

Entry to the Creative Industries

Acting Audition Top Tips

Going for an audition to study acting can be a daunting experience - especially if you have never been to one before. The following offers some very practical tips on how you can perform to the best of your ability.

Do...

- Go and see shows before your audition date. It gives you something relevant to talk about when being interviewed.
- Think about what kind of professional work you want to be doing in the future - theatre or TV? Or both? What are your reasons?
- Find out about theatre companies in your area and nationally. Who would you like to work for and why?
- Think about the actors that you admire and why.
- Perform at least one of your speeches in your own accent. It's absolutely fine to perform them both in your own accent.
- Introduce stillness to your piece. You don't need to constantly be moving around the performance space.
- Keep your speeches brief. Cut them down if need be.
- Think carefully about why you want to be an actor. The panel will probably ask you about this.
- Be ready to be asked about where else you've applied.
- Choose your speeches because you understand and empathise with the character, not because you think they will impress the panel. The panel want to see a truthful and believable characterisation, not pyrotechnics.
- Know your monologues inside and out, make sure you understand what they are about and where they fit within the rest of the play.
- Be ready to be directed. If you receive a call back one, or both, of your pieces will probably be directed again by a member of the panel. They want to see how well you respond to direction, so take everything they say on board and really go for it!
- When being interviewed, make sure you talk about lots of different things you are interested in. No one expects you only to talk about acting and the theatre. Show that you're a well-rounded person!

Don't...

- Choose any speeches from Higher Drama texts (the panel hears these all the time).
- Pick any intense, high drama pieces. They do not work well in audition situations as you have a very short space of time to communicate the ideas and emotions of the piece. Pick something that can easily stand alone in an audition.
- Try out an accent for the first time. Only do an accent if you are completely comfortable with it and know you are good at it.
- Apologise again and again if you dry up and forget your lines. Breathe deeply and carefully think about where to pick up from.
- Try to impress the panel in your interview, just be yourself and answer honestly.

If you would like any more advice or support on interview technique please contact:

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