
AUDITION TIPS AND TRICKS

Do you get nervous for auditions? Does that fear stop you from doing it in the first place? Know that auditioning can be the best learning experience and one of the most fun things you can do as an actor! Still not convinced? Here are some tips and tricks that we've found help create a better and more successful audition experience:

GENERAL AUDITION DOS

1. Choose an age-appropriate musical theatre song which is not overly explicit in sexual content or language.
2. Be familiar with the musical you are auditioning for as well as the musical you've chosen a song from. The entire musical. You may be asked questions about characters, plot, etc.
3. Be sure to mark in your sheet music which 32 bars you will be singing (so the accompanist knows where to start and stop)!
4. Wear professional/neutral/comfortable clothing and shoes which will not restrict your movement in any way. Make sure your clothing choices won't type cast you. Example: if you wear a leather jacket, bandana, and combat boots, it may be difficult for the directors to see you as the ingénue or as the boy-next-door.
5. Stand center stage. Start with an Introduction: "Hi/Hello/Good evening! My name is _____ and I will be singing (Name of Song) from (Musical)." Example: Hi! My name is Jennifer Dobby, and I will be singing "Light My Candle" from *Rent*.
6. Prepare the entire audition, not just the song. Your "audition" includes your Introduction, transition into your song, transition out of your song, and your Exit. Take a moment during each transition to take yourself fully out of the previous section and to fully center yourself for the next.
7. Exit – be sure to take your time getting out of your song before saying, "Thank you." And don't actually exit the room until someone has told you that's all they'd like to see from you, etc. It's also nice to exit an audition as you'd exit an interview—saying something like, "Thank you for your time," or "It was nice to meet you," or "Thank you for having me," etc.
8. Rehearse the audition, in its entirety, in the outfit you have chosen to wear for the actual audition. Rehearse it multiple times for your friends and family. Avoid rehearsing in front of the mirror—you can become too self-conscious about the way you look vs. how you're performing.
9. Your audition starts when you enter the building where the audition is taking place, not just when you enter the audition room itself. Be kind and respectful to everyone—including whomever is checking you in/walking you into the audition. Directors will absolutely get feedback from the person out in the hall!
10. **Love** to audition.

*sometimes, these two are swapped

CARROLL AUDITIONS

At Carroll, we want everyone to be comfortable with the audition process and to encourage everyone to audition. Here is the usual outline of an audition in the TAM program:

SMALL PRODUCTION (STUDIO STUDENT SHOW, 10-MIN PLAY, ETC)

- Sign up ahead of time in the Otteson Lobby
- Held in the Studio Theatre or Otteson Theatre (usually depends on where production is)
- Fill out the Audition form in the Lobby (attach resume if you have one)
- Stage Management will hand you a scene, wait until Stage Management calls your group
 - You will have enough time to run through lines with your scene partner
 - You may have to read a couple scenes over the course of auditions
- When in the actual audition, you may have chairs and tables, or it may be a clear stage depending on the scene. The director will let you perform the scene whenever you are ready.
- When you're done, go back to the lobby. Stage Management will let you know when you are released to go.

LARGE PRODUCTION (OTTESON LARGE PLAY, MUSICAL, ETC)

- Sign up ahead of time in the Otteson Lobby
- Held in the Otteson Theatre
- Fill out the Audition form in the Lobby (attach resume if you have one)
- There will usually be some sort of warm up exercise to make everyone comfortable with being on stage.
 - i.e. Mock Ghost Sword Fight, Telling Jokes, Warm Up Exercises
- If a musical, the dance audition will take place*
 - Everyone will be called into the Otteson to learn a ~16 measure dance routine.
 - The choreographer will lead everyone in learning the dance for about 30-40 minutes.
 - Once they feel everyone is prepared, everyone will be put into small groups and perform the dance for the director, ASMs, SM, and choreographer.
 - Tip: Focus on energy! If you're not comfortable with the dance, just act like it!
- If a musical, the general singing audition will take place*
 - Stage Management will call who is up and who is on deck, and one by one, everyone will sing in front of the director, SM, ASMs and Music Director.
 - Sometimes, everyone will be given a song from the show to sing, and you will sing that for the audition either accompanied by the Music Director on piano or a karaoke track. Sometimes, you will sing in groups if a larger audition.
 - Sometimes, you will prepare a 32-bar cut, or about 1 minute, of a song from a genre that is similar to the music of the production you are auditioning for. You will provide the sheet music and tell the Music Director where to play and what the tempo is.
 - See General Audition Dos for more info on general singing audition tips.
- If a play, the general scene audition will take place
 - Stage Management will hand out scenes assigned to you from the director. You will also be assigned scene partners, and you can practice with them before you go on. Stage Management will also call who is up and who is on deck.
 - You will most likely read for multiple scenes with multiple scene partners.

*sometimes, these two are swapped

- During the actual audition, there may be chairs and tables for you to use, or there may be a clear stage. You will then perform the scene with your partners.
- Tip: Use the whole stage, don't be afraid to do impromptu blocking or gestures.
- Callbacks
 - Sometimes happen in the same night or the next night
 - For musicals, this may involve a solo/duet singing audition, some solo sides, or scene work.
 - For plays, this may involve more scene work or some solo sides.
- Stage Management will let you know when you are released to go. This may be early in the night, or later in the night. If you don't stay the whole night, that doesn't mean that you got a bad role. It simply means that the director knows everything they need to know about you to place you in what role they think you would be best in.