

AUDITIONING NOTES - PLAYS

- Know the type of show you are auditioning for and if you are allowed to pick a monologue on your own, make sure you pick one that is appropriate. For example, if you are auditioning for a comedy written in the last 20-30 years, doing a Shakespearean monologue or something dramatic may not help you get a part.
- Knowing a little about the show will most likely help you when auditioning...especially if you are ever required to read from the script.
- Never come into my auditions with only one part on your mind (and specifically trying to audition for that part). You could not only fail at being what you think I may be looking for but also screw up your chances for another part in the process.
- Make sure that you can take both direction and criticism at auditions. If you can't, you shouldn't be in theatre.
- When reading for a part, make sure you are acting and not just reading out loud. If you read for two different parts there is a good chance that the characters are very different and therefore you should act very different.
- When reading or doing a monologue your focus should be above the director's head. Do not stare into his/her eyes or look to the imaginary person next to you when reading or performing a monologue. Do not stand profile "talking" to someone! The person you are talking to is beyond or behind the director somewhere.
- Remember to use your body as well as your voice when reading or performing a monologue. If you think your character should be sitting and a chair or stool is available feel free to use it.
- Make sure you know where your character is and who your character is talking to...ideally the director will be able to pick up on this during the monologue.
- Memorizing the monologue is only half the battle. Make sure you know exactly what your character is saying. If possible, it is best to read the entire play that your monologue is from. At least you will then know the context of the words you are saying.
- Dress appropriately (especially at non-high school auditions). Don't look like a bum! Dress up a little...this is basically a job interview.
- Using props during a monologue can be dangerous. Some directors will find the props or even the pantomimed action of using the props distracting.
- Do not apologize or make excuses. If you really screw up and everyone knows it, your best bet would be to ignore it or if you have the opportunity, make light of it.
- Be polite and direct. Have the confidence to look the director (or whomever) in the eye, shake hands if you haven't met, speak clearly, and say "thank you" afterward. This is SUPER important in job interview-land, but especially as an actor--coming off as shy or rude is not a good thing. If you have to...ACT.
- TAKE YOUR TIME!!! Take your time starting and make sure you mentally get to where you need to be. Also take your time during the monologue (unless your character is supposed to be speaking or acting fast).