

“How To” packet
on
AUDITIONING
for

***STRAIGHT
PLAYS***

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AUDITIONING FOR THE PCH THEATRE DEPARTMENT

Something to Think About...

an audition does not have to be a test of self worth, but simply an opportunity to perform before a small audience who might be in a position to help you reach a larger audience

always go to an audition for EVERYTHING...auditors can change a role into something totally opposite of what they were originally looking for

the actor who is talented and interesting and committed is more likely to get the role than someone who is "right"

actors should audition for EVERY opportunity they can... you can use the practice

remember.. every experience is a GOOD experience

take a RISK... you may fall flat on your face, but they will remember you

LASTLY....

be conscious of your behavior.. if you cause a scene backstage, count on the stage manager reporting it to the producer, director and other auditors.

be charming and pleasant everywhere around the theatre, offstage as well as on
your audition begins when you leave your house and it ends when you get home
once you've done your audition... FORGET IT.

COLD READINGS

You will be given a scene or monologue from the actual show to briefly prepare and then perform. It may be an open or closed audition room.

HOW TO PREPARE.....

1st instincts and choices are the strongest

get into 1st person character

create the background of the character

WHEN PERFORMING.....

if this is your first time auditioning...

hold the script with 2 hands, and use your left thumb to guide your eyes down the page

if you are a veteran at auditioning....

then hold the script with 1 hand and gesture with the other

stand straight, unless the character is otherwise different physically

use 3 focal points....(the page, the other person, the 4th wall)...

using the 4th wall will give you strong stage presence

do not look down

no profile readings

DELIVERY

most important aspects:

1. to be seen
2. to be heard
3. to make a choice

speak up, don't shout... but fill the room

1st beat of your piece is most important... must capture the auditor's attention within the first 15 seconds

ACTION....what is the reason your character is saying the first line? use it.

IMAGINED OTHER.... speak to that person your character is talking to...your speech is a series of adjustments to that person's imagined reactions... play that!!!!

JUST DESIRE....give yourself over to your character's needs...truth on stage is not acting natural.. it is doing in mind, body, voice and soul what is required by the force of the given circumstances

Remember, your choice may not be the same as the auditor's for the character, but at least your are making a choice. This is better than not making ANY choice whatsoever for the character.

Finally... what ever choices you make for the character... FOLLOW THROUGH. Play it strongly from the beginning of the scene to the end. This shows conviction by you the actor.

say YES!!! if an auditor gives you direction at a reading, listen to them and understand what they are saying to you... translate it into terms of acting preparation and add the direction

ending: when you get to the last line, keep doing whatever you are doing for a few seconds beyond the words, then drop out.

look at auditors and say 'THANK YOU'