

Crash Course in Auditioning at SRJC

- **Step #1:** Read all audition info on the Theatre Arts Audition pages: <https://theatrearts.santarosa.edu/>
- **Audition Monologue:** Select, memorize, and prepare an audition monologue, following the criteria in the audition info (a monologue is a speech from a play where one character speaks for an extended period of time to another character, themselves, or the audience).
But, if you've never ever done this before OR found out about auditions at the last minute...
Prepare one of the Optional Monologues from the bottom of the Audition General Information page. Do not worry about reading the play the monologue is from at this late date. But if you can find it, reading it helps.
- **Memorizing:** We ask that audition monologues be memorized. *However*, if you just found your monologue a few days before the auditions, don't try to memorize it at this late date. If there is one thing we can guarantee, you will forget your lines. We don't expect you to be "off book" (memorized) if you are new to acting and/or the department, and just heard about the auditions.
- **Preparing:** Practice acting the monologue only after you've studied what it means and you know in very basic terms what the character wants from the other character they are speaking to.
- **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 that your eye can return to. Never act your monologue directly to the people you are auditioning for; please, no eye contact with us while you're acting.
- **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.
- **Acting with a Script:** If you will be auditioning 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.
- **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!
- **Audition Attire:** Dress nicely, as if you are going to a job interview. Suit and tie are not necessary, but perhaps a nice, clean shirt and nice pants. Avoid torn sneakers and ripped jeans, if possible. Women, clothes that flow and are not too tight work best. No super short skirts, bare midriffs, clunky shoes, or stiletto heels, please. Everyone: Get your hair back and out of your eyes. Minimal jewelry. Wear clothes you can move in.
- **What To Bring:** 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 any and all conflicts for the entire semester.
- **Checking In and Waiting:** Check in at the table and confirm if we already have your audition forms submitted via email. If you are walking in without an appointment, allow 30 minutes to fill out the paperwork. Then, sit down and wait for your time slot. You may get in right away or wait awhile. Regardless, be patient and stay focused.
- **Etiquette:** Be sincerely nice to everyone you meet. We all talk and we don't want anyone with a bad attitude in our shows! And keep conversations quiet in the lobby and hallways, please.
- **When To Enter The Room:** When your name is called, come into the room, without all of your bags (if you can). Just you please. Smile!
- **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. 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)." Then, take a moment (a few seconds) to really "see" the person your character is talking to, inhale, and then start the monologue.
- **During & After The Monologue:** Keep breathing and focusing. 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, let the piece rest a moment before saying "thank you." No matter what happens, smile and say "thank you" with confidence!
- **Your Grand Exit:** We will either say, "thank you" or "can you come to callbacks?" or "we will be posting the list..." or ask you a few questions. Then, we'll say good-bye. Give us that gorgeous smile again and leave.
- **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.