

Welcome to the **Wolfpack Theatre Audition Workshop**. In an effort to clarify the audition process so you feel more comfortable in your audition we have put together this workshop to walk you through the audition process and answer any questions that you may have regarding the auditioning at Vista Ridge.

In this workshop we will cover auditioning procedures, selecting material, auditioning tips, and a walkthrough of an audition.

Much of the success of an audition occurs before you step into the room. If you are serious about being a part of a production then there are a few things you need to do before you audition.

1. Read the audition form carefully.
2. Make sure you can commit to the time
3. Select the type of material being asked for
4. Prepare & rehearse
5. Appropriate attire

**THE MONOLOGUE**

A monologue is a short speech from a play that is spoken by a character from the play. Because a monologue is taken out of context from the rest of the play, a monologue can be interpreted in many ways. In addition, male and female monologues could be interchangeable in many monologue selections.

**1. Finding the Monologue**

The fist step in finding a monologue is to read the audition requirements. Most of the time the requirement will be a comedic or dramatic monologue (funny or serious) in addition you may need to look for a classical or contemporary choice (old or modern) depending on the type of play that is being produced.

Most auditions will allow you a 5 minute time slot, so the monologue doesn’t need to be long (about 1- 1 ½ minutes). Timing your audition is important, you need to respect the time given to you as there will be many performers waiting for their chance to be seen. Many students in class prepare two contrasting monologues- this can also be useful as it can help show your range in your ability.

There are thousands of monologues on the internet and in plays and film. It can be daunting to find the right one. Please be careful in what you select- choose appropriate material but most importantly choose something you like and can connect to.

**2. Prepare and Rehearse**

Once you have the monologue you are going to need to memorize it! Never read off of a script in an audition. Once you have it committed to memory then you will need to create some simple staging. At the audition a chair is provided for you if you should need it. One thing people tend to forget in the audition is that you are auditioning the moment you enter the room. Your introduction to your monologue, known as “slating”, is part of your performance. In acting class we work on objective and intention. This is a great place to start as you work on the monologue. It is not enough to just recite the words- you have to give the words meaning and interpretation. A few things to consider:

**1) Objective - What your character wants to achieve-the goal**

**2) Intention- How you go about achieving the objective. Does the character**

 **change?**

**3) Who are you talking to?**

**4) Who are you in relation to that person?**

**5) Rehearse full out and full voice- know what it feels like**

As you are working on the monologue you will be answering these questions and developing the character. Make a choice and commit to it!

**3. The Performance**

Now that you have prepared the monologue the time has come to perform it. This is the basic procedure for delivering a monologue in an audition.

1. Entrance- Walking into the room, slating, transition- don’t explain the monologue
2. Performance- Voice and diction, expression, intention, focus out
3. Exit- Transition, leaving the room

Above all we are looking for an actor we think will fill a role in the show. We are looking to cast actors that can express character, perform with energy, and know how to prepare. The rehearsal process is long and arduous. We have to be confident that the person we cast can handle the work and responsibility being asked of them.

Be confident- Preparation is the key!

**THE SONG**

**Finding the Song**

Like with the monologue you want to pay close attention to what is being asked for. In the case of Wedding Singer, for example, we are asking for a pop style song. This could be musical theatre pop, like Disney, Wicked, Wedding Singer, or Rent, or it could be a pop song from the radio. Most people who find success in an audition have done some research into the show. We highly recommend this.

**Do’s and Don’ts for a Singing Audition**

1. Prepare a verse and chorus of the song, not the whole song- you have 5 minutes for both singing and acting.
2. Song should be rehearsed and memorized
3. Recorded accompaniment or a-capella is fine
4. Range appropriate
5. Find a song that shows off your voice- not just your favorite song
6. Sing from the show if you want- This is ok for a high school audition
7. Sing in character
8. Research the show

With pop music style be careful to give a full sound and refrain from massive vocal runs- its not The Voice we are looking for actors who sing!

**THE DANCE CALL**

**Dance Audition Tips**

When you are dancing, you are usually busy concentrating on your technique, body placement, timing and other dancers who are performing with you.

But have you ever stopped to think about what your face is doing? You may have a plastered smile on, be frowning or look very serious. If you look unpleasant, your audience won’t even notice your fabulous dance moves!

**3 Tips to Look Pleasant While Dancing**

**1. Dance in Character.**

If you are auditioning for a part in a show and need to act like a specific character, you’ll want your face to be in character too. This is where your acting ability comes in handy. During rehearsals, ask yourself how your character would feel during a particular dance number. Would he or she be happy, sad, joyous, jealous, angry, etc.? How does your character react to others in the show?

Really think about the character you are playing before you dance. Then, be that character when you are dancing, facial expressions and all. Try not to stop! Have a plan to keep moving “in character”, and get back on track as soon as you can.

**2. Try to Relax.**

Dance is not easy, and there is a lot to think about. Spend your rehearsal time perfecting your movements as much as you can, then you can be less nervous and have a more natural look on your face. If you don’t have a lot of time to learn the new dance moves prior to performing them, try to remember to look pleasant and stay in character. That way, if you make a mistake, the audience will be looking at your smile and not your botched dance moves!

**3. Enjoy It.**

When it’s time to perform, think of how lucky you are to be a dancer/actor and have this experience. You may be nervous, but you get to dance/act…. and others would love to be in your shoes at this very moment! While you do need to think about the choreography and timing, you also need to enjoy yourself!! After all, you are performing, and isn’t that why you got into dance/theatre in the first place?

**4. Wear comfortable clothing**

*The audience is waiting to be entertained, show them how much you love to entertain!!!*

**The Call Back**

Many performers who are not accustomed to the audition process often wonder ask the question: what is a call back? A call back is a way for the artistic team to evaluate your skills further. Getting a call back is a good thing. It means that your initial audition showed the team something that we want to explore. More often than not, the principle roles will be cast through a call back- as we will be pairing different combinations of actors together and having them read for roles.

In a call back for a musical you would be asked to sing and read from the script. It is unlikely we would ask for another monologue, rather we would ask for a “cold” or “warm” reading. A “cold” reading is reading from the script with no preparation. A “warm” reading, which is more common for Wolfpack Theatre is when you are given some time to read through the material with a partner before your present for the artistic team.

**Tips & Info**

1. Fully understand the material given to you- who are you playing? What is the scene about?
2. Don’t worry about the stage directions- they are suggestions
3. You are not required to memorize the material
4. Make a big choice- you are not rehearsed yet so let me see that you can make a choice
5. Be prepared to sing again
6. Be ready to take direction

**\*A call back does not guarantee you a role in the show; likewise, not being called back does not mean you will not be considered for the production**.

**More than Just the Performance**

Like a job interview, the audition does not begin and end with your performance. How you present yourself, how you prepare, and your unique personality is all a part of the audition. From the moment you walk into the room to the moment you exit you are being evaluated. Your audition is real. We do not pick favorites. We do not just select upper classmen. Casting a play or a musical is very important to the success of a production. There are many talented people who are all trying to get a part in the production. We will cast and place you where we feel you will be most suited for this particular play.

If you are cast you should understand that many people will not be. Embrace the role you received and to the best work possible in that role. If you are not cast please don’t feel badly or that you are not talented. Auditioning is a necessary part of the performing arts- it is also a skill. Pick yourself up, keep working, and keep auditioning.

If you have any questions regarding this workshop, this process, or just general questions about the spring musical please don not hesitate to ask. We are here to help you find success.

Thank you for your interest in auditioning for a Wolfpack Theatre Production. If you have any further questions regarding auditions please don’t hesitate to ask us.

Audition information is posted outside the Black Box.

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