

Augusta Players Audition Tips

We want you to succeed at your audition so please read the following tips for advice.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

1. Research the show. If there is a video, rent or purchase it and watch it to get an idea of what we will want. Download and listen to the soundtrack. If there is an original Broadway cast recording, that is most likely what we want to hear.
2. Check the audition notice carefully. If we ask for a tall, bald man in his 60s, don't show up hoping that we will change the script for your short, frizzy-haired, thirty-year old self.

THE AUDITION

1. Show us how reliable you are by arriving at least 15 minutes early to your audition. We have forms to fill out prior to your audition and this will give you time to do that and to settle in. You will need to have your calendar of conflicts as we need to know what to expect from your attendance at rehearsals.
2. In selecting an audition piece, assume that you will not be able to sing the whole thing. If there are a lot of auditioners, we may ask that you only do 16 bars or just sing the chorus. It is a good idea for you to find the spot in your song that highlights your voice the best and indicate to the accompanist that you want to start there. If we choose the spot, we may not choose what shows you off the best, plus it will show us that you have prepared.
3. Dress for the occasion. We generally have a dance audition as well as a singing one so wear comfortable clothes and shoes.
4. We do musicals. The first audition is a singing audition. Good singers move on to the dance audition. If you can't sing on pitch, you should find a teacher before auditioning.
5. Singing a cappella is a no-no. Everything we do is with accompaniment so we have to know that you can sing with someone playing for you.
7. Sometimes we ask you to stay and read lines. Cold readings are tough for anyone so your best bet is to find a copy of the script and read it before the audition. Sometimes you can find them online or in a library. While we won't let you take the script out of the office, we wouldn't mind you reading it in the office.
8. If the musical calls for a British or other non-American character, show us your accent when you audition. That means, if you don't know how to speak with the correct accent, do the research and learn. You don't have to be perfect, just show that you are trying to do it correctly.

9. Audition pieces can be from the show that you are auditioning for, but we don't require it. Try to pick a piece of music that you know very well and that showcases your voice in an appropriate way for the part you are auditioning for. For instance, if you are auditioning to sing the role of Maria in *The Sound of Music*, you wouldn't want to sing something from *Wicked*.

10. And speaking of the accompanist, chances are they will be sightreading your music. Choose a song that's not that difficult to play.

And last, but not least, don't get discouraged if you don't get cast or you think you should have gotten a larger role! We have many performers who have been with us for years and they know how to audition and what we expect. They often get the leading roles, but that does not mean you NEVER will. We also have several performers who performed in Ensemble roles for years and then one day, they were cast as a leading role. It happens all of the time.

There are only so many roles available in any musical. If we could cast everyone who auditions, we would, but the fact is, we can't. This isn't high school where everyone gets a part. We are an exceptional community theatre and we only cast the best that is available. Please try again for other roles and Break a Leg!