

# General Guidelines for Auditioning

## Check the play's rehearsal and production schedule

Be quite certain you re available throughout. If you have conflicts, put them on your audition sheet. If you get cast, and then tell the director you have additional scheduling conflicts, you'll damage the production and--don't ignore this--give yourself a rotten reputation!

## Avoid looking for "your role" or casting yourself

Instead, keep yourself open to any role.

## The Audition

### Don't worry about nerves

Everyone gets nervous at auditions, even the old pros, and having a few butterflies can be a good thing. It is best to avoid worrying excessively about messing up or about what others auditioning might think of you. If you do happen to "mess up", don't get upset or walk off, just keep on going until you are finished.

### Dress comfortably

Avoid costumes, but don't dress completely out of character either. Avoid big clunky shoes or jewelry that may impede your movement. Choose clothing that is simple, professional, and comfortable.

### Arrive early

Get there well in advance so that you can check in and take time to warm up and fill out forms.

### Be professional in your attitude and actions

Remember that your audition begins the moment you step into the theatre. Be confident, pleasant, respectful, and positive with everyone.

### **NEVER** apologize for your audition

Unless you let us know it, we will assume that's exactly what you meant to do. Just in case we thought it was brilliant, don't telegraph that you think you blew it. Audition with confidence.

## **Use strong technical skills.**

Directors must be able to hear and understand you, so, project your voice and enunciate well.

## **Be willing to take risks.**

Take risks and make choices in your audition. The director is not quite so concerned that you might make the right choice, just that you make a character and stick with it.

## **Be flexible.**

If you have read the script thoroughly and have made your emotional choices for the scene, but cannot adjust when requested by the director, you are basically undirectable. An undirectable actor is not castable. So, do your homework, make your choices, and then open up.

## **After the Audition**

It is your job to audition and the director's job to cast the play.

Just because you have a personal relationship with a director, don't think this means you will be given the role. Directors will pass on very close friends, and cast people they don't care for. Every audition, and every show is unique.

Be happy for another actor's success.

Keep your sense of humor. Unfortunately, luck has a lot more to do with it than anybody is willing to admit. If you get the part--great! Enjoy it, and don't despair if it is not the part you wanted. At auditions, you've done less than one percent of the work necessary to perform a role. Use your casting as an energizer to propel you into the difficult work that is necessary to perform a role. If you are not willing to work in rehearsals, there is always someone available who is willing to do the work.

If you don't get the part--that's too bad, but it's not the end of the world, nor the end of your acting career. It was not a rejection of you, only an affirmation of someone else. You simply weren't right for that part, but you will be for another part. Keep auditioning and don't give up--eventually, it will happen.

Being cast is only partly about how good you are--it's also about whether you are appropriate for the roles we need to fill or, sometimes, whether you match up with or look right in relation to others auditioning. You might be the best actor and/or singer we've seen, but if you're totally inappropriate for the characters we need, we can't cast you. Respect the director's decision! Occasionally, actors who don't get the part they

want, think they can get the director to change his/her mind by pleading, complaining, or threatening. This behavior will only hurt your chances now and in the future.

**REMEMBER**- it often is that there is plenty of talent to choose from and only person can be cast. The director must choose and cannot choose every actor he/she could cast or would like to cast.

- *taken from Angelo Civic Theatre*