

CRASH COURSE IN AUDITIONING AT SRJC

Step #1 – Read: Audition information is posted in the Burbank lobby to the right of the men's restroom.

Step #2 – Pick a Monologue (for non-musicals): Select, memorize, and prepare a suitable audition monologue, following the criteria in the show's audition information. (A monologue is a speech from a play where a character speaks for an extended period of time to another character, him/herself, or the audience.)

Pick a Song (for musicals): Select, memorize, and prepare a suitable audition song, following the criteria in the show's audition information.

IF YOU HAVE NEVER, EVER AUDITIONED BEFORE OR IF YOU DECIDED AT THE LAST MINUTE TO AUDITION:

- Skip **Step #2**, and use the generic male or female monologue available in the envelopes nearby. For musicals, select and prepare one of the generic songs that are posted.
- Since your time is limited, don't worry about reading the play the monologue or song is from, or memorizing the generic monologue. Just get as familiar with it as you can in the time you have.
- Relax, follow the steps below as closely as possible, and audition with your script in hand (see below).

Step #3 -- Prepare: Practice acting the monologue only after you have studied what it means and you know in very basic terms what your character wants from the character to whom s/he is speaking.

Step #4 -- Staging: Get an image in your head for the other character, and place this imaginary person out in front of you, just above the directors' heads (as if the imaginary person is standing behind us). It helps to find a spot on the wall to focus on. Never act your monologue directly to the people you are auditioning for; please, no eye contact with us while you're acting.

Step #5 – Acting and Reacting: Remember to think about what the other character's reaction might be to what your character is saying. Acting is about listening and responding.

Step #6 – Acting With A Script: If you need to audition with your script in your hand, work with it. Practice speaking the lines to that point on the wall. Get your head out of your script. Don't worry, your eye will return to the place it left off. And if it doesn't, so what! We don't care. Take your time.

Step #7 – Polishing: As you work with the monologue, fine tune it. Make choices about your character, your character's attitude about the situation, and the other character, etc. Practice practice practice!

Step #8 – Audition Attire: Dress as nicely for your audition as you would for a job interview. Suit and tie are not necessary, but perhaps a nice, clean shirt and nice pants. No sneakers. No ripped jeans. Women; clothes that flow and are not too tight work best. No super short skirts, bare midriffs, clunky shoes, or stiletto heels, please. Get your hair back and out of your eyes. Minimal jewelry. Wear clothes you can move in.

Step #8 – What To Bring: A pencil, pen, your work/class/life schedule for the entire semester, a water bottle and, if you happen to have one, a headshot and acting resume. If you don't have one, don't worry about it. Be very clear on your audition form about any and all conflicts for the entire semester.

Step #9 – Checking In and Waiting: Check in at the table in the lobby and fill out the audition forms (one for each show you are auditioning for). Allow 1/2 hour for this. Show up at 5:30pm to be sure it gets done, then sit down and wait. You may get in right away or wait **quite awhile**. Just be patient and stay focused.

Step #10 – Etiquette: Listen to the stage managers. Be sincerely nice to everyone you meet. We don't want anyone with an attitude in our shows! And keep conversations quiet in the lobby and hallways, please.

Step #11 – Entering The Room: When your name/number is called, you'll be placed in a group to wait outside the audition room. Then, when the stage manager signals you, you'll come into the room without all of your bags (if you can). Just you and your form, please. Smile! And it's nice if you shake our hands.

Step #12 – Getting Started: We will greet you and probably say, "Whenever you're ready." Follow any directions we give you. Stand way back away from us (usually there's a taped line.) Double check for your spot on the wall. Breathe. Make sure we are all looking at you before you begin. Smile! Introduce yourself with, "My name is _____ (full name) and I will be playing _____ (character name) from _____ (play name)." Take a second to really "see" the person your character is talking to, inhale, and then start the monologue.

Step #13 – During & After: Keep breathing and stay focused. Don't worry about what the directors are doing or thinking; we may be taking notes or looking away, but we are always paying attention. When you finish, wait a second or two before saying, "Thank you." No matter how you think your audition went, smile and say "thank you" with confidence!

Step #14 – Your Grand Exit: We'll chat with you a moment, perhaps asking a few questions, then we'll say good-bye. Give us that gorgeous smile again and leave.

Step #15 – Have Fun!!: Yes, it's a risk, but what the heck; you never know what may happen! And remember, we want you to be the one. We want you to succeed. It's all good.