

Audition Tips

Auditioning for an OCC production, or any production, can be a nerve racking and scary experience. Here are a few tips to help with that process.

If you have never auditioned before, here is what to expect. You will arrive at the college and enter the lobby in front of the theater. There will be a table where you will sign in and fill out a couple of forms. Once that is completed, you will wait until your name is called.

Someone will walk you into the theater and introduce you to the audition committee (be prepared for a little small talk). You will head to the piano, which is on stage, and give the pianist your music. Tell the pianist where you want to start and what tempo you would like the song played. We recommend quietly singing it in their ear. You will then head center stage and sing your song excerpt. You will next be asked to sing a scale with the piano to see your vocal range.

When that is complete, you will read for the character you have chosen. Someone will come on stage and read opposite you. When you are finished, you will walk back out the way you came. Occasionally, the audition committee will ask you a few questions or ask you to read for another character.

How to Prepare for the Audition

- Practice, practice, practice!
- Pick out a song that showcases you. Realize you will be nervous, so do not push your vocal range too much.
- You love “Wicked.” We love “Wicked.” Do not sing a song from “Wicked” unless you have a big, big voice. We love “Hamilton.” You love “Hamilton.” Rapping when you are auditioning for a character that sings a ballad is not your best bet. Choose a song that matches the character you are trying to portray.
- Dress nicely. Make a great first impression.
- Often actors read from a script in the audition, so memorizing is not expected. When doing your read, be the character.

Final Thoughts

- Practice songs with the piano track, not just the track with the singer/words. If you do not have someone who can play the piano music for you, search on YouTube for the piano track.
- Learn as much as you can about the show story. Learn as much as you can about the character you are auditioning for. The Internet is truly a wealth of information when it comes to shows. Use it!
- Have someone read opposite you several times before hand: a friend, spouse, co-worker, anyone.
- Unfortunately, the nature of theatre auditioning is disappointment. If you cannot handle disappointment, theatre may not be for you. Multiple people audition for one part, but only one person will get that part. But if you are cast in a part, allow yourself to fall in love with your role.