



COLORADO THESPIANS

AN EDUCATIONAL THEATRE ASSOCIATION AFFILIATE

AUDITIONS

Webster defines “audition” as “a trial performance to appraise an entertainer’s merits.”

- 1) Prepare the Audition.
 - a) Know the scene and the entire script well.
 - b) Learn what you can about the people you will audition for.
 - c) Get help if you feel you need it.
 - d) Work to do the audition fully and freely: prepare an attack; relate the work to you.
 - e) If possible, know the place where you will audition.
 - f) Prepare every audition as if it were the most important one.
 - g) If you choose the material, it should be appropriate for you and the play.
 - h) Find ways to make the audition enjoyable.
 - i) Practice cold readings.
 - j) Do not worry about what the auditors want.
 - k) Do not worry about past experience.
 - l) Never memorize the script.
 - m) Audition for everything possible.
 - n) Dress appropriately.

- 2) Doing the Audition.
 - a) Do your acting preparations before you go on.
 - b) Watch overdoing it, but go for strong choices.
 - c) If you get upset, angry or overly frightened, find a way to deal with it immediately. Chances are that the audition is only the immediate cause, not the real cause of those feelings.
 - d) Be of help to those you are auditioning for.
 - e) Be alert and alive.
 - f) Be flexible and ready to change.
 - g) Make sure you are seen and heard.
 - h) Make the first 15 seconds count.
 - i) Walk confidently. Only let them see your positive side.
 - j) If they cut you off, smile.
 - k) Play to, but not up to, the director. Neither stare or avoid.
 - l) Communicate with the other actor on stage.
 - m) Be yourself, use yourself.
 - n) Convey: “I am easy to work with, I am rational, I take direction well, I am imaginative and cooperative, I don’t pout or become hostile.”

- 3) After the Audition.
 - a) Exit confidently. Remember, you are not finished until you have left the theatre.
 - b) Be kind to the stage manager and others running the audition.



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- c) Do not judge the audition. It is out of your hands.
 - d) Exit with a good attitude. You never know who might see you.
 - e) When you have done the very best you can, consider yourself a success because you are!
 - f) If you do not get cast, continue auditioning. Bitterness gets you nowhere. Be happy for others' successes and before you know it, they will be happy for yours.
- 4) Call Backs.
- a) They still need to be reminded of who you are.
 - b) They may cut the list to a very small number, so accept it.
 - c) They want to see how you handle pressure.
 - d) They need to see more humor, or emotional release, or how you improvise, or spontaneity, or greater use of body, or 100 other things. Dig deeper.
 - e) To prepare:
 - 1) Do more work on the script.
 - 2) Do not assume you will get cast. Attitude!
 - 3) Have the same or higher energy as the first audition.
 - 4) Do not change your basic approach. You were called back because of it.
 - 5) Wear the same thing.
 - 6) Do not have a chip on your shoulder, especially if there are several call backs.

The Audition Script

- 1) Enter with confidence and be ready to have a good time. RELAX!
- 2) Place your chair, stool, (or props) before you begin speaking.
- 3) Introduce yourself and your pieces:

“Hello, my name is _____, and I’m a senior at _____ high school. I will be performing two pieces/monologues/selections for you today. My first piece is from *The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams and I will be playing the part of Laura. My second selection is Heidi from *The Heidi Chronicles* by Wendy Wasserstein.”
- 4) Take a moment to put yourself in “Laura’s world.” Begin your piece.
- 5) When you are finished with your first selection, take a brief moment to move into “Heidi’s world.” Begin.
- 6) When you finish your second selection, take a moment to come out of “Heidi’s world,” and honestly and confidently say “thank you” to your auditors.
- 7) Exit with confidence and a positive attitude.