



Melbourne's Award Winning Singing, Music & Entertainment School

## AUDITION TIPS

### **Read the Audition Notice Carefully**

You should arrive at auditions fully prepared, not just ready to perform, but also to present any requested material. Examine the audition notice. Should you prepare one song? Two? Finally, based upon the audition notice, make certain you are trying out for an appropriate part. If the casting director is looking for a tall, bald man in his 60s, don't show up hoping that they will change the script for your short, frizzy-haired, thirty-year-old self. Follow whatever guidelines are offered to ensure that you arrive at the audition as organized as possible.

### **Be Professional**

Show the casting director how reliable you are by showing up at least fifteen minutes before the audition. Be courteous, but don't be too talkative. Don't pester crew members or fellow actors with idle conversation. Spend your time privately readying yourself.

Most casting directors expect you to bring a headshot and resume. This might not hold true for community theatre productions. However, if you are committed to a career in the industry, you may want to bring these along just to make a favorable impression.

In general, think of an audition like a job interview. Avoid inappropriate behavior, whether its chewing gum, using profanity, behaving too shyly or brashly, or making long-winded speeches as to why you are perfect for the role.

### **Dress Appropriately**

Usually, it is best to wear "business casual" attire. You want to exhibit charm and professionalism, but you don't want to look like a stock-broker or a banker. Remember, many new people make the mistake of wearing costumes to audition. Sadly, this is bound to cause casting directors to chuckle under their breath. They might be amused, but they will definitely not take the actor seriously.

If you are auditioning for a dancing part in a musical, wear dance attire. It should not be anything flashy or expensive. Any choreographer worth her salt will focus on your dancing ability, not your sequins.

### **Perfect Your Material**

If you are asked to bring different song choices, make certain that you have rehearsed it

completely. Do not just know the lines, know the character you are becoming. Let the directors see a striking difference between the person that just said hello to them, and the character that is now coming to life on the stage.

At the same time, be flexible with the audition material. They might have you sing the song over, or ask to hear something completely different. Be prepared

## **Don't Apologize**

After an audition, you become your own worst critic. Often times, hopeful performers are tempted to explain themselves to the directors. They provide excuses or even apologies in hopes of gaining sympathy. Avoid this as much as you can. Thank the casting director and leave the stage knowing that if you are right for the part, they will contact you. If not, know that you did your best. And remember: there are many other wonderful jobs out there just waiting to be filled.