

Quick Tips for the General Audition

1. Select two contrasting monologues.
 - a. Each 60 seconds or less, one comedic, one dramatic.
 - b. Ideally, they are from real plays; make sure you know the playwright.
 - c. Pick material that has a clear character WANT and a variety of actions to play to achieve that objective.
 - d. Choose material that has you speaking in the present tense to another character. Avoid “therapy” pieces, or speeches that have a generalized other. If a monologue is all about something that happened to you in the past, it will often lack these important qualities. You should be speaking to someone because you want something from them.
 - e. Contrasting does not just mean drama and comedy. Make sure they are distinct characters that show your range as an actor. Show different sides of your emotional and active expressivity.
2. Prepare to SLATE
 - a. Say your name clearly and confidently
 - b. Introduce the names and playwrights for BOTH pieces; introduce them in the order you will perform them.
 - c. When saying the play and playwright, don’t rush! Say them clearly. You can even tease the tone or genre of the play by how you say the title.
 - d. Check name pronunciation of playwrights or unique words.
3. Practice to Perform Well
 - a. Memorize your pieces well in advance of the audition! A week in advance at the very least. Practice your pieces every day to ensure you know them inside and out.
 - b. Eyeline should be just above your auditors. Avoid looking profile or too far away from your audience. Don’t perform pieces looking at auditors.
 - c. If a piece involves some emotional connection to start, prepare getting into that authentically and quickly. Perhaps start your audition with that piece so you can emotionally prepare for it beforehand.
 - d. Identify a 3-act structure in your monologue: a beginning, middle, and end. Play this arc of the piece by identifying and doing 3 distinct actions.
 - e. Time your pieces! Don’t go over the 60 sec per piece guideline.
 - f. Practice transitioning swiftly between pieces. Make a physical adjustment or shift to distinguish the characters clearly. Feel free to use a chair in one piece. Change eyeline in your pieces.
 - g. Practice OUT LOUD. Never practice silently or whispering. Do it with full commitment always.
4. Go Time Tips!
 - a. Dress professionally and personally. Be yourself...in a professional context. Avoid anything too revealing or uncomfortable. Avoid sneakers, or anything unclean or casual. Be your BEST self.
 - b. First thing you do is check in with the audition monitor. They will give you whatever info you need.
 - c. Prepare for your nerves to be wrought. This is very common. Meditate, move, breathe, avoid caffeine... do what you need to do to keep yourself calm as you approach the audition.
 - d. BE EARLY. 15 mins. Be professional and respectful in the waiting room or space. Some actors may want to be quiet, and you may want this yourself. You can achieve this while also being kind and gracious to those around you, especially the audition monitor.
 - e. Remember to ENJOY the process! Be YOU, make discoveries in your pieces, connect with others, and then LET IT GO.