

AUDITION TIPS AND GUIDELINES



GENERAL AUDITION INFORMATION

*Be sure to dress appropriately. Dress neatly but don't wear anything too fancy-remember you're the star not your clothes.

*Ask questions if you are unclear about the process.

*Don't worry about mistakes. Everyone gets nervous and the director realizes this.

*Take any feedback that the directors offer. You can learn something at every audition and the feedback that the director gives you can help you in the future. If the director gives you any specifics on how they want a scene played or how they want a song sung, try to apply it. Whatever you do don't debate with a director on how you think the song or character should be interpreted.

*Try to remember to focus and listen. The director is going to pay attention to how well you can follow direction(s).

*Make sure that you are as prepared as possible. Be familiar with the music and the script of the show. Most theatres will have scripts and CD's available for check out for a small deposit. If not, see the [resources section](#) for alternatives.

*No gum chewing. You would think that this would be common sense, but you would be surprised at how many people make this mistake.

*Bring a bottle of water with you. When you get nervous, your mouth tends to get dry. This is especially important for a singing audition.

*Don't forget to smile.

*Be supportive and courteous to your fellow peers that are auditioning. Attitude is something that factors into the casting process for Directors. You want to be sure to show a positive attitude towards everyone in the audition room.

SINGING AUDITIONS

*Make sure the music you select:

- is age appropriate
- shows off your range
- is something that you really enjoy singing
- is not a difficult piece to play (for the accompanist). For example, Sondheim and Jason Robert Brown are composers known for their difficult scores.

- is appropriate for the audition (for example: if you are auditioning for musical theatre-don't sing an aria)
- is marked clearly for the accompanist (so he/she knows where to start)

*Typically you will only be allowed to sing 16 bars of music-so make sure that the section you pick will show off your vocal skills and range.

*Be clear with the accompanist of the tempo at which you would like to perform the song (the best way to do this is to sing a little bit of the song softly for the accompanist).

*If you are auditioning for a particular role, try to find a song that tells a story similar to the character you are auditioning for and in a similar genre.

*Always have the music memorized.

*Always thank your accompanist when you are done.

DANCE AUDITIONS

*Be sure to wear dance shoes or shoes that you can move in.

*Be sure to wear clothes that are comfortable to move in. If it's a heavy dance show, you may want to wear dance clothes or bring dance clothes to change into. You may sometimes have time to change in between your singing and dance audition segments.

*Regardless of your skill level, always try to remain confident. If you're not confident, stand behind the choreographer/dance captain so that you can learn the steps more easily. You can also stand behind someone else that is auditioning-if they seem to have the dance steps down. Don't worry if you don't have the steps down perfectly. The director/choreographer wants to see how well you move and how well you can "sell" the dance. Smiling will help with this.

*Don't be afraid to ask questions or ask the choreographer/dance captain to repeat the steps. If you ask nicely, they usually don't mind. Remember you are not alone. There are usually others in your group that have the same questions and concerns.

READING AUDITIONS

*Take your time, speak clearly and project.

*Don't walk around and try to block the scene. Stay focused and concentrate on the character that you are reading.

*Don't let the script block your face. Try to look up when possible and don't look at the floor.

RESOURCES

The following are resources for audition notices, sheet music and additional materials:

AUDITIONS

- *Follow and check the local theatre Facebook pages.
- *Check theatre websites. If you don't know them, you can always call the theatre and ask what their website address is.
- *Call the theatres to ask if they have any upcoming auditions.

SHEET MUSIC/SCRIPTS/DANCEWEAR

- *Most theatres have **scripts** available for check out. Call and ask, and be prepared to leave a minimal deposit. Circle Theatre has **Scripts are available for check out with a \$5.00 deposit. Scripts are available at the Circle Theatre Box Office, located at the Performing Arts Center, on the Campus of Aquinas College, Monday – Friday, 12:00PM – 5:00PM.**
- *Surf the web and order on line.
- ***Scripts:** scribd.com
- ***Sheet Music:** www.sheetmusicplus.com and <http://www.musicnotes.com>
- ***Videos:** Check out www.Youtube.com for Broadway, Off-Broadway and Regional videos of shows.
- ***Cast Recordings:** Check out www.Youtube.com and music channels like Spotify.
- ***Dancewear:** Kicks Dancewear (776-5966) is located at 2905 Breton Rd SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512 in Grand Rapids on the corner of Breton and 28th Street.

RESEARCH/GENERAL INFORMATION

- *If you want additional information about a show you're auditioning for you can go to the following websites: Playbill. Com, Broadway. Com and Backstage.Com

VOICE/ACTING/DANCE LESSONS

- *There are a lot of resources out there to find a class or a teacher that is right for you. The best way is to ask a friend who takes class, a music or acting teacher at school or call a local theatre for a recommendation. This usually has a better outcome than just randomly looking in the yellow pages. Grand Rapids Civic Theatre School of Arts also has many varied classes to choose from.

CASTING

Despite all your hard work, you may not get cast or even called back for the show you audition for. Don't take this as a reflection of your talent. No one gets cast every time they audition. There are so many factors that come into play when a director is casting a show. You may be the most talented orange in the bunch, but if the director is looking for an apple, you might not be cast in the show. The important thing is to feel good about the audition you gave. Don't beat yourself up for mistakes you may have made. Remember, the more you audition the more you learn and that will only help you improve and grow as a performer.