

Up Front Information About Auditioning...

Only in rare circumstances can a director use everyone that auditions. It is VERY IMPORTANT that you understand going into the auditions that not everyone will get a role. Is it disappointing?

Absolutely! Will your feelings be hurt? Probably! Was that the director's intent? Of course not! Please prepare yourself for both outcomes and don't let not getting a role come as a shock. Visit the last page in this packet for more information about handling disappointment in the theatre.

Audition Check List

Song:

- I have the song memorized.
 - I have an accompaniment track (no voices) for my song.
 - My accompaniment is on CD and ready to bring to the audition.
 - I am comfortable with my song and have practiced in front of many groups and individuals.
- Note: You may be asked to stop before your song is over. That does not mean your audition went poorly. It simply means we are trying to be considerate of everyone's time.*

Monologue:

- I have a monologue (if you are auditioning for a speaking role).
- My monologue is at least 1 minute long.
- My monologue is memorized.
- I am comfortable with my monologue and have practiced in front of many groups and individuals.

Audition Introductions

Song:

Hello, I am _(First Name)_(Last Name)_____ and I will be singing _(Song Title)_ from _____ (Show Title)_.

Monologue:

I am _(First Name)_(Last Name)_ and I will be performing a monologue from _(Show Title)_____

Audition Process

**The process will be adapted for straight play auditions*

***Certain musicals may also include a dance audition*

1. Audition information will be collected online at www.eastlinolnonstage.org.
The audition form must be completed prior to the beginning of auditions.
2. Everyone auditioning will meet in the Black Box (Room 301).
3. When your name is called, you will take your song CD to the sound person.
4. You will introduce your song using the format listed above.
5. You will perform your song. Remember you may be stopped before the song is over because of time.
6. After you sing, you will pick up your CD from the sound person and return to your seat.
7. Once all songs are complete, we will begin calling names for monologues. If you are not performing a monologue, you are free to leave following your vocal audition.

8. Once you have completed your monologue performance, you are free to leave.

Tips For Keeping Your Voice Healthy - Vocal Health For Singers

Breathe.

Wearing jeans/pants that are too tight or tightening your belt that extra notch puts a lot of pressure on your abdomen, preventing it from expanding to its full capacity. Proper posture is also crucial to proper breathing. Remember, breath is the fuel that powers your voice. Many vocal issues can be solved by improving breath support.

Warm Up

Avoid causing strain by warming up your voice before rehearsing or performing. Recognize that all singers have different needs - some singers take longer to warm up than others and the standard warm-up provided by your choral director may not be enough for you, so always take the time to plan and execute your own warmup.

Don't Cough if You Don't have To

Coughing or clearing your throat unnecessarily can cause irritation to your vocal cords. Coughing and / or clearing your throat can also become a bad habit. Instead, try swallowing, taking a drink of water, pausing, or taking a deep breath. If clearing your throat is the only thing that will work, do it as gently and as quietly as possible. This very important to remember during cold season!

Stay Relaxed

Being out in the cold can cause you to clench your teeth, causing tension in the jaw muscles. Keep your mouth closed and try not to talk too much while outside in cold weather. Wear a scarf to keep the jaw warm. Avoid talking when overtired (repeat yawning strains the muscles) or when upset. Most people tend to raise their voice when they get agitated or upset, straining their vocal cords. To relax your jaw and throat muscles, take a few deep easy breaths through the mouth, letting the air out with a soft sigh.

Water Is Your Voice's Best Friend

If you look at professionals who rely on their voice for singing and speaking, you will see them with their trusty water bottle. That is not a coincidence. Water is the voice's best friend. Cool water and room temperature water are best. Just like you learned in science...cold contracts and heat expands. Drinking cold water will tighten up your vocal chords.

Your Voice Is Only As Healthy As Your Body

You cannot expect your instrument to work if you don't take care of it. Make sure you are getting enough sleep, eat properly and keep your body hydrated.

Just Don't....

Smoke, speak in a hoarse whisper, clench/grind your teeth.....

Handling Disappointment in the Theatre...

It's an unfortunate reality of theatre - we don't always get the roles we want. Learning to cope with disappointment is not only a reality, it is also essential to maintaining a healthy self-image, and can even impact your reputation.

Here are a few key things to remember: ***Warning - tough love to follow!***

Theatre is never fair. You *MUST* come to terms with this, or you will never survive. If you expect the outcome of every audition to fit YOUR definition of fair, you WILL be disappointed. I can't think of any professions that are ALWAYS fair. So this is really just a "growing up" sort of thing.

If you need to vent, vent to a parent, sibling, best friend, or other highly-trusted person, but then stop. It is okay to be upset. It is okay to be a little angry. Venting may make you feel better, but you need to be careful of how you vent and to whom.

- a. Venting is an emotional release, and it is often a bit difficult for others to listen to. Only those who are closest to you should hear it. And remember - the more people you vent to, the more likely it is that one of them might blab what was said to someone else. Be very selective about to whom you confide.
- b. Letting it out is okay. Re-living the injustice over and over is not. Every time you rant about how unfair it was that you didn't get such and such, it gets you all worked up again. It also prevents you from getting over it and getting on with whatever your next project might be. Don't keep going over it again and again - it will only make you bitter. Just let it go.

Recognize that you very rarely have all the information. Casting is a difficult process, with many different factors at play. What may seem very black and white to you, may not have been to those making the decisions. There's a great quote that applies here: *"No matter how flat you make a pancake, it still has two sides."*

Learn from your mistakes gracefully. Ask yourself if maybe there is some aspect of your preparation you overlooked, or something you would do differently next time. There isn't always an obvious mistake, but take the time to think it over. Perhaps not getting this role will help you learn something that WILL get you the next one.

Don't let your disappointment be an excuse for you to be mean. I've heard some people say some pretty awful things about those who received the role they wanted. It doesn't matter if you think they can't sing. It simply doesn't make you look good. Repeating these things to others makes you look like a sore loser. Be the gracious loser and move on and prepare yourself to be better the next time.

By far the best way to get over a setback is to keep moving forward. Go to other auditions, make your chorus role the best it can be, work on expanding your repertoire. One audition will not make or break you - but allowing a disappointment to affect your attitude might!