

AUDITION DOs & DON'Ts

FOR THE ACTOR

DO take the time to prepare your audition material – memorize the monologue and lyrics and rehearse your vocals and acting choices out loud at home.

DON'T apologize if your material is not as well prepared as you would like. We know that sometimes auditions are booked at the last minute. Fake it as best you can.

DO dress up a bit. No need to get all fancy, but it is a good idea to dress nicely for an audition... even if we've known you forever.

DON'T choose material that has profanity or inappropriate content. It makes those of us sitting behind the table feel uncomfortable.

DO choose material that shows us as many sides of your personality as possible. If your monologue is serious, choose a fun, up-tempo song. If you have chosen a comedic monologue, think about a ballad for your song.

DON'T choose material that we have seen you do at a previous audition – allow us to see how you have grown from season to season by choosing increasingly more challenging and sophisticated material.

DO choose a monologue that allows you to play more than one level. Make sure the monologue goes somewhere, allowing you to play a variety of tones in one piece.

DON'T choose a song that is from a show we have just produced. You will either do it exactly the way we directed it, which doesn't tell us anything about who you are (except that you are a great mimic) or you won't do it exactly the way we directed it, which will only disappoint us since we directed it that way because that's the way we think it should be played!

DO make sure your monologue makes sense – we are distracted from watching you if we are trying to figure out what you are talking about.

DON'T choose a song that is out of your range or completely wrong for your vocal type – or age. Just because you like a song doesn't make it the right song for you or the right song for an audition. Pop songs are almost never good for an audition – songs should tell a story and be “actable.” Pop songs almost never are. Show tunes almost always are. Spend time choosing material that shows you off, suits your age and type and is appropriate for an audition setting.

DO smile and say hello to everyone in the audition room when you enter and say goodbye and thank you when you leave the room. Make sure your nervousness doesn't distract you from being polite and friendly.

DON'T play your audition directly to your auditioners – we want to watch you, not feel as if we have to play the scene with you.

DO pick a point on the wall, above your auditioners' heads, and place your imaginary scene partner there. Play your song and your monologue to your imaginary scene partner. Darting eyes are distracting, so really focus on this partner you've created.

DON'T forget to act when you sing.

DO breathe. Before you start. During your audition. When it is over. Breathe.



MORE AUDITION DOs & DON'Ts

FOR THE ACTOR

DON'T expect to get all the way through your song or your monologue. It doesn't mean we don't like your audition if we cut you off, it means we've seen what we need to see and we are keeping our eye on the clock.

DO keep in mind that we need to stick to our schedule as best as possible. We might not have time to chat and catch up with everyone, as much as we would like to. Please don't be insulted if we have to move quickly from audition to audition.

DON'T beat yourself up for mistakes you make. No audition is perfect. We are smart enough to be able to see past your mistakes and to focus on all the things you did well – you need to do the same.

DO treat yourself to something nice after your audition – an ice cream cone, a hot bath, a long walk – auditioning is hard work and you deserve some kind of reward for being brave and putting yourself out there!

AND....AUDITION DOs & DON'Ts

FOR PARENTS

DO fill out and bring to your child's audition

- the CONFLICT SHEET
- the AUDITION FORM with a PHOTO of your child attached (it should be a photo that we can keep)

DON'T expect to come into the audition room with your child. We invite you to relax in our brand new lobby and take in the views of North Broadway from our two story windows.

DO remind your child that everyone gets nervous before an audition, even if they have done it many times before.

DON'T hesitate to ask any questions you may have.

DO read the letters we've written to both parents and students about the casting process. They are always on the table at auditions and can also be found on our website (www.playgroup.org) if you follow the link from the MainStage page. Even if you have read these letters before, it is helpful to read them again - and to encourage your child to read them again - as each season the emotional, exciting, exhilarating but sometimes disappointing process of auditioning will include new challenges for you and your child. Different bits of advice in those letters might become more relevant from season to season, depending on the shows we're doing, how your child feels about his/her audition and, ultimately, the role your child is given. We spend a great deal of time at callbacks preparing our students for receiving their casting call graciously and professionally. We hope that you will continue this discussion with your child at home, helping them to find joy and pride in their role and the upcoming season!

The logo for The Play Group Theatre is a circular emblem with a thick black border. The interior is a vibrant lime green. The words "The Play Group Theatre" are written in a white, stylized, rounded font with black outlines. "The" is at the top, "Play" is in the middle, "Group" is below it, and "Theatre" is at the bottom. A registered trademark symbol (®) is located to the right of "Theatre".

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