



# Theatre Virtual Learning

**Acting III & Acting IV  
Audition Workshop**

**Date: April 20, 2020**



# Advanced Acting Auditions

## Lesson: [April 20, 2020]

### **Objective/Learning Target:**

The student will explore the types of auditions that can be encountered and what the focus of the director and actors should be.

# Bell Ringer/Let's Get Started

Answer the following questions:

What do you think directors are looking for when watching auditions?

What makes someone stand out against the rest of the crowd?



# Definitions

**Audition:** the process where actors show their skills and abilities to a director as the director evaluates them on the skills necessary to put on the show.

**Casting:** where actors are selected for roles in a specific show.



# Focus of the director in an audition

- The director conducts an audition in a method that allows for the best evaluation of that actors in order to determine a cast.
- The director tries to be as fair and unbiased as possible so actors have a fair chance to display talents.
- The selection of the best actors to fit together with the whole cast is the primary goal.



# Focus of the actor

- Become a cast member in the show.
- Be able to show talents.
- Create a name for yourself so the director remembers you for future roles.
- Use the audition as a learning experience (the more a person auditions, the better they become at doing it).



# Types of auditions

- General-open
- General-closed
- Appointment
- Interview
- Seasonal
- Video



## THE AUDITION ROOM



# General-open

- Any person can audition without any restrictions.
- Takes place in a large room.
- Everyone listens to all of the auditions while waiting their turn.
- No need to sign up or reserve a spot.
- Used in high schools, colleges & community theatres.

The logo features the words "OPEN" and "AUDITION" stacked vertically in a white, serif font. The text is enclosed within a white rectangular border, which is itself centered on a solid blue background.

OPEN  
AUDITION



# General-open advantages



- No need to plan ahead to get an audition time.
- Actors can learn from other performers who go before them to get good ideas.
- Actors can watch for responses from the director to see what (s)he is like and possibly what they respond positively to.
- The director saves time by addressing all of the auditors at the same time.

# General-open disadvantages

- Actors could end up copying the style of another performance they watched.
- Another actor right before may have the same or similar interpretation as you.
- It is intimidating to have so many people watching.
- Actors are competitive by nature and tend to compare and compete.



## General-closed



- Allows anyone to come to the audition.
- Instead of having all together, they are called in to audition in small groups (usually 2-5 people).
- Actors waiting to audition stay outside while the small group auditions.
- Used in high schools, colleges and community theatres.

# General-closed advantages

- Planning ahead to get a time to audition is not necessary.
- There is less pressure since there is a smaller audience.
- The director has a small group of people to focus upon.
- Auditioners can do their first choice of interpretation without worrying that the director thinks they are copying another performer.



# General-closed disadvantages

- The director only sees each person for a short time.
- Each group that comes in to audition has to be given the same information from the director over and over, thereby making the process longer.
- The actors brought in with you may not be the best actors for you to play off of.



# Reflection

Based off what you have learned about general auditions, both open and closed, answer the following questions:

1. Which audition process would you enjoy more? Why?
2. Which audition process do you feel would provide you more success? Why?

# Appointment

- Requires all auditioners to make an appointment time.
- This is usually used in conjunction with other styles of audition.
- Can be found mostly in colleges, community theatres and professional theatres.



# Appointment advantages

- The time slot is set aside for you and you alone.
- You know exactly how long you have to make your impression on the director.





# Appointment disadvantages

- You must plan ahead to get your time slot.
- There may be more pressure for you to “perform” right at that moment.
- It can be intimidating to be the only person in the room auditioning.



# Interview

- This is a private meeting.
- Many times this is held in the director's office.
- It is more a discussion to get to know you.



# Interview advantages

- Allows you to discern if you would like to work with this director.
- Allows you to figure out exactly what the type of production will be.
- You can ask questions about the character and what they are looking for.
- You can find out what the working conditions will be.



# Interview disadvantages

- Interviews can be intimidating.
- You not only need to prove how good of an actor you are, but also how well you communicate in everyday life.



# Seasonal

- The theatre casts the entire season of shows with one audition session.
- All performers audition for the annual season or the summer season.
- Used in colleges and professional theatres.



# Seasonal advantages



- If you are working on your career, this allows you to plan your schedule for several months at a time.
- You do not have to go to multiple auditions--just one.
- It allows for professional actors to know during what part of the season they will need to find supplemental work.

# Seasonal disadvantages

- You could have an “off” day and it will affect you for months.
- You have to be diligent to watch for audition dates, so you don't miss the audition for an entire season.



# Video

- This is a relatively new style of audition.
- Actors make a short video of a scene.
- Requirements of the video change from theatre to theatre, but it could be any monologue or it could be a scene from the production.
- Singing a song could be required.
- Used in colleges & professional theatres.





# Video advantages

- You can re-do the video until you get it exactly as you want it.
- You can do the audition whenever you have free time. You don't have to work on their schedule.
- You don't have to “perform on the spot” in their locale. You can do it where you are comfortable.



# Video disadvantages

- It may be difficult to get a quality video.
- You do not have a real audience to perform for.
- You cannot ask questions of them.
- You have to impress them solely on your performance, since they do not get to know you as a person.



# Practice/Reflection:

We will continue with the audition information in the next lesson.

Answer from what you have read so far: Which audition style would you like most?

Which style do you feel will be the most intimidating?

Keep those answers and as you learn more about auditions in the coming days, see if your opinion changes.



# Practice Cont':

As daunting as auditioning may seem sometimes, it is important to remember that theatre is a community of artists looking to help each other become better. It is important to always be working on your craft. Use the video to hear some “advice to young actors” from a veteran artist. After watching him, reflect on the advice that is most inspiring to you.

Philip Seymour Hoffman

