# Nailing Your Musical Theatre Auditions!

1:15 - 2:30

Session 411

Library Lecture Hall 2

Ryley Flud – Theatre Arts Teacher at Goddard Junior High



### BEFORE WE GET STARTED

Remember to register your attendance and complete session evaluations.

Session numbers are in the program.



SCAN ME



### A Little About Me:

I graduated with a Bachelor's of Fine Arts degree in Musical Theatre from West Texas A&M University.

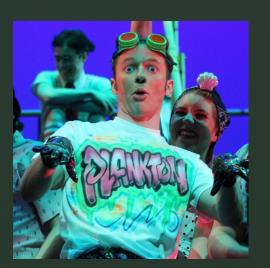
I have always loved musicals.

I have been in over 20 shows and performances, having to audition for each of them.

Recent credits include Sweeney Todd, The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, The SpongeBob Musical and MonsterSongs.









"All the best performers bring to their role something more, something different than what the author put on paper. That's what makes theatre live. That's why it persists."

- Stephen Sondheim

#### How Musical Theatre Auditions Work

- Unless explicitly stated otherwise, casting tables expect audition attendees to use material from a different show than they are auditioning for, in the character of the role they wish to play. This is the norm for initial auditions, callbacks are a different beast.
- This is because the director is looking for each actor's personal understanding of the role they're auditioning for. They want to see what makes the actor unique, and who has the best understanding of the role in question. Using material from the actual show makes it harder for the actors to stand out in the audition room.

## In Selecting Music for your Audition, Consider...

The show you're auditioning for. What is the vibe of the show? Is it a comedy, drama, dramedy? What are the themes that stand out to you, or interest you the most?

Voice part. If you struggle with selecting music that suits your vocal range, consider reaching out to a choir teacher or voice coach.

Style of music within the show. You wouldn't bring a rock ballad to The Sound of Music, and you wouldn't bring a rap song to Hairspray.

The cut of music required for your audition. A 16-bar cut is about 30 seconds and a 32-bar cut is about one minute. So, mark your music accordingly and pick the bridge, verse, or chorus that shows you off the best.

#### Remember:

Where words fail, music speaks. Characters only break out in song when their words alone won't suffice.

# When Acting in your Audition, Consider...

- What the character you want to play sings about. No two characters are alike, but anything worth singing about is usually relatable. For example, if the character you want sings about love, try to find a love song from a different show that, contextually, is the same.
- Do something different! As you pursue auditions in any capacity, you'll hear the phrase "overused" a lot. But truthfully, it doesn't matter if someone else is using the same material as you, as long as you make it unique.

#### Word of Advice:

Only you can bring to the table what you have to offer. Don't cater your audition to what you think the casting table will respond to, because they likely have a different vision for the role than you do. Instead, get to the heart of the character you want and relate to it in YOUR way – that's what they'll remember, and that's what will get you a callback.

### Dancing in your Audition

- Unless otherwise stated, you can expect a dance call as part of your musical audition. If you're a dancer, this will be super fun for you. But if you're not, never fear!
- Despite what you might feel in the moment, the choreographer is not looking for the best dancer in the room. What they're looking for is how you take the choreography given and jazz it up. Facial expressions, personalization, effort, and standing in front can all get you noticed in the best ways - regardless of how many times you might mess up.
- Don't stop keep going!

### Building A Repertoire Book

- A Rep book is an auditioners life vest. Let's say the casting table hears your first cut and wishes to hear you sing something else. If you don't have anything else, you won't have any more to show them.
- To start building your book, consider the style of singing you feel and sound the best in. For example, if you feel the best singing old jazz songs, consider jazz musicals a great starting point. Same goes for country, rock, and just about everything else. Collect more genres as you go.
- Also try to collect material from different time periods (such as Golden Age, Contemporary, 50s-60s, etc.) and composers (such as Sondheim, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Lin Manuel Miranda, etc.)

### **Additional Notes**

- Be friendly, confident, and honest. The casting table wants to see you succeed, not fail!
- Nerves are normal. But try to have fun. At the end of the day, give an audition that'll make YOU feel great – regardless of what the director's final choice may be.
- Don't forget to slate (say your name, the piece you're singing, and where it's from)
- Be nice to your accompanist, and to yourself.

# What types of songs would you choose if you were auditioning for...









