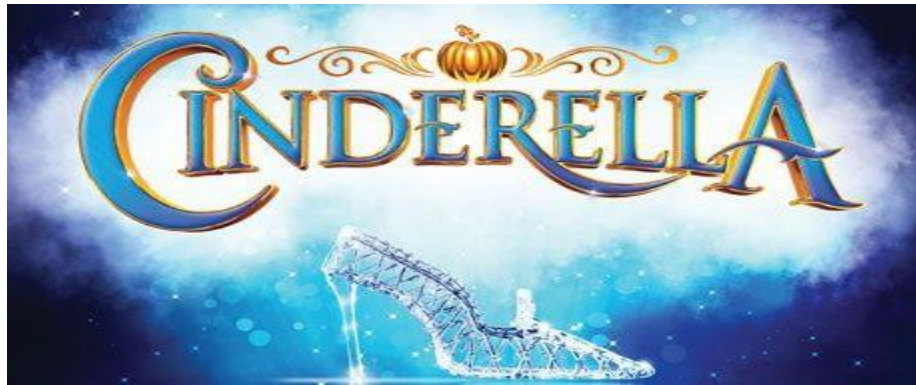


Young People's Theater



YPT AUDITION TECHNIQUES

THE AUDITION PROCESS

There are three elements of the YPT audition process: DANCING, SINGING, & ACTING.

- DANCE AUDITION
 - The choreographer will teach a short combination of moves set to one of the songs in the show in the YPT dance studio.
 - Choreographers look for people who are willing to try, enjoy what they are doing, and work hard.
 - Smile as you perform your dance combination, and have fun with it!
 - Be on your best behavior for your choreographer. This is the best opportunity the directors to see how you will act in a rehearsal situation. If you can't listen for a half hour dancing with a choreographer, it is highly unlikely that you are ready for the demands of a rehearsal process.

- SINGING AUDITION
 - You will be performing a 16-bar (30 second) cut of a musical theater song of your choice for the director and the music director in the black box.
 - Be memorized and bring 2 copies of the music (one for the pianist and one for the directors).
 - Some notes about song choice:
 - Don't stop singing in the middle of a thought/sentence. It is okay if your cutting is a little less or a little more than 16 measures.
 - Choose a song that you can relate to. It will help you tell the story better!
 - Choose a song that shows your vocal range. This means that you can sing the highest and lowest notes even if you are nervous!
 - Avoid songs that are likely to be overused.
 - Practice your audition song.
 - This performance is also an ACTING audition. Act the song.

- ACTING AUDITION
 - You will be performing a short reading from the show for the director and the music director in the black box. This happens right after you sing.
 - You do not need to be memorized. A card with the options will be provided.
 - Project and speak clearly
 - Perform with expression! Go beyond just reading.

- Make a specific choice in your reading. Add emotion and action.
- Be willing to change your emotion and style if the directors ask you to.
- PAPER WORK
 - Follow all directions and make sure your paper work is complete when you arrive to audition.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR YOUR AUDITION

- THE BIG THINGS:
 - Know the show! Do some research.
 - Directors are looking to cast young people who are eager to learn, ready to work hard, and willing to try something new.
 - Be kind and courteous to EVERYONE in the studio.
- PREPARE
 - Wear comfortable, put-together clothing. Remember that you have a dance audition, and you want to be able to move freely while still looking professional.
 - Have all of your paper work printed/copied and ready to go prior to walking in the door.
 - Make sure your sheet music is in the right key.
 - Musicnotes.com is one resource to find sheet music.
 - Practice everything you can practice ahead of time.
- IN THE AUDITION
 - Take a few deep breathes before your audition. Remind yourself why you are auditioning and think of three great things about yourself.
 - Listen to your directors. Even if you are nervous, challenge yourself to take a few deep breaths and engage fully.
 - Follow directions. Sometimes directors ask you to do things to make sure you are willing to try new things. Always say YES in an audition!
 - Don't apologize or make excuses — perform and have fun.
 - During your song or reading, find a focus point on the back wall of the space.
 - Directors will likely be writing/typing as you audition. Don't worry. They are paying attention.
 - Take a moment before you sing to talk to the pianist to go over your start, stop, and tempo (speed). Thank them for their time.
- OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER
 - While you have the option of stating that you are only interested in particular roles, we encourage you to be open to all the possibilities.
 - Remember, this is all a process. Do your best. Prepare for the elements you can control, and recognize that pieces of the process are out of your hands.
 - The more you audition, the more you learn about the process and how to be comfortable presenting yourself.
- MOST IMPORTANT PIECE OF ADVICE
 - The directors are rooting **for** you. The directors want to see you shine. Directors need to find actors for all the scenes within a script and story.

Break a leg and enjoy the process of auditioning!