

## How to Audition for a Play (non-musical) - Quiz

*A close friend of yours is about to audition for a play for the very first time. They have seen a few plays and many movies, but are not well versed in the field. See if you can answer these questions for them on auditioning.*

1. I don't know anything about this show. Is that ok? How would I go about getting more information?
2. The audition says I need to pick a monologue. How do I choose one? What type and how long should it be, too?
3. Where do I find monologues?
4. What will be expected of me at an audition? What will I have to do?



# Auditioning for a Play (non-musical)

## TIPS FOR AUDITIONING:

- Resume & headshot (even if you don't have a headshot, a professional-looking resume is a must, even if it doesn't contain much experience.)
- Audition on the earliest day possible (when you can still wow the panel and before they have mentally cast the show without *you*)
- Be well prepared. Know your character, lines, levels, and research without hesitation.
- Arrive vocally warmed up and physically loose (though continue to warm up until you perform, if allowed).
- Choose a monologue that is similar to the play in author, humor, character, or style of the show based on your research. Reading the full script helps you pick a monologue!
- Dress professionally. This is the same as a job interview, but be prepared to move as well so your character doesn't feel stiff. NO Jeans, UGGs, flip flops, sweatpants, hoodies.
- SLATE: Announce your name, and the title of the play your monologue is from. There is no need to say the name of the character in the monologue. Make sure to show your true self and make eye contact with the panel as you do this.
- Show some "release". There should be a marked difference between the person you are as you "slate" and the character, emotion, and voice of the character in your script.
- Look for at least 3 level changes that you can make in your monologue. Level changes could be in emotional levels, energy levels, volume levels, but something that makes sense for the thought process changes in the monologue so that it is not static or all one level.
- Realize that everyone feels nervous. A great idea is to imagine someone you feel comfortable singing in front of in the audience. Relax and enjoy yourself.

## DO YOUR RESEARCH

- Be well acquainted with the show. Nowadays you can usually find most scripts at the local library or at the local bookstore. Sometimes you can even find it online! Get a feel for the style so you can make your audition piece try to fit it. If you can't read the script, at least read the summaries of the plot and characters.
- Be acquainted with the looks from past productions by looking up pictures, videos, and websites. YouTube is great for this – but remember that not all videos are equal.
- Be acquainted with the background of the show.
  - Did it receive awards? For what?
  - Any well-known performers famous for their roles in this show?
  - Famous production staff (directors, composers, choreographers, etc)
- Understand how the characters fit into the show and plot, and which ones might fit your abilities.
- Use the above information to influence your choice of monologue, attire, and character.

## TIPS ON HOW NOT TO AUDITION

- Don't bring your friends to hang out with or to try to watch you audition
- Don't wear a costume (though angling toward the show style, era or even a character trait might be good – for example if the character you want always wears red, wearing red couldn't hurt.)
- Don't be too personal with the director (even if you know him/her.) Be professional.
- Don't make lots of excuses (for singing, clothes, preparedness, or even illness.)
- Don't arrive unprepared.
- Don't project fear. Don't fidget. Stand up straight and confident. Relax, take a deep breath, and do your best.
- Don't do full choreography or pantomime the words.
- Don't perform a monologue from the show you are auditioning for – unless it was recommended or suggested by the director.
- Whenever possible, ONLY perform monologues from ACTUAL PLAYS, not monologues written to stand alone. Some directors really dislike these and may disregard your audition because of it.