**Acting Audition Guidance**

We are looking for highly motivated people with a commitment and dedication to studying acting. To be eligible, you must also have the ambition to study acting at Higher Education.

We are looking for candidates with potential in acting, and take into consideration your technical skill and natural ability, as well your journey in acting so far.

The number of places available on the Transitions programme at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland are limited and the standard of entry is very high. It is difficult to offer advice with regards to expectations of standard, as we recognise that there are a number of challenges and barriers to accessing education in acting. However, we hope this information document will help prepare you for your audition so you can perform at your best on the day.

**Audition Information:**

The audition has two parts: a practical workshop, and a solo audition and interview.

1. **Practical Workshop**

You will be asked to participate in a group workshop which will last approximately **30-45 minutes**. The workshop will include exercises and activities which will allow us to see your performance, vocal, movement and listening skills. It’s also a chance for us to see how you collaborate and work with others and use your creativity and imagination.

You do not need to prepare anything in advance for this element of the audition.

The workshop will include exercises and activities which will allow us to see some of the following:

* Your performance skills
* Your vocal and movement skills
* Your listening skills
* Your ability to work co-operatively and collaboratively with others
* Your creativity and imagination.

1. **Solo Audition**

Please prepare:

* **One**monologue which should each last no more than **2-3 minutes**. It is best if you pick a monologue where the character is similar age to yourself. We strongly advise performing it in your own accent. You will be asked to perform this without the script. You may also be re-directed by the audition panel, so it is important to be completely comfortable with the material.
* A knowledge of the play that the monologue is from. We may ask you some questions about the play and why you chose the piece.

During this session the panel will look for:

* The ability to bring a character to life with believable thoughts, feelings and actions which are appropriate to the text chosen.
* The ability to connect emotionally with a text.
* The ability to engage an audience through verbal and non-verbal communication.

As part of the audition we will ask you questions about your drama interests and aspirations. The panel may ask you to tell them about theatre productions you might have seen, and what excited you about them. Mostly the panel will encourage you to talk freely to them so that they can see evidence of passion, motivation and creativity. You will also have an opportunity to ask any questions that you may have at the end of the audition.

**More Tips:**

**How to select your piece**

* The piece should be *your* choice. Although it can be helpful to take advice from others do not be persuaded to do a piece you don’t feel happy with. It is really important that you *like* the piece that you choose. This may seem obvious, but you will be spending a lot of time preparing your text and you will need to enjoy working on it.
* Only attempt an accent if it is necessary for the piece ie. if it is obviously set in a specific place. Also, don’t do an accent unless you are 100% confident in it. Our general advice is to just avoid them, the audition panel want to hear your natural voice.
* Choose a piece that tells a good story. Choose a piece the panel will be interested in hearing. Don’t choose a piece that requires any more than a line or two to be read in for you. Avoid this if possible. You can edit to cut out other characters.
* Don’t be tempted to be too outrageous or shocking, particularly if you are not completely confident when performing it. If you are slightly embarrassed or unsure, it may put you off. Auditions are about you showing yourself at your best.

**Where to find monologues**

* It can be tempting to choose from a monologue book and these books can be useful for finding out the style of piece you are looking for. If you are drawn to a piece from a monologue book, it may be that you can look at other pieces from the same play or by the same writer. Anybody can access the library here at the RCS or you can search online.
* Steer clear of monologues that are not from plays or film scripts. There are books of “monologues for young people”, usually about “issues”. Avoid these if you can! When you have chosen your monologue, it is a good idea to read the whole play.

**How to prepare for your audition**

* Read over your piece **aloud** several times before you start to learn it. Get used to the sound and feel of the words in your mouth. Learn it by going over it again and again until you know it so well that you have absolute confidence in what you are saying.
* Read the whole play and see how the character you are playing develops over the course of the play. Be clear where the character is physically and emotionally at the point in the play when he or she speaks your chosen text.
* Acknowledge the end of lines. Even if the sense continues to the next line, take a breath or a tiny pause at the end of the line.
* Follow the punctuation. Always mark when there is a new thought. A useful exercise to help with this is to walk around a space, changing direction on each punctuation mark and stopping on a full stop and saying ‘full stop’ before moving again. This will give you a feel for the meaning and the changes of thought in the piece. Keep the energy going from word to word, line to line, sentence to sentence and thought to thought.
* Keep your blocking simple. Don’t feel that you have to do a lot of movement, unless it is essential to the piece. Standing still is often a very good thing. Nothing should get in the way of you telling your story to your audience. Make sure that if you have another character in the scene, that you position them so that you are not in profile. You must face the panel as much as possible.
* Time yourself – do not exceed the time limit of 3 minutes. It’s better to do less and do it really well.
* You must be ready to be re-directed, this means that you may be asked to do something completely different to the way you have rehearsed it. Make sure you have tried your piece in a variety of ways, so you will be able to respond to direction. Be open to what you are asked to do. Be brave in your choices – this is not because you have done anything wrong in your original interpretation but to show the panel that you are able to listen and take direction.

**Your audition day**

* Make sure you know your piece really well. Go over it and over it every day up until your audition. You have to be totally secure with it.
* Arrive in plenty time. If you are running late it is hard to be relaxed.
* Remember the panel are on your side. They want you to do well and are not going to try and catch you out.
* If you do lose your lines, pick it up again and stay in character. It will not affect the panel’s decision. We are looking for potential, not the finished article.
* Don’t be afraid to direct your piece to the panel. Eye contact can really help you to communicate to them.
* Don’t bother with props and costume. Make sure your piece stands alone.
* In your interview, be yourself and tell the truth. Answer questions honestly. Don’t worry about what you should say. There are usually no wrong answers.
* Be prepared to talk about why you chose your monologue and. Read the plays they come from if you can.
* Think carefully about why you want to be an actor. The panel will probably ask you about this. You may be asked about the kind of professional work you want to be doing in the future. Think about the actors that you admire and why.
* Don’t be tempted to try and impress the panel in the workshop. They are looking to see that you can focus and that you work well with other people. Just follow the instructions you are given and enjoy it.