

AUDITION DOs & DON'Ts

FOR THE YOUNG ACTOR

DO take the time to prepare your audition material – memorize the monologue and lyrics and rehearse your vocals and acting choices out loud at home.

DON'T apologize if your material is not as well prepared as you would like. We know that sometimes auditions are booked at the last minute. Fake it as best you can.

DO dress up a bit. No need to get all fancy, but it is a good idea to dress nicely for an audition....even if we've known you forever.

DON'T choose material that has profanity or inappropriate content. It makes those of us sitting behind the table feel uncomfortable.

DO choose material that shows us as many sides of your personality as possible. If your monologue is serious, choose a fun, up-tempo song. If you have chosen a comedic monologue, think about a ballad for your song.

DON'T choose material that we have seen you do at a previous audition – allow us to see how you have grown from season to season by choosing increasingly more challenging and sophisticated material.

DO choose a monologue that allows you to play more than one level. Make sure the monologue goes somewhere, allowing you to play a variety of tones in one piece.

DON'T choose a song that is from a show we have just produced. You will either do it exactly the way we directed it, which doesn't tell us anything about who you are (except that you are a great mimic!) or you won't do it exactly the way we directed it, which will only disappoint us since we directed it that way because that's the way we think it should be played!

DO make sure your monologue makes sense – we are distracted from watching you if we are trying to figure out what you are talking about.

DON'T choose a song that is out of your range or completely wrong for your vocal type – or age. Just because you like a song doesn't make it the right song for you or the right song for an audition. Songs should tell a story and be "actable." Spend time choosing material that shows you off, suits your age and type, and is appropriate for an audition setting.

DO smile and say hello to everyone in the audition room when you enter and say goodbye and thank you when you leave the room. Make sure your nervousness doesn't distract you from being polite and friendly.

DON'T play your audition directly to your auditioners – we want to watch you, not feel as if we have to play the scene with you.



DO pick a point on the wall, above your auditioners' heads, and place your imaginary scene partner there. Play your song and your monologue to your imaginary scene partner. Darting eyes are distracting, so really focus on this partner you've created.

DON'T forget to act when you sing.

DO breathe. Before you start. During your audition. When it is over. Breathe.

DON'T plan to sing an entire song, or do a very long monologue. Make sure you have a nice, short audition cut - about a minute for your song, and a minute for your monologue. If your material goes too long, we will interrupt you before you reach the end. It doesn't mean we don't like your audition if we cut you off, it means we've seen what we need to see and we are keeping our eye on the clock.

DO keep in mind that we need to stick to our schedule as best as possible. We might not have time to chat and catch up with everyone, as much as we would like to. Please don't be insulted if we have to move quickly from audition to audition.

DON'T beat yourself up for mistakes you make. No audition is perfect. We are smart enough to be able to see past your mistakes and to focus on all the things you did well – you need to do the same.

DO treat yourself to something nice after your audition – an ice cream cone, a hot bath, a long walk – auditioning is hard work and you deserve some kind of reward for being brave and putting yourself out there!

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FOR PARENTS

DO be sure to send us all conflicts your child has this season. Double check your calendar and be sure you've included everything!!

DON'T expect to come into the audition room with your child. We invite you to relax in our beautiful lobby and take in the views of North Broadway!

DO remind your child that everyone gets nervous before an audition, even if they have done it many times before.

DON'T hesitate to ask any questions you may have.

