

# Auditions – Now Hear This!

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**Auditions ( from Audio) are your one and often only chance to get into the show. Do yourself and the auditors a favor and look like you really do want to be part of the proposed production.**

Like any job interview, **you must be prepared.**

Preparation means being prepared in lots of different things:

**How you feel – How you look – What you know – How you are**

**Do you want the role?** Are you prepared to go the full distance – not just in the audition but the whole production process? If yes, how will you communicate this to the auditors?

One way is **how you look.** Are you dressed appropriately for the audition – clothes, footwear, hair styling, removal of jewelry , appropriate posture, positive body language, turned on etc. Are you dressed appropriately for the role you are seeking?

**What you know** will help a great deal. Have you researched the show? What role(s) do you want? What is required of the role in terms of singing, dancing and characterization? Have you prepared a 'similar song' style for the audition? Have you arranged and brought the sheet music for the audition and is it legible etc?

**How do you communicate in the audition that you really want the role?**

**Warm up** beforehand – arrive early with your material and some water. Don't take anything else into the audition but yourself and if you need water – keep it away from the audition area. If you can't go for 10mins without water how will you get on in a 2+hour production!?

**Don't enter the audition space until you are called !**

**Introduce yourself** and tell the auditors what you have brought to sing and why you chose it.

**Listen carefully** for instructions, **ask for clarification** if you are unsure, and **actively demonstrate** that you have the qualities and skills to win the role.

Show **natural confidence**, don't act it!

**Sing as naturally as possible** and remember most musical theatre is not pop nor is it classical. Musical theatre singing requires stamina and range and differs from pop in terms of style – for example, it doesn't allow for ad-libbing extra notes or 'riffing' nor does it require vocal ornamentation or breathy voice!

Characterization is in response to something/someone so **come prepared to act** – with emotion, variety, commitment. You have come to audition for a role, not to be yourself – unless of course the musical is about you!!

In the audition there is generally the director, musical director and choreographer. Each will require you to audition something to demonstrate your skills, talents etc.

**Treat the auditors as a responsive, knowledgeable audience and with respect.** They are there to help you too for they want the very best cast they can muster. Help them to choose you.

**Speak clearly and audibly and articulate** – don't mumble and or look down. The latter speak of little confidence. Try to look at the auditors as you sing, dance and characterize or at least between them. A sense of humor also helps.

Given that singing plays such a significant role in auditions, be sure to rehearse your audition piece beforehand and that you are adequately warmed up. This may require you to sing out loud immediately prior to your audition time. Don't hesitate to do so if you want – don't worry about anyone else about at the time. Remember, you want the part.

When **dancing at audition**, try to feel the rhythm and beat of the music and try to look up and out rather than at your feet. Often, unless going for a specific dancing role, the audition is to see if you are rhythmic and can follow choreographed moves.

It doesn't hurt to say, thank you when you finish an audition!

A final thought – auditions are in camera and are generally confidential. You have only the auditors before you so you can use the opportunity to 'strut your stuff' and to respond to their requests. They do this in the context of knowing in the big sense what type and style of show is to be presented and therefore will ask you to demonstrate skills compatible with this. If you cannot or won't demonstrate in this type of environment, musical theatre may not be for you.