

Ithaca College Department of Theatre Arts
Audition Tips
BFA Acting and BFA Musical Theatre Degrees

Auditioning always involves a certain amount of stress and tension. The best way for you to reduce this stress is to select and prepare your monologues carefully. Monologues must be memorized and rehearsed. Your goal should not be to show us how far you can stretch, but to help us see what you bring to the table as an actor. The character should be within your age range. We are looking for your ability to play the actions inherent in the text and to reveal the inner life of the character as it intersects with your own experience and understanding.

Some Specifics:

Do's:

1. If you are using an accompanist for your musical theatre audition, have your sheet music prepared in the correct key. The music should be clean, clearly marked, and laid out to eliminate or simplify page turning.
2. **Pay strict attention to the time limits specified in the audition requirement sheet.**
3. If you are using a cassette or CD, please have it cued to its starting point.
4. Place the character to whom you are speaking just behind and above the auditioners - that way we will be able to see you better.

Dont's:

1. Do not perform comic monologues written for particular performers.
2. Avoid monologues which are not from plays but simply contained in books of monologues.
3. Don't try to play both characters in a scene by talking to and answering "yourself."
4. Avoid elaborate introductions, since we are probably already familiar with the piece you have chosen. Simply introduce yourself and the show from which your monologues and songs are taken.

Prospective Acting and Musical Theatre majors must be able to:

1. Read English at a level that allows them to take a contemporary script and present a cold reading that demonstrates their accurate understanding of the dialogue and situation as depicted by the playwright. If English is a second language, a TOEFL score of 550 must be presented.
2. Write English at a level that reveals the ability to present a clear and concise message in complete sentences with proper grammar and punctuation (as demonstrated by the college admissions essay).
3. Demonstrate a voice that has not been permanently injured or damaged in a manner that will significantly limit the casting of the actor, and a voice that is not at high risk for reinjury or further damage if performance work and/or training continues (as shown in the warm-up and audition).
4. Demonstrate the ability to hear and reproduce speech sounds that may be different from those normally employed by the student (as shown in the warm-up and audition).
5. Present an audition in which the emotional life and intent of the character are clear and the requirements of the script are accurately rendered.
6. Demonstrate a voice, body and imagination that are capable of presenting a compelling and believable characterization and that respond readily to coaching.

Good luck and remember: we are trying to make this experience as relaxed for you as we possibly can. We want you to do your best.

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