***Audition Do’s and Dont’s***

The personality you project is the basis for your auditions. It includes the clothes you wear, the way you introduce your material and your ability to answer questions. Even the materials that you choose to perform can reflect upon you as a person. But remember, it is the small and simple things that help reflect you in a positive light (both as a person, and as a performer).

**Do’s**

1. **DO** pay attention to your personal appearance. Look your best! Make sure the clothes you wear are appropriate both for your personality and the institution that you are auditioning for. Take a good long look in the mirror and assess what you see; do you feel confident with your appearance. Eat healthy, drink water, get sleep, and take care of yourself. Remember as an actor your tool is your body; make wise choices so you don’t damage it.
2. **DO** consider how you behave from the minute you arrive at the audition to the end; you never know who is watching you. Show that you are well prepared and have done your research about the show. Be poised, confident, and friendly when you enter the room. **DO** be confident! Like yourself and be proud of who you are; make the director want to cast you.
3. **DO** be competent in three areas: voice, movement, and acting. Those skills can be enhanced by drive, commitment, confidence and like-ability.
4. **DO** read the play or musical you are auditioning for!
5. **DO** read lots of plays! This will give you a great basis in which to choose audition pieces (or plays) from. Avoid pieces from the internet or monologue books. You should always strive to pick a monologue from a play and read the entire play.
6. **DO** pick a piece that showcases you, your age range, and your “type”. Remember that you may be asked to play something different, but start with who you are.
7. **DO** select a piece that will allow you to make strong acting choices and be memorable. Be clear with your objectives and tactics.
8. **DO** put together a nice resume. Make sure you spell check and have a decent email address. Avoid emails like: kissmelips@hotmail.com

**Do Not’s**

1. **DO NOT** select pieces that attempt to shock with their use of bad languages, obscene situations, or physical actions.
2. **DO NOT** do pieces with a dialect, remember that you are trying to show of who you are.
3. **DO NOT** use props or costume pieces in an audition. Most audition rooms will have one chair.
4. **DO NOT** choose material that you don’t have a depth of knowledge in (try to stay within your life experiences).
5. **DO NOT** do material where you are playing multiple characters.

*\*\*\*\*\*Musical Theatre Tips\*\*\*\*\**

**Do’s**

1. **DO** avoid overly familiar songs; remember that if you audition with it, other people will as well, and you will have to hope you are the best one. Avoid shows like *Wicked, Hairspray, Les Mis, Phantom, Disney*, etc. There is tons of material out there, find something new!
2. **DO** find a piece that is within your age range.
3. **DO** avoid songs that are excessively emotiona (true for monologues as well); it is difficult to build that level of emotion in a short amount of time. You do want some level of emotion, however, avoid anything extreme. Also avoid songs that without the benefits of costume and makeup suffer (think the transformation song from *Jekyll and Hyde).*
4. **DO** bring sheet music, properly marked, cut, and in the correct key. Do not expect the accompanist to re-arrange the music for you. **DO** speak kindly to the accompanist and explain your tempo and cuts before you begin your song. It is okay to sing a couple of measures if you feel like the accompanist could benefit from that.
5. **DO** approach a song like you would a monologue; find the objectives and tactics.

**Do Not’s**

1. **DO NOT** sing acapella or lip sync; most times at an audition you will have a trained accompanist to play with you. If they do not provide an accompanist, bring your own or a minus tack. Mae sure that your minus track doesn’t have vocals of any kind at all.
2. **DO NOT** do a choreographed routine with your audition; save that for the dance call.
3. **DO NOT** give your accompanist a super hard song to play. Avoid Sondheim, Jason Robert Brown, and patter songs.
4. **DO NOT** do anything strange like wear a half-white mask, lion costume, or pretend to be doing drugs (these are things that have actually happened in a high school setting).
5. **DO NOT** outstay your welcome, argue if you are cut off mid-note or monologue with a director. Don’t hang around and chat, listen to the director and politely excuse yourself when the audition is over.
6. **DO NOT** lie on your resume; be honest about what you can and cannot do. Any director would rather have you be honest about what you can do than find out later that you lied. Don’t be vague, be specific, honest, and upfront (example: I have played piano for 2 years and I feel like I can plunk out parts.) A great answer is always: “I can’t do that, but I am willing to learn!” (if you are willing to learn or think you could).

**More Audition Tips and Ideas**

Here are more tips to help you be as confident and do your very best in your audition:

* Be poised, confident, and friendly when you come into the room. Remember, we are rooting for you and want you to be successful. Every director just wants to find the right person to play the part, we don’t want you to fail.
* Dress up like you would for an interview, show us you care. Remember to dress modestly and appropriately. We should worry about your audition. Not if your skirt is too short.
* Make sure you introduce your piece and name; this is called slating. Make sure it is as rehearsed and polished as your pieces are.
* Choose pieces that highlight what you can do; can you sing high, low, belt, etc.? Do you have amazing comedic timing? Can you hold true emotion through an entire piece? What can you do that will impressive someone in a very short amount of time?
* Really try to be different when you are picking pieces. If you want to stand out and be memorable you will find a piece that is strong and different.
* Please do not look at the production team while auditioning. Make sure you pick a focus spot *above* their heads. Don’t perform to the side, floor, or production team. Remember you can perform to three people: yourself, another person, a heavenly being.
* Practice, practice, practice, practice until you cannot get it wrong. The more you practice the more comfortable you will be at the audition.
* Practice how you are going to perform. Dress up, use your CD or have someone accompany you. Have other people watch you and offer feedback.
* Don’t sing with other voices if you are going to be singing with a track. Multiple voices drown you out and gives you less of a chance of being heard.
* If you mess up, take a deep breath, and keep going! That says a lot about you as a performer. Don’t give up! If you mess up horribly, ask if you can start over.
* If you are asked to a callback make sure you are very familiar to the show. Understand the story and characters (especially the one you want). This will give you a major leg up in the audition process.
* Never ask a director during the audition process about your audition or the cast list. The audition process is a huge and confidential matter with many things being taken into account; no director should ever have to disclose this information. Avoid guessing, never make a suggestion, or ask about or demand the final cast list or clues; this will only be seen as unprofessional or inconsiderate.
* Remember that auditions (in an education setting especially) is not based on your short audition alone. We look at so many other things like: attitude, cooperation, team player, hard worker, dedicated, good student, responsible, etc. you are always auditioning (so remember that throughout the year). I would much rather choose a performer who is not as naturally talented but works hard, is dependable, and is easy to work with; talent isn’t always everything.
* Remember that if you do not get cast as the part you wanted **do not give up.** The way that you react to a cast list says a lot about your character.