

# young People's Theater



## ***The Drowsy Chaperone: 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 for 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 seconds) 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 cut 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 reading 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.
  
- **PAPERWORK**
  - Follow all directions and make sure your paperwork 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 paperwork printed/copied and ready to go prior to walking in the door.
  - Make sure your sheet music is in a key that suits your voice range.
  - Musicnotes.com is one resource where you can find and print 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 experience you gain with auditioning, the more you will 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!*