



# Theatre Virtual Learning

**Acting III & Acting IV  
Audition Workshop**

**Date: April 21, 2020**



# Advanced Acting Auditions

## Lesson: [April 21, 2020]

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

Students will understand what actors may be asked to do and how they should behave in an audition, as well as what the director is looking for in an audition.

# Bell Ringer/Let's Get Started

What do you think about these questions:

Do you know what a cold reading is?

Should you memorize pieces from the show for the audition?

What does the director want?

Write down your answers. You will re-visit them at the end of this lesson.



# What an actor might be asked to do in an audition

- Readings from the script
- Cold readings
- Improvisations
- Prepared pieces
- Callbacks



# Readings from the script and Improvisations

- Actors may be asked to read from the script so the director can hear their voice, how they interpret the script and create the character.
- The actor may or may not have seen a script they are being asked to read. If they have not seen it before, it is called a cold reading.
- Actors may be asked to do improvisations so the director can see things that readings will not show, such as the actor's creativity and ability to adapt.



# Prepared pieces

- The actor brings in pieces memorized and prepared for performance.
- Each place will differ, but the pieces could be an excerpt of something the actor has performed before, something they selected specifically for the audition, or a piece of the script they are auditioning for (only if required, otherwise do not use the script you are auditioning for).
- Many places will ask for 2 contrasting monologues that are 2 minutes or less.



# Callback

- This is a list of the top contenders that are brought in to make the final cast.
- It allows the director to look at potential relationships of actors and how they look together or if they have good chemistry.
- The callback only means the director needs to see you, again. It is not a sure sign of casting. It means you offered something that made them want to see you again.



# What is the director looking for in the audition?

- Directability: is the actor a team player who is cooperative, coachable and available?
- Vocal range: Is the performer vocally flexible? Free of mannerisms? Able to stress appropriate words and phrases?
- Physical flexibility: Is the performer free of physical mannerisms? Can they embody the character?
- Image of the performer: Does the performer project the image of a person of principle? A rebel? A conservative? A saint?...
- Possible roles the performer can play in the script.





# Audition Etiquette: what directors want

- An actor is not solely judged on acting ability.
- Directors want to work with actors who can work with others.
- Directors want actors who can adapt to their direction.
- Directors want positive and cooperative people who are nice to be around.
- Directors have expectations for the actors at the audition.



# Audition Etiquette: how to behave

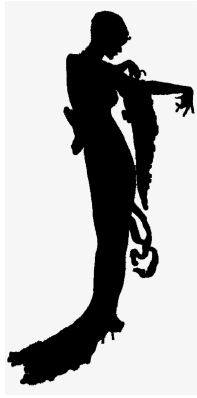


- A director may ask you to read and stop at any time. It does not mean you were bad. They simply do not need to hear more.
- You might read for a part only once or many times. You cannot measure whether you got the part or not based on this.
- It is imperative that you are quiet at the auditions.
- The director will be watching to see who is a team player. Are you are going to be easy to work with or a constant battle? You can be the best actor in the world, but not cast because of your poor attitude with others.
- Be flexible, cooperative and pleasant.

# Audition Etiquette: How to behave, cont.

- It is helpful to read the play before an audition, but do not memorize a part. It looks presumptuous and your interpretation can be different than the director's. If you have it memorized, they may feel you cannot change yours easily.
- Listen carefully to all directions. Even if you do not think the request is appropriate for the piece, do it anyway. The director may be testing how directable you are.
- After casting, try to be understanding and cheerful whether cast or not. Casting directors consider multiple things. Not getting cast does not mean you are bad. It just means you did not fit in this show at this time.
- Your attitude about casting (even if cast) may have a direct effect on future shows.
- Gloating or talking down other actors WILL get back to the director and ruin your future career.





## Practice

These were your bell ringer questions--Do you think you answered correctly now?

Do you know what a cold reading is? (Refer to slide 5)

Should you memorize pieces from the show for the audition?  
(Refer to slide 11)

What does the director want? (Refer to slide 9)



# Practice Continued

There are a vast amount of resources to help actors prepare for auditions. The Young Actors Company has a great resource. Use the link below, look through the information, and choose one video to watch. When you are done, reflect and review one piece of good advice:

[Ultimate Guide to Audition Workshops for Young Actors](#)

