Label the function of each beat. That is, why is it there?
 - Beats usually either: provide new information, help the character make a decision, or raise the stakes (takes the character further into their emotional journey).
- Note if any beats are similar - if so, you can cut one of them! Never cut a beat with new information or decisions. If two beats provide the same new information, that's ok, you can cut one of them - pick the one that seems less direct or less emotional.

A few things to keep in mind:

- Your character should maintain the same objective throughout

- Pieces where your character is talking to a group are harder to deliver- consider pieces where you are talking to one person instead
- Avoid pieces that are too narrative- we don't want to hear a story, we want to see you fight for something.
- Try to find pieces written in the first person- your character should be talking about what they feel and want.

How do I prepare a monologue?

- Read the whole script. Give yourself the best chance by understanding your role in its full context. If you found your piece in a book of monologues and it is from a play, locate the original script and read it in full. This will give you additional insight into the character—their motivations, relationships, feelings—and the ability to make better choices as an actor.
- Think about who you're addressing.
- Establish the moments that make up your monologue. Don't make the mistake of delivering your monologue like it's one giant speech. A good monologue is made up of a series of moments—pinpoint yours, and make strong choices for each one.
- Plan out your movements. It's not just the words that matter when you're performing a monologue. Don't stand there and say lines from a dead body. Even if you are barely moving, there should be life energy through your whole body. Your body tells the story, too.
- Time your performance. Select a piece that runs a little short of your allotted time—then practice it with a stopwatch to ensure that you don't go over. It's no fun to have the casting director interrupt you mid-sentence to inform you that time's up.
- Memorize. Memorize. MEMORIZE!
 - Break it up into chunks
 - Write it down- by hand!
 - Block it!- Putting the dialogue into your body will build muscle memory

Presenting your piece

- Slating- introduce yourself and the piece you'll be performing. This is your first impression- be confident, speak clearly, and be sincere.
- We want to see you- pick a focal point and speak to it- between or slightly above the heads of the creative team is a great place to start.
- Movement should be intentional and necessary to the piece- try not to roam around the room.
- When you're done, say "thank you" and leave- you want them to ask you to stay rather than tell you to go.

Audition Songs

How do I choose a song for my audition?

You want to pick a song that you love singing, that showcases everything you can bring to the role.

- Start with the show you are auditioning for- What style of music is it? What is the mood of the show? What character(s) do I want to play and what are their vocal ranges? Is the character(s) I want more comedic or more serious?
- Music style- You want to match the style of music without picking a song from the show. For Jukebox musicals (shows with music from pop culture like Mamma Mia, Moulin Rouge, Rock of Ages) you should pick a pop or rock song- something you've heard on the radio. For Disney shows, consider other Disney songs. For classics like Cinderella or Oklahoma look at other "Golden Age" composers like Rodgers and Hammerstein, Meredith Wilson, and Leonard Bernstein.
- Mood- If the show or the character is comedic, lean towards an uptempo song with a bit of fun.
- Range- all of our instruments are different. It may be tempting to reach for those high notes in a song that you LOVE, but you have to ask yourself if it showcases your particular set of skills.
- Familiarity- Singing a song that nobody knows is really hard because the creative team won't be able to properly assess your skill on it. On the other hand, picking a song that everyone knows can get you compared to the original performer. Somewhere in the middle is best.

Where can I find the music for my song?

Audition calls should always tell you if there is an accompanist provided or what format you should bring your music. For us, we won't have an accompanist. Please bring an instrumental track with you. We will have a CD player, a computer for a flash drive, and an AUX cord (with iPhone dongle) for you to plug a phone or tablet into.

- Sheet Music- You can purchase sheet music for individual songs at music stores like Palen Music, or online for digital download at places like musicnotes.com
- Backing tracks- Instrumental or karaoke versions of most familiar musical theater songs can be found on YouTube

How do I cut a song?

Ultimately, it's up to you, but there are a few things you should keep in mind:

- Select pieces of the song that showcase the full range of your voice
- Maintain the musical integrity of the piece- if there is a keychange in the middle of the song you could select a cutting from before, a cutting from after, or include the keychange in your cut, but you want to avoid an awkward transition.

- Retain the integrity of the story. Yes, you want to showcase your range, but the most successful audition pieces are not just power belting the whole way through- they provide ample opportunity for your character to grow, even in just 1 minute

You're looking for one minute of a song that is probably 2-4 minutes long. An easy way to cut a song is to think about keeping one verse and one chorus, or the bridge and a chorus

How do I prepare my song?

Here's the good news- it's just like preparing for a monologue!

- Familiarize yourself with the whole show. Give yourself the best chance by understanding your role in its full context. If you found your piece in a book of songs, locate the original script or soundtrack and read or listen to it in full. This will give you additional insight into the character—their motivations, relationships, feelings—and the ability to make better choices as an actor.
- Think about who you're talking to and practice looking at "them." Your "them" should not be the creative team, but a spot on the wall just above their heads.
- Establish the moments that make up your song.
- Plan out your movements. It's not just the words and the notes that matter when you're auditioning. Don't stand there and sing from a dead body. Even if you are barely moving, there should be life energy through your whole body. Your body tells the story, too.
- Time your performance. Select a piece that runs a little short of your allotted time—then practice it with a stopwatch to ensure that you don't go over. It's no fun to have the casting director interrupt you mid-sentence to inform you that time's up.
- Memorize. Memorize. MEMORIZE!
 - Break it up into chunks
 - Write it down- by hand!
 - Block it!- Putting the dialogue into your body will build muscle memory

Presenting your piece

- Slating- introduce yourself and the title of the piece you'll be performing, and the source (title of the show, composer, original performing artist, etc.). This is your first impression- be confident, speak clearly, and be sincere.
- We want to see you- pick a focal point and speak to it- between or slightly above the heads of the creative team is a great place to start.
- Movement should be intentional and necessary to the piece- try not to roam around the room.
- When you're done, say "thank you" and leave- you want them to ask you to stay rather than tell you to go.